

# Children and Young People's Committee

**Monday, 03 December 2012 at 10:30**

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

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## AGENDA

- |           |   |                |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Apologies for Absence</b><br>Details   |                |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)</b><br>(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests<br>(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) |                |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 November 2012</b><br>Details   | <b>3 - 6</b>   |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Policy Statement for Schools</b><br>Details  | <b>7 - 22</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Notts - Six Monthly Review</b><br>Details   | <b>23 - 28</b> |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Schools with an Increase in School Place of 25% or More - Outcome of Statutory Consultation</b><br>Details   | <b>29 - 54</b> |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Post-16 Reforms</b><br>Details   | <b>55 - 58</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy Annual Performance Progress Report</b><br>Details  | <b>59 - 66</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Charter for Care Leavers</b><br>Details  | <b>67 - 70</b> |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Response to Petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council on 20th September 2012</b><br>Details   | <b>71 - 74</b> |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Provision of funding for home extension</b><br>Details   | <b>75 - 80</b> |

## **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 Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 977 3794) 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.

# minutes

Meeting CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Date 5 November 2012 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

## COUNCILLORS

Philip Owen (Chairman)  
Bob Cross  
Sybil Fielding  
Richard Jackson  
John Peck JP  
Mike Quigley MBE  
Mrs Sue Saddington  
S Smedley MBE JP  
Lynn Sykes  
Brian Wombwell  
Liz Yates

Ex-officio (non-voting)  
Mrs Kay Cutts

## CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

A Ms G Neill  
A Mr James Parry  
Mr David Richards JP  
A Mr John Rudd

## OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sara Allmond	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Steve Baumber	NSCB Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Helen Chamberlain	Superintendent (Supt), Nottinghamshire Police
Amanda Collinson	Children's Service Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Steve Edwards	Service Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Chris Harrison	Group Manager, SEND Policy & Provision, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Karen Hartley	Accountant, Environment and Resources
Jon Hawketts	Senior Executive Officer, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Martin Hillier	Detective Inspector (DI), Nottinghamshire Police
Terri Johnson	Safeguarding Children Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services

Anthony May	Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Philippa Milbourne	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Jean Parish	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Pam Rosseter	Group Manager, Safeguarding and Independent Review, Children, Families and Cultural Services
Anna Vincent	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Michelle Welsh	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chris Few	Independent Chair of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
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### **MEMBERSHIP**

It was reported that Councillor Mike Quigley MBE had been appointed in place of Councillor Allen Clarke and Councillor Richard Jackson had been appointed in place of Councillor Michael J Cox.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Bob Cross (Medical/Illness), Councillor Brian Wombwell (Other) and Mr John Rudd.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor S Smedley MBE JP declared a private interest in item 7 – Review of arrangements for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties as her daughter worked at the Worksop Learning Centre.

Councillor Lynn Sykes declared a private interest in item 7 – Review of arrangements for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties as she was a governor on a behaviour attendance unit.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2012**

#### **RESOLVED: 2012/035**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 10 September 2012, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ACTION PLAN**

Pam Rosseter, Terri Johnson, Supt Helen Chamberlain and DI Martin Hillier attended and responded to Members' questions and comments.

#### **RESOLVED: 2012/036**

That the report be noted and a further update report be provided for the Children and Young People's Committee in May 2013 to reflect progress during 2012/13.

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12**

Chris Few, Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, attended and responded to Members' questions and comments.

A presentation on the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub arrangements would be given at the next meeting of the Committee.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/036**

That the report be noted.

## **PERFORMANCE REPORT (QUARTER 2 2012/13) – SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **RESOLVED: 2012/037**

That the report be noted.

## **REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES (SEBD) IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

John Slater and Chris Harrison gave a presentation on the review of arrangements for children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties in Nottinghamshire. They responded to Members' questions and comments.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/038**

1. That the outcomes of the Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) review as detailed in the report be noted.
2. That the new strategy for Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) arrangements: '5 steps to collective responsibility' be approved.
3. That the development of a phased implementation plan between November 2012 and January 2013 be approved in order to deliver the new arrangements described within the report from April 2013.

## **ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: MARCH & APRIL 2012**

### **RESOLVED: 2012/039**

That the report be noted.

## **HEYMANN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST BRIDGFORD – POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF PERMANENT PUPIL PLACES AND DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES: OUTCOME OF A PUBLISHED SECTION 19 NOTICE**

### **RESOLVED: 2012/040**

1. That the outcome of the Section 19 Notice published under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 concerning Heymann Community Primary School as set out in the report be noted.
2. That the implementation of the proposals be approved with effect from 1 September 2013 to:-
  - significantly increase the number of pupil places at Heymann Community Primary School, from 420 places to 630 places across two sites and develop plans to build on the newly proposed site in central West Bridgford to ensure provision is available in 2013/14
  - lower the existing age limit of Heymann Community Primary School from 5-11 to 3-11 years, thereby enabling the School to admit children to attend early years education places.

**BROOKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, EAST LEAKE – DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES: OUTCOME OF A PUBLISHED SECTION 19 NOTICE**

**RESOLVED: 2012/041**

1. That the outcome of the Section 19 Notice published under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 concerning Brookside Community Primary School as set out in the report be noted.
2. That the implementation of the proposal to lower the existing age limit of Brookside Community Primary School from 5-11 to 3-11 years be approved, thereby enabling the school to admit children to attend early years education places in existing accommodation from 7 January 2013.

**PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR HOME EXTENSION TO ENABLE A LOOKED AFTER CHILD TO REMAIN WITH FOSTER PARENTS AS THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDER THROUGHOUT CHILDHOOD**

**RESOLVED: 2012/042**

1. That approval be given for the extension to the foster carers' home to be carried out at an estimated cost of £30,000, up to a maximum cost of £35,000.
2. That a legal charge order be made to ensure that the costs of the extension can be reclaimed/reimbursed if the child does not remain in this placement until adulthood.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am.

**CHAIRMAN**

3 December 2012

Agenda Item: **4****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS SERVICE****POLICY STATEMENT FOR SCHOOLS****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to comment on the proposed revised 'Policy Statement for Schools' implemented in September 2010 and reviewed in September 2012 and to recommend it to Policy Committee for approval on the 12 December 2012. This policy has been reviewed following the restructuring of the education improvement service and place planning and admissions into the new 'Support to Schools Service' in April 2012.
2. The revised policy, attached as **Appendix 1**, now incorporates the Local Authority's continued statutory responsibilities for ensuring the sufficiency of school places and includes responsibility for implementation of the Admissions Code 2012, particularly in relation to the admission of vulnerable pupils. **Appendix 2** presents the protocols agreed with representatives from all Nottinghamshire schools, academies and academy sponsors and which incorporate key actions that remain on-going.

**Information and Advice**

3. The Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has been a key document that has underpinned the development of new partnerships with schools around both admissions and school improvement. Whilst the revised policy, September 2012, remains broadly the same, it now reflects the responsibilities for place planning and admissions. The Local Authority retains a statutory duty to ensure both sufficiency of places as well as the coordination of the admissions process and protocols, particularly around the admission of vulnerable pupils.
4. It should be noted that the Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has successfully provided the underpinning principles and rationale to ensure that governing bodies have been able to make the decisions around governance and leadership that are in the best interests of children and parents. Whilst national data for 2012 remains unvalidated, it is to be acknowledged that the outcomes in relation to 5 good GCSEs including English and mathematics has increased by 2.7% to 60.3% against a national drop of 0.4%. At Key Stage 4, Nottinghamshire is now 1.7% above the national average of 58.6% with its national rankings improving from being 79<sup>th</sup> in 2011 to now being 51<sup>st</sup>.

5. The amended Policy Statement for Schools now incorporates the responsibilities of the Local Authority to ensure sufficiency of school places, with increased diversity of provision through academies; free schools and studio schools are anticipated in Nottinghamshire in the foreseeable future. The policy also now acknowledges the Local Authority's responsibility to ensure that the Admissions Code 2012 is implemented consistently across the County with particular attention focussed on securing school places for the most vulnerable, including looked after children, children with special educational needs and disabilities and other 'fair access' vulnerable pupils which includes those excluded or at risk of exclusion.

### **Other Options Considered**

6. As the Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has supported accelerated school improvement, particularly within the secondary phase, and reflects both national and local educational policy, it is not appropriate to consider any other options at this time.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

7. The revised Policy Statement (Appendix 1) and principles and protocols (Appendix 2) should be recommended to the Policy Committee for approval on 12 December 2012.
8. The current Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has supported the creation and maintenance of new relationships with schools that have been, and continue to be, focussed on ensuring the provision of good and outstanding schools across the County.
9. The revised Policy Statement for Schools 2012 now reflects the core responsibilities of the restructured 'Support to Schools Service' for place planning, the admissions process and for school improvement in maintained schools that may cause concern.
10. The revised Policy Statement for Schools 2012 reflects the statutory duties of the Local Authority but underpins these statutory responsibilities within the context of partnership working with all schools attended by Nottinghamshire pupils.
11. The revised policy also acknowledges the principles and protocols agreed with all Nottinghamshire schools, academies and academy sponsors following consultation and is attached as **Appendix 2**.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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 and discussion has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:



- 1) notes and endorses the report
- 2) recommends that the revised Policy Statement for Schools should be approved by the Policy Committee on 12 December 2012.

**Marion Clay**  
**Group Manager, Support to Schools Service**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Marion Clay  
Group Manager, Support to Schools Service  
T: 0115 9772073  
E: marion.clay@nottsgov.uk

### **Constitutional Comments (LM 20/11/12)**

12. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority to note and endorse the report and may recommend that the Revised Policy Statement for Schools be approved by Policy Committee.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 15/11/12)**

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

### **Background Papers**

Policy Statement for Schools 2010

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.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0130



**Policy Owner:** CYPS - Portfolio holder

**Policy Title:** Policy Statement for Schools

**Equality Impact Assessment:** Action to be listed on LA system

**Implementation:** September 2010

**Review:** September 2012

**Purpose:** To ensure that every school in Nottinghamshire is a good school.

## **Principles**

In our work with schools and other education providers we will:

- (1) ensure sufficiency of school places
- (2) secure diversity of school provision to increase the opportunity for parental preference
- (3) ensure safe schools with fair access particularly for vulnerable pupils including Looked After Children (LAC) and those who need the protection of the Fair Access Protocol (FAP)
- (4) promote effective leadership and governance
- (5) build capacity to secure sustained and continued improvement
- (6) work collaboratively to support all children and families
- (7) promote the development of self improving schools
- (8) identify and disseminate effective practice
- (9) promote affordability in approaches to place planning, admissions and school improvement
- (10) ensure value for money.

## **Key Target Groups**

School leaders  
Governors  
Education providers

## **Guidance**

Provided below is a hyperlinked list, setting out a range of useful and relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance. The list will change in line with new documentation from central government. The first set of links will be as shown below:

Current and most relevant Bills and Acts, updated as necessary e.g [Academies Bill](#)  
[Children and Young People's Plan](#)  
[World Class Primary Programme](#)  
[National Challenge](#)  
[DCSF- Schools Causing Concern 2007](#)  
[Ofsted framework and evaluation schedule](#)

[School Admissions Code](#)  
[National College – Models of Leadership](#)  
[Guidance on exclusion from school and pupil referral units \(DCSF 2008\)](#)  
[Guidance on school behaviour and attendance partnership \(DCSF 2010\)](#)  
[Promoting the education achievements of looked after children \(DCSF 2010\)](#)

[The Schools Admissions Code \(2012\)](#)  
[The Schools Appeals Code \(2012\)](#)  
[The Education Act 2011](#)

## Key Requirements

In order to ensure all Nottinghamshire schools are good, we will:

- **Ensure the sufficiency of school places across the County, with increased diversity of school provision to increase opportunities for parental preference**

We shall fulfil the local authority's statutory duty to plan efficiently for the sufficiency of school places across the County. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of parental preference, we also recognise that it will not always be possible to provide every parent with their first choice of school.

We shall encourage the development of an increasingly diverse range of schools through partnerships with schools, school providers and school sponsors to meet basic need as well as to fulfil the local authority's statutory responsibility to ensure a range of school providers that will include Community Schools, Academies, Faith Schools, Free Schools and Studio Schools, which all provide increased choice for parents.

- **Ensure that the arrangements for school admissions are compliant with the Admissions Code February 2012 and that a Fair Access Protocol outlines procedures for admissions, including in-year admissions**

We shall ensure that admissions arrangements are legally compliant during all admissions rounds. The creation of the Place Planning and Admissions Board, chaired by the Service Director for Education, Standards and Inclusion and including a representative from the EFA (with observer status only), will monitor the implementation of The Admissions Code in Nottinghamshire to ensure that the most vulnerable are admitted to schools speedily and appropriately.

Through working in partnership with schools including those which are Academies, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled, Free Schools or Studio Schools, the Local Authority's 'fair access', LAC and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) protocols will ensure that vulnerable children are appropriately admitted to a school. FAP, LAC and SEND protocols will be regularly mediated and reviewed with schools through a range of forums including the Education Trust Boards, Nottinghamshire Association of Governors (NAGs) and the Schools Admissions Forum.

- **Promote a variety of models of leadership, governance and partnership to match local needs and circumstances**

We shall encourage those head teachers and governing bodies who are interested in academy status to make their decisions in the best interest of their pupils. The Local Authority will seek to work in partnership with all Nottinghamshire schools, irrespective of their status. All schools will be entitled to purchase any Council provided services, as they choose. The legal requirement to promote diversity and choice will be delivered. Schools will be offered advice on the full range of governance, leadership and partnership options open to them. We shall signpost school leaders, governors and education providers to examples of diverse provisions within the County. Where appropriate, we shall develop new partnership arrangements with schools as well as other agencies, such as the National College, to promote choice.

- **Secure strong partnership between schools and wider children's services**

We shall encourage schools to continue to provide extended services in and around schools, such as breakfast and after school clubs. We shall encourage schools to play a full part in the range of provision made to engage with families where there is evidence that children or young people may be at risk of harm, of disengagement or of failing to flourish and achieve at school.

- **Use the full range of strategies and policies available to the Council to support schools**

We shall encourage all schools to engage in partnership work with other schools to share their strengths and to address weaknesses. For example, sharing leadership, management and subject expertise has been shown to benefit all of the partners involved. The Council will use resources, such as those for school improvement, to compensate schools for time and shared expertise. We shall promote good practice through sharing of experience by such means as conferences, meetings and the use of the Council's websites.

- **Provide services to help schools access necessary support to promote the well being of their pupils or guide schools to where such services are available**

We shall provide opportunity for all schools to share with a range of professional partners any concerns about the well being of their pupils, at an early stage of such concern. We shall work in partnership with schools, colleges and employers to ensure that young people have a range of opportunities to fulfil their potential through academic, vocational and employment options. We shall continue to provide and support a range of opportunities for young people to enjoy their leisure and avoid anti-social behaviour.

- **Use the full range of statutory powers to intervene in schools causing concern, where the Council retains power to intervene**

These will be used – but only after appropriate support has first been given. For example, we shall issue a warning notice if a school continually fails to improve standards of discipline and achievement after support has been provided. We will ask Ofsted to bring forward inspection where there is clear evidence of underperformance and inefficient or ineffective response to weaknesses.

- **Use risk management to intervene early and establish clear timelines with regard to outcomes and financial sustainability**

We shall risk assess across schools for which the Council continues to hold accountability, against a set of openly shared criteria. Head teachers will be given early notice of any concerns and of the grounds for such concern.

- **Close or reorganise schools where intervention is not effective**

Where a school, for which the Council retains accountability, shows evidence of inability to improve to acceptable standards, the Council will consider its closure. In such cases the premises may be used to extend another successful school.

- **Enable, where possible, good schools to expand**

We shall include a review of schools' performance into the planning process for the whole estate, so that more children and young people can attend successful schools. In reviewing the Local Authority's basic need requirements, acknowledgement of popular schools will be factored into any plans for expanding school provision wherever possible.

- **Seek out and respond to parents' views on school choices available in their area**

We shall use a range of means, including surveys, parent advice, the admissions process and complaints to ascertain the views of parents and seek, where possible, to expand good and successful schools and, where necessary and possible, close those that are unsuccessful and unpopular. We shall take appropriate account of any new schools established by parents and other providers in our estate management and planning.

## **Communication**

The policy statement and the implications of implementation will be communicated with target groups through:

- **Education Trust, Primary, Secondary and Special Phase Boards and Governors' Board.**

These boards have been established specifically to promote effective consultation between Children, Families and Cultural Services (CFCS) and

schools and their governors. The membership of each board consists of nominated head teachers representing other head teachers in their areas. The Governors' Board consists of members of the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors (NAGs) executive and a representative from each of the districts of the County, all nominated by their peers. The boards meet twice annually. Each of the head teacher boards elects a chair who serves on the Education Trust Board, which is itself chaired by the Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services. A head teacher member of the Education Trust Board serves upon the Children's Trust Board for Nottinghamshire, which brings together, under the Council's leadership, all those services responsible for the well being of children and young people and their families in the County.

- **Governing Bodies**

These usually meet once termly (3 times a year). Currently 97% of governing bodies buy back the Council's governor services package. Chairs of governors and head teachers are invited to a termly meeting with officers to discuss matters which may arise on their agendas, including usually a small number of reports from the Corporate Director. These meetings, as well as the Council's website, will be used to consult and communicate with school governors.

- **Nottinghamshire Association of Governors (NAGs)**

We shall continue to use the local branch of the National Association of Governors, which meets termly, in order to consult and communicate with governors.

- **Area head teacher meetings**

These meetings are convened by local head teachers and are typically served by a County Council officer, where this is the wish of the head teachers. We shall continue to consult and communicate with head teacher colleagues through these meetings.

- **Schools Admissions Forum**

This is a forum of head teacher representatives from across all school types. It is chaired by a senior Member of the Council and has representatives of the Diocesan Boards of Education. Its purpose is to monitor admissions so that the process is fair and equitable. Where the implementation of this policy statement impacts on admission issues, the Admissions Forum will be consulted.

- **Schools Forum**

This is a forum of nominated head teachers, governors, Diocesan representatives, teaching and non teaching trade union representatives and representatives of voluntary and independent sector providers of education. The group shares with the Council decisions regarding schools' budgets. Where the implementation of this policy statement impacts upon schools' finance issues, the Schools Forum will be appropriately consulted.

- **Diocesan Education Board representatives of the Education Diocesan Board for the Church of England and Roman Catholic schools**

These meet termly with the Corporate Director and other senior officers of the CFCS Department. Where implementation of this policy statement impacts upon provision made through church schools, then the relevant Diocesan representative will be consulted.

- **County Council intranet and public websites**

The policy will be available to schools, Elected Members and officers through the County Council's intranet site, the school's website, known as Wired, and the public website.

- **Briefings for Elected Members and Council officers**

Upon being accepted as policy by County Council, briefings will be offered to Members and officers to explain the changing context of the relationship with schools and the scope and significance of this policy.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

**The impact of the implementation of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Performance Board of the Children, Families and Cultural Services Department. The following outcomes will be evaluated to ensure that the implementation of the policy is effective:**

- There will a greater proportion of schools judged, by Ofsted, to be good or better.
- No school will be judged by Ofsted to require special measures or to have serious weaknesses
- There will be increased diversity of models of school organisation, leadership and governance.
- Levels of satisfaction from parents and pupils, indicated in a range of surveys, will improve.
- There will be improvement in all relevant measures in the Children and Young People's Plan, including the eight national indicators with regard to the performance of schools, such as the end of Key Stage results.
- Increase in number of successful schools which have been expanded

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**Nottinghamshire County Council**  
**Working in partnership with all schools and academies to deliver the**  
**Nottinghamshire Policy Statement for Schools.**

**Partnership protocol**

**Ambition**

***We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where children are safe, happy and healthy, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life and where everyone can achieve their potential.***

**Partnerships and Collaborations**

Successful partnerships are created within a context of openness, trust and honesty around shared values and a shared moral purpose.

At this time, there is an opportunity to create new ways of working that will provide high quality education in Nottinghamshire to ensure that children develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required for future emotional and economic success.

Nottinghamshire County Council values diverse partnerships within a rapidly changing educational landscape which are underpinned by a vision and mission to serve all children and families, particularly the most vulnerable. The Council recognises the importance of schools and academies working collaboratively, both locally and nationally, through new ways of working with partners, including national academy sponsors, academy chains and the private and voluntary sectors.

The ambition of the County Council is that all children and families access excellent provision in learning environments which are safe and which secure high quality outcomes for all children and young people.

**Context**

“The Importance of Teaching” outlines the coalition government’s vision for education. It requires local authorities to be a champion of children and families and to develop a school improvement strategy that ensures high quality education for all children, with vulnerable children being a priority.

In line with the Nottinghamshire Policy Statement for Schools (September 2010, updated December 2012), this partnership aims to ensure that every school in Nottinghamshire is at least a good school.

This Policy Statement commits the County Council to the achievement of this aim through the promotion of a variety of models of leadership, governance and partnership to match local needs and circumstances.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The County Council respects every child's religion, culture and ethnicity. The development of diverse partnerships and educational provision should provide effectively for all children and particularly those in identified vulnerable groups. Reducing the impact of poverty on educational outcomes continues to be a key objective for all educational partners and providers.

Successful partnership requires protocols and practices that will promote the education of all children and will safeguard the most vulnerable. This can be achieved through ensuring:

- an admissions policy, including strategic place planning across all phases, which is open, fair and transparent to all in the most appropriate settings including special schools enabling, where possible, good schools and academies to expand
- an exclusions policy which protects the child and identifies those at risk of exclusion allowing all members of the partnership to align any available resources around the needs of the child, particularly those in identified vulnerable groups
- a commitment to the continued education of all children including those who are at risk of exclusion, have been excluded or whose attendance would raise concerns
- a commitment to sharing information and data around admissions, exclusions, educational outcomes and student destinations to safeguard children, secure appropriate learning pathways and promote collaborative professional learning
- agreed protocols and procedures for data sharing to enable the County Council and external agencies to work directly with vulnerable students and groups where the law requires (such as those in the Youth Justice system)
- a commitment to developing and sharing innovative practice within a context of professional trust with all local schools and academies regardless of status.

## **Towards the future as Champion of Children and Families**

All schools and academies, as well as the County Council, recognise the need to embrace the responsibility to be champion of children and families. Whilst the County Council will retain statutory responsibilities for aspects of education, particularly around place planning, SEND and LAC, there is a need for all settings providing education for Nottinghamshire children to accept their moral responsibility, particularly for identified vulnerable groups.

As the implications of the Education Act become apparent, there will be a need for all educational providers and partners to continually review their roles, responsibilities and accountability. The increase in competition in a fast changing educational environment will create tensions and dilemmas for all.

Collaborative working with a shared moral purpose has the potential to safeguard children and young people and ensure high quality provision and outcomes within Nottinghamshire for all our children and young people.

## **Partnership Protocols and agreed actions**

### **Data Sharing for Vulnerable Groups**

#### **Context**

In line with the Policy Statement for Schools (September 2010, updated December 2012), this agreement on data sharing aims to provide services to help schools and academies access necessary support for the attainment and achievement of every child and young person or guide schools and academies to where such services are available.

Currently, all schools and academies share whole school and group level data annually with Nottinghamshire County Council.

Some data, particularly in relation to individual children at risk of exclusion or who are persistently absent, is often not reported early enough to relevant agencies, including the County Council. This results in vulnerable children and young people being placed at risk due to their absence or exclusion from schools and academies.

For vulnerable children and young people such as LAC, SEND, FSM and those from vulnerable ethnic groups, the importance of the regular reporting of key data including progress data, is vital if life chances for the most disadvantaged are to be improved.

#### **Agreed action**

All partners who work with Nottinghamshire children and young people are committed to the timely reporting of transparent data to ensure early intervention for the most vulnerable including:

- termly progress and attainment data in reading, writing, and mathematics at Key Stages 1-2 and English and maths in KS4 for LAC
- termly behaviour and attendance data for LAC
- One-to-One Tuition progress data for LAC
- the immediate notification to the Coordinator of the Virtual School of any child or young person at risk of exclusion

#### **Further actions**

Consideration to be given to the development of appropriate processes for other vulnerable groups as necessary, particularly in relation to excluded pupils and those on the verge of exclusion.

## **Exclusions and Alternative Provision**

### **Context**

In line with the Policy Statement for Schools (September 2010, updated December 2012), this agreement on exclusions and alternative provision aims to provide services to help schools and academies access necessary support for the attainment and achievement of every child and young person or guide schools and academies to where such services are available.

All maintained Nottinghamshire schools currently adhere to the NCC Admissions Policy. Many Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools also adhere to this policy. Within this fast changing educational environment and the increase of diverse providers and sponsors, there is a need to agree protocols for admissions, including the readmission and provision for excluded children and young people.

There is a need for schools and academies in geographical areas to either build on existing partnerships such as SBAPs and/or Alternative Provision such as the Altex Centre in Mansfield, to ensure that vulnerable children and young people at risk of exclusion have access to appropriate alternative provision during crisis periods.

There is a need for all schools and academies to engage with each other and Nottinghamshire County Council to develop their understanding and use of short term alternative provision to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people and avoid the need for permanent exclusion.

### **Agreed action**

- To work with the schools and academies to agree protocols and guidance to support all schools and academies to work in partnership to provide good education for all pupils, particularly those who have been excluded or are on the verge of exclusion.

### **Further actions**

- develop clear protocols on exclusion and alternative provision with a view of securing consistent practice across all providers;
- increase the availability of alternative provision, particularly at primary and KS3 through collaborative arrangements across the range of providers within each locality;
- improve communication across key stages and phases to identify children and young people who may be more at risk at points of transition. This may include some vulnerable children identified with SEND;
- develop a protocol in relation to how Alternative Provision should be quality assured and the criteria against which the provision should be evaluated;
- agree a shared protocol to ensure that all schools and academies accept their responsibility to improve provision to meet the needs of all children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable, thereby reducing exclusions and the need for alternative out of school. provision

## **Place Planning and Admissions**

### **Context**

In line with the Policy Statement for Schools (September 2010, updated December 2012), this agreement on place planning and admissions aims to provide services to ensure that all pupils can attend a good school, by enabling where possible, good schools and academies to expand. The County Council is committed to seeking out and responding to parents' views on school choices available in their area.

At this time, there is a tension for all around the need to ensure parental preference can be met in all localities. As successful schools and academies expand to meet parental demand for high quality education, there will be a need to manage a reduction of pupil places in other schools and academies.

The strategic planning of pupil places remains a statutory responsibility of the County Council which will require collaboration with new partners to enable, where possible, good schools and academies to expand in line with County Council Policy. The Schools Admission Forum already plays a key role in formulating a shared understanding of appropriate place planning.

### **Agreed action**

- all educational providers in Nottinghamshire should be encouraged to adopt the Nottinghamshire County Council Admissions Policy
- review the Appeals Procedures to ensure that all parties have access to the arguments around the appeal. This would increase transparency for all
- task the School Admission Forum to continue to develop protocols around the admission of children from vulnerable groups, particularly SEND and LAC
- develop further the role that Nottinghamshire County Council officers can play in improving parents' understanding of the quality of provision in all schools and academies in each locality
- increase the number of places available in special schools for first admissions and post 16 through more collaborative working across secondary and special school providers

### **Further actions**

To ensure high quality places, consideration should be given to the consequences of schools and academies remaining in the Ofsted category of satisfactory, now known as "requiring improvement" and the resulting tension with this policy as good schools and academies expand their capacity.

# **SEND**

## **Context**

In line with the Policy Statement for Schools (September 2010, updated December 2012), this agreement on SEND aims to help schools access necessary support for the attainment and achievement of every child and young person, especially those with SEND or guide schools to where such services are available.

Currently all schools including academies receive additional financial resources and specialist support from specialist teams provided by the county council targeted at children with SEND.

In addition, Family SENCO networks provide an effective structure to allocate support and resources for pupils with SEND. The benefits include transparency of provision and resource allocation within a Family of schools and effective transition arrangements across phases.

Schools in Newark town are currently piloting the employment of a 'Town SENCO' which is beginning to improve transparency across the locality in terms of the level of need in each school, the appropriate and fair allocation of SEN funding, including 'Additional Family Needs' funding.

## **Agreed action**

- to further develop the partnership arrangements around SEND that exist in families of schools, towns or districts.
- to set out the SEN support services that are currently provided to schools by the county council and finalise costing for these services.
- to ensure high quality provision, attainment and achievement for pupils with SEND by all families of schools by considering the development of the role of the family SENCo.

## **Further actions**

- To review and evaluate the effectiveness of a range of partnership arrangements currently in place in order to preserve those which work and add value
- To develop a shared agenda regarding BESD and SEND to significantly reduce the number of children with SEND who are excluded from schools.

3 December 2012

Agenda Item: **5****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS SERVICE****A STRATEGY FOR CLOSING THE EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – SIX MONTHLY REVIEW****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present a review of the impact of the first six months of Nottinghamshire's Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy.

**Information and Advice****Context**

2. The Closing the Gap (CtG) Strategy was approved by County Council on 29 March 2012. The Strategy sets out the County Council's aim to ensure that the full range of services and partners work coherently with schools and other educational settings to maximise the impact of available resources in further raising the attainment and increasing the progress of the most vulnerable groups of learners.
3. This Strategy is designed to align on-going work across the County Council to support the closing of the educational attainment gap for vulnerable groups, particularly those children and young people eligible for free school meals (FSM), those who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Looked After Children (LAC).

**Key actions taken over the first six months of the CtG Strategy**

4. The key actions identified in the plan have been completed on time.
5. **A cross phase and cross service CtG Performance Board has been established.** This Board will meet on a termly basis to review the contribution each Local Authority service is making to closing the educational gaps and will provide the evidence for impact reports to the Children and Young People's Committee. It will also oversee a programme of professional development for all staff across Children, Family and Cultural Services which will ensure the sharing of effective practice for supporting vulnerable children and their families. The programme will also enable collaborative working of key partners to impact faster on the achievement of children and young people eligible for free school meals.



6. **Data sets have been further developed at individual school and County level** so that school leaders and governors are aware of their success over the last five years in narrowing the gaps for pupils eligible for free school meals. Schools are able to compare their success rates with national averages and are using this data to target Pupil Premium funding on interventions to increase the progress of vulnerable learners. Education Improvement Advisers are working closely with schools across Nottinghamshire to use this data to plan for improved progression of vulnerable learners.
7. The majority of schools across Nottinghamshire have accessed **guidance and/or training on effective strategies to close educational gaps** either through head teacher briefings, governor training sessions, the Closing the Gap Leadership Conference in February 2012, or middle leader development programmes. Evaluations indicate that all participants have benefited from access to these opportunities. The success is also evidenced in the 'take-up' of the 2012-13 programmes and bespoke requests for follow-up support.
8. **A Closing the Gap locality-based pilot (2012-14) has been successfully launched in Newark Town.** This involves the majority of primary schools, the special school, both secondary schools and the post-16 provider in Newark. A range of local officers working on behalf of children and families in Newark are actively involved in the delivery of pilot activities. Other partners also include Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham Trent University and national agencies such as the National Literacy Trust.
9. A **Listening Activity** has now been completed and analysed as part of the initial CtG pilot work being carried out in Newark Town. This has provided a useful insight into the views of vulnerable pupils and their parents/carers to ensure that actions taken within this pilot will make the biggest difference to children's examination outcomes and life chances.
10. The outcomes from this listening activity are now informing the way in which Children's Centres, schools and other partners work collaboratively to trial new strategies and ways of working to improve the progress of vulnerable learners within Newark schools. There is a **major focus on literacy skills development as well as supporting vulnerable learners at key transition points.**
11. **Nottingham Trent University** has been commissioned to act as an external evaluation partner for the Newark pilot and will provide regular review feedback to schools and local services at each phase of implementation as well producing a final evaluation report.
12. **A range of opportunities have been secured to work collaboratively with external strategic partners on the CtG Strategy as follows:**
  - Nottinghamshire's Education Improvement Service has successfully secured £70,000 funding from the **Education Endowment Foundation to pilot the implementation of a targeted literacy intervention programme** for Year 7 pupils in up to 20 secondary schools. This programme is likely to impact on up to 400 pupils who have entered secondary school with achievement below age-related expectations. The pilot will be delivered by Local Authority advisers and consultants working with the Education Endowment Foundation as an external evaluation partner.



- Nottinghamshire Local Authority has also been invited to take part in a national **‘Communication Leaders’ pilot** jointly delivered by the Education Improvement Service and local Speech and Language Therapists, in partnership with The Communications Trust and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
- Finally, a partnership is now in place with the **National Literacy Trust** to deliver a joint programme to support Looked After Children and their carers to develop good reading habits including the use of their local libraries.

### **Impact against the 2012 milestone targets contained within the CtG Strategy**

13. **Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS) milestone target for 2012:** reduce the attainment gap between children eligible for FSM and their peers achieving a good level of development to **17.5%**

#### **Impact:**

The attainment of children eligible for FSM in EYFS increased in 2012 for the third successive year by 4%. The attainment of children not eligible for FSM also increased by 9%. Hence the Nottinghamshire gap widened in 2012 even though the attainment of both groups has improved. Nottinghamshire’s gap currently stands at 23.7%.

14. **Key Stage 2 milestone target for 2012:** reduce the attainment gap between FSM and non FSM pupils achieving the expected level in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 to **20%**

#### **Impact:**

The attainment of pupils eligible for FSM in Key Stage 2 improved by 7.8% from 2011 to 2012. The attainment of non FSM pupils also improved by 3%. This represents a significant narrowing of the gap between FSM pupils and non FSM pupils (from 25.4% gap in 2011 to 20.5% gap in 2012). This is the smallest gap achieved by Nottinghamshire’s primary schools in the past five years and is in line with the national gap for 2011.

This means that for first time in recent history, over two thirds of Nottinghamshire’s pupils eligible for FSM are entering Year 7 with the necessary literacy and numeracy skills to access the secondary curriculum, maximise their learning and improve their life chances.

15. **Key Stage 4 milestone target for 2012:** reduce the attainment gap between FSM and non FSM pupils achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4 (5+ A\*-C grades including English and mathematics) to **30.5%**

#### **Impact:**

The attainment of Nottinghamshire’s FSM pupils improved again for the fifth year in succession with 32.2% of FSM students gaining 5+A\*-C including English and mathematics in 2012 compared with 27.4% in 2011.

The gap in attainment between FSM and non FSM pupils achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4 reduced by 2% from 2011 to 2012. This means that Nottinghamshire's FSM/non FSM gap has narrowed for the third year in succession.

### **Other Options Considered**

16. No other options were considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

17. Early impact data shows that the CtG Strategy is having a positive impact on narrowing the gaps for pupils eligible for free school meals. As a result of this early success, the Strategy requires continued support from the Children and Young People's Committee.
18. The success of Nottinghamshire County Council's bid to the Education Endowment Fund is an acknowledgement that this Strategy has the potential to be scaled up to positively improve outcomes across the County and region.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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**

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the success of the Closing the Gap Strategy during its first phase of implementation.
- 2) continues to monitor the Strategy by receiving six-monthly review reports.

**Marion Clay**  
**Group Manager, Support to Schools Service**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (NDR 09/11/12)**

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

### **Background Papers**

A Strategy for Closing the Nottinghamshire Educational Gaps – report to County Council on 29 March 2012.

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.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0123



**3 December 2012****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS SERVICE****SCHOOLS WITH AN INCREASE IN SCHOOL PLACES OF 25% OR MORE:  
OUTCOME OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Committee with the outcome of formal consultation on the following proposals that are intended to take effect from 1 September 2013:-
  - expand Dalestorth Community Primary School in Sutton-in-Ashfield in newly built premises on its existing site, thereby increasing the school's net capacity by a further 105 permanent pupil places
  - expand Arnold Mill Community Primary School in Arnold in newly built premises on its existing site, thereby increasing the school's net capacity by a further 75 permanent pupil places
  - expand St Peter's Church of England VA Primary School in Mansfield in newly built premises on its existing site, thereby increasing the school's net capacity by a further 105 permanent pupil places
  - expand Holy Trinity Catholic VA Primary School in Newark in newly built premises on its existing site, thereby increasing the school's net capacity by a further 90 permanent pupil places.
2. It also seeks approval to publish statutory notices as required under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to formally expand each of the above schools' net capacity.

**Information and Advice**

3. Nottinghamshire, like many other local authorities, has experienced an increase in demand for school places, and it remains a statutory duty of a local authority to ensure sufficiency of places, to secure diversity of provision and to increase the opportunity for parental preference.
4. On 9 July 2012, Members of the Finance and Property Committee agreed to the recommendation of a report submitted by the Transport, Property and Environment Service Director concerning the County Council's 2013 Basic Needs (BN) programme.

The report's recommendation to meet this basic need, sought Committee approval for the design and construction work on individual projects under the BN programme as outlined in that report.

5. 'Basic Need' is defined as the shortfall of existing school places against the predicted pupil demand. Identified schools will increase their Published Admission Number and Net Capacity to meet increased demand across the County in September 2013.
6. As a consequence of the above BN programme, the schools referred to in paragraph 1 of this report were identified as requiring a significant increase to their physical net capacity of teaching accommodation.
7. In this respect, and in order for the County Council to progress with the above-mentioned expansion proposals, it is a legal requirement to publish a 'statutory notice' to significantly expand the physical capacity of a school. Under the provisions of current statutory regulations, a 'significant expansion' is deemed to be where a school's net capacity to accommodate pupils is permanently increased by 25% or more.
8. Prior to publishing its proposals, the County Council is also required to consult with local people about the principle of providing the required additional school places that are a statutory responsibility for the Council to meet existing and future parental demand.
9. It is anticipated that any legal requirements that would necessitate the approval of planning permission for the proposed additional school places identified in this report would be subject to a separate public consultation in due course.

## Consultation

10. Consultation leaflets concerning each separate proposal were circulated to all the staff, governors and parents/carers of pupils at the schools concerned to explain the rationale for the proposals, and to give them the opportunity to make any comments about what was being proposed.
11. Copies of the leaflets were also sent out to the wider community including residents adjoining the schools' sites where appropriate, other schools in the localities, the Members of Parliament and appropriate County Councillors, Diocesan Authorities, the local district councils, and other interested parties.
12. The consultation periods for each proposal ran from 24 September to 16 November 2012. The attached **Appendices 1-4** summarise the number of responses received and the various comments, issues and concerns that were raised and expressed.
13. Separate meetings were held at Arnold Mill Primary and Holy Trinity Primary (8 October), Dalestorth Primary (9 October) and St. Peter's Primary (10 October) to give all respective interested parties the opportunity to discuss the proposals being consulted on.
14. The Governing Bodies of each school were also consulted at meetings held at the schools concerned during the consultation period and were also supportive of the respective proposal affecting their school.

15. Where appropriate, School Councils were consulted and were supportive of the proposal affecting their respective school.
16. In summary, the main issues arising from respondents opposing the expansion proposals are:-
- the potential detrimental effects of providing more pupil places when existing educational resources and facilities at each school are allegedly fully utilised already
  - serious concerns about the potential increase in traffic flow and associated parking implications
  - the possible disruption to pupils' education and the potential health and safety implications during any building work on the school sites
  - the receipt of a petition containing 73 signatures petitioning the County Council not to expand St. Peter's Church of England Primary School in Mansfield by 105 permanent pupil places in newly built premises on the school's existing site.
17. The main comments in support of the proposals can be summarised as:-
- additional school places are necessary and urgently required in order to address need and increase the opportunity for parental preference
  - the County Council has fully engaged with local schools about the need to create more primary places
  - there is support from the respective Dioceses concerning the proposals to provide additional faith based school places as referred to in this report
  - there is a duty for the County Council to secure sufficient school places for all children of statutory school age, whose parents want them to be educated in a state-funded school.
18. Account has been taken of all the comments received concerning each of the proposals referred to in this report.
19. It is recommended that each of the proposals identified in paragraph 1 of this report should be accepted. In endorsing the proposal to expand by more than 25% as identified in this report, it should be noted however that:
- there is broad consensus and support for the proposed expansions of Dalestorth Primary, Arnold Mill Primary and Holy Trinity Primary schools
  - the consultation feedback regarding the proposed expansion of St. Peter's CE Primary suggests parental/carers opposition which is confirmed by the additional receipt of a separate petition
  - despite the opposition of parents/carers at St. Peter's Primary, the County Council has a statutory duty to increase available school places in the immediate locality of St. Peter's Primary where there is evidence that some families are travelling 2.7 miles to access an alternative school place. As this is above the statutory walking distance for children in Reception to Year 3, it reinforces the need to increase the availability of school places in the area around St. Peter's Primary.
20. All written responses received either by the reply form provided, via the County Council's website or by electronic mail, are available as a background paper to this report.

## **Statutory Notice**

21. As the proposed expansions on the schools' existing sites will increase places at each school by more than 25%, it is deemed a significant increase in school size.
22. Following formal consultation by the County Council, each of the above proposals would require the publication of a statutory notice under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
23. The respective notices will be published locally in the press, and will be displayed at each school site, local public library and other appropriate places. They will stand for four weeks during which time comments and objections to the proposals will be invited in writing.
24. The outcome of the notices will be reported to Committee who will determine the proposals, including taking into account any statutory comments or objections that may be received during the notices' representation period.

## **Other Options Considered**

25. These options have been presented following careful analysis of place planning across Nottinghamshire and no other options can be considered at this time because the County Council retains a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient school places for first admissions in September 2013.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

26. The recommendations reflect the location of the projected demand for additional school places to be developed; the need to provide for families of more than one child; the need to maintain the high level of educational standards in each popular school; the ability to offer an increased number of faith based places in an educational environment; and the need to deliver permanent places within a defined and tight timeframe (for September 2013).

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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.

## **Implications for Service Users**

28. Children and families will have access to, and an increased choice of, school education in their immediate locality.

## **Financial Implications**



29. The capital funding for these developments has already been secured from the Basic Need Programme. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Should a subsequent report seek permission to formally implement the expansion proposals referred to in this report, that report will include a reference to financial implications.

### **Equalities Implications**

30. Children will be able to access school places locally. Any new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.
31. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, public authorities are required by law to think about the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who do not
  - Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not
32. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a means by which a public authority can assess the potential impact that proposed decisions/changes to policy could have on the community and those with protected characteristics. They may also identify potential ways to reduce any impact that a decision / policy change could have. If it is not possible to reduce the impact, the EIA can explain why. Decision makers must understand the potential implications of their decisions on people with protected characteristics.
33. Prior to requesting any formal approval for the implementation of the proposals referred to in this report, consideration will be given to undertaking EIAs in due course. Decision makers must give due regard to the implications for protected groups when considering this report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

34. Parental preference will continue to be facilitated.

### **Safeguarding of Children Implications**

35. The new build schemes will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

### **Human Resources Implications**

36. Appropriate levels of teaching staff will be appointed and funded from the increases to the schools' budgets triggered by the increased number of pupils, and the schools will use appropriate recruitment and selection procedures when making appointments.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

37. Increasing the number of primary school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. Any new build projects will require planning approval and will meet Building Regulations

which reflect sustainability and environmental targets. By providing local school places, the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That:

- 1) Committee notes and considers the outcome of formal consultation with staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers, local communities and other interested parties about the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 of this report.
- 2) to ensure provision is available in 2013/14, Committee agrees to the publication of a Statutory Notice, under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, for the proposals to significantly increase:-
  - the number of pupil places at Dalestorth Primary School from 210 places to 315 places
  - the number of pupil places at Arnold Mill Primary School from 240 places to 315 places
  - the number of pupil places at St. Peter's CE Primary School from 210 places to 315 places
  - the number of pupil places at Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School from 210 places to 300 places
- 3) a further report be submitted to the Committee on the outcome of the four week representation period of the County Council's published Section 19 notices.

**Marion Clay**

**Group Manager, Support to Schools Service**

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 12/11/12)**

38. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 12/11/12)**

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

### **Background Papers**

- 1) 2013 Basic Needs Programme - report to Finance and Property Committee on 9 July 2012 (previously published)
- 2) The respective consultation leaflets circulated to staff, governors and parents/carers of the schools proposed for expansion, statutory consultees and other interested parties
- 3) Written responses received during the formal consultation period

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.

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

Sutton-in-Ashfield North:	Councillor Jason Zadrozny
Arnold North:	Councillors Gerald Clarke and Carol Pepper
Mansfield East:	Councillors Bob Cross and Martin Wright
Newark West:	Councillor Keith Girling

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## APPENDIX 1

### Proposed permanent expansion of Pupil Places at Dalestorth Community Primary School

#### Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of leaflets distributed approximately 500

	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Opposed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	17	6	3
Governor	3	1	0
Staff	1	0	0
Pupil/Other	1	4	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carers', 'governor', 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.			

#### Comments/Issues/Points raised within Written/Electronic/On-line responses:

#### The decision making process

- In opposing the expansion of Dalestorth primary on the grounds of inconsiderate parking that currently exists around the school's locality,

a suggestion was made that a larger school car park should be provided

- If the proposal goes ahead, clarification sought on whether the County Council is going to provide adequate parking facilities near to the school to accommodate the extra demand for spaces it was felt would be generated
- In supporting the proposal, concern raised regarding the suitability of the school's site for the expansion
- Clarification sought on whether the newly built premises would impact on any of the school's playground space and playing fields

### **Staffing matters**

- Support expressed for all the staff at Dalestorth Primary, citing that they are very helpful
- Clarification sought on whether extra teachers would be employed, or if class sizes would increase

### **Building and site related issues**

- Concerns raised about current daily inconsiderate parking during school term-time when alleged parents/carers drop-off/collect their children from Dalestorth Primary. In some cases, residents are unable to access/egress their drives until the cars have moved.
- Feelings expressed that the proposed expansion of Dalestorth Primary will only exacerbate the above-mentioned potentially dangerous and hazardous situation, especially relating to a potential increase in traffic flow
- In opposing the proposal, feeling expressed that the school is large enough already
- Concern raised that the school's communal areas are allegedly very small and there appeared no plans to increase the size of these facilities
- In supporting the proposal, concern raised and opinion expressed that there is insufficient parking facilities on Dalestorth Primary's site and within the school's locality to take any further potential traffic flow

### **Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues**

- In supporting the proposed expansion, comment made that during 2011 children were allegedly refused admission to Dalestorth Primary on the grounds of insufficient school places being available
- In opposing the proposed expansion, concern raised and opinion expressed that there is already inadequate road safety provision in the school's vicinity. It was felt that with a proposed increased intake of children at the school, this situation would put even more lives at risk.
- Opinion expressed that the lack of available school places means that siblings of children already at Dalestorth Primary are having to attend

different schools, or older children moved away from the school and their friends

- Concern expressed that since the school's playing field was raised, a local resident's house has allegedly suffered from rising damp and it is hoped that the proposed school's expansion will not worsen the situation
- Feeling expressed that the proposed new pupil places would be beneficial, as it was felt that Dalestorth primary is a very popular school and many children allegedly are not fortunate enough to acquire a school place there
- Feeling expressed that more children should have the opportunity to attend Dalestorth Primary
- Opinion expressed that the proposed expansion would not affect the standards of services at the school
- In supporting the proposal, opinion expressed there is currently insufficient school places to cater for local children wishing to attend Dalestorth Primary. It was felt this meant they then had to attend a school further away from their homes. Not all parents/carers had cars and found it difficult to take them there.
- Comments made about alleged new housing being provided in the locality and that children would need a school to go to. It was felt that as Dalestorth Primary is a popular school, the proposed expansion would be needed.
- In supporting the proposed expansion, opinions expressed that it was very unfair and distressing for children and their parents/carers when being unsuccessful in gaining a school place at Dalestorth Primary, especially in some cases where pupils are within walking distance of the school.
- Opinions expressed that all children living in their school's catchment area should be given a place at that school
- Concerns raised over class sizes and how mixed age groups will work as children progress through the school
- Opinion expressed that large schools rarely work, class sizes increase and the teachers do not know all the children
- Concern raised that the school's personal and community feel could be lost if it was expanded

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## APPENDIX 2

### Proposed permanent expansion of Pupil Places at Arnold Mill Community Primary School

#### Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of leaflets distributed approximately 600

	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Opposed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	12	10	5
Governor	6	0	0
Staff	3	0	0
Pupil/Other	0	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carers', 'governor', 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.			

#### Comments/Issues/Points raised within Written/Electronic/On-line responses:

#### The decision making process

- Clarification sought on why the school wasn't built bigger when first relocated to its present site

- Opinion expressed that 'bigger' is not always better
- In strongly opposing the proposed expansion, opinion expressed that it was unfair for Arnold Mill Primary to completely shoulder this burden
- Opinion expressed that as Arnold Mill's class sizes have been annually rising, how could expanding the school help this situation
- Clarification sought on whether the County Council plan to reduce class sizes across the whole school. Opinion then expressed that large classes are noisy and provide a less than ideal learning environment.
- Opinion expressed that road safety is a big issue and clarification sought on whether any thought had been given to this
- Clarification sought on why Arnold Mill Primary will have to cope with further changes when the school had already been affected by a period of massive upheaval during its relocation from Church Drive in 2008
- Opinion expressed that the expansion proposal should be scrapped by the County Council, or at the very least reviewed, with the provision of new school places being shared across all primary schools in the Arnold area
- Comment made that more detailed information on possible disruption to pupils' education during any building work and potential traffic implications in the surrounding area, would be needed to be able to make an informed view on the proposed expansion
- Opinion expressed that the consultation meeting held at the school should have been conducted in the evening to enable working parents to attend without having time off work
- Clarification sought on whether the school's previous premises located on Church Drive had been considered for use as a school again, rather than expand Arnold Mill Primary
- Opinion expressed that the consultation leaflet circulated to interested parties was partly unclear, citing that some of the proposed additional school places were to allegedly accommodate children already in school
- Opinion expressed that it is vital that the design of the proposed expansion should be carefully planned, so that the new spaces match the proposed published admission number and net capacity for the school

### **Staffing matters**

- Comment made that the teachers at Arnold Mill Primary do a fantastic job in trying to meet the needs of each child when faced with over-subscribed classes, and opinion expressed that the proposed expansion could exacerbate this situation
- Clarification sought on whether additional teachers and lunch time staff would be employed as a result of the proposed school expansion

## **Building and site related issues**

- Opinions expressed that the expansion of the existing premises would have a detrimental and adverse effect on school facilities already provided for children currently at the school
- Concerns raised and opinions expressed about current daily inconsiderate and potentially very dangerous and hazardous parking during school term-time when alleged parents/carers drop-off/collect their children from Arnold Mill Primary
- Clarification sought on where the extra pupils will be facilitated in an already over-subscribed school hall during whole school assemblies
- Concern raised over lunch and playtime management if additional children were to be admitted emanating from the proposed school expansion
- Opinions expressed that the school's communal areas like the hall are too small for the current pupil numbers, and concern raised that the parking situation in and around the school site has never been addressed
- Opinion expressed that class sizes within the school are too large already, making discipline difficult to control
- Clarification sought on whether the proposed new classrooms will be built in an environmentally friendly way
- In opposing the proposal, opinion and concern expressed that a potential increase in children attending the school will only make traffic flow around Arnold Mill Primary's locality even worse than it allegedly is already

## **Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues**

- In supporting the proposal, comments made that Arnold Mill Primary is an excellent and welcoming school and the more families that can benefit from being in the school's family the better
- Concerns raised and opinions expressed that as certain classrooms are already over-subscribed, the effect of admitting more children as a result of the proposed expansion will make the situation worse
- Opinion expressed that the school's Afterschool and Breakfast clubs will become over-subscribed if more school places are provided
- Opinion expressed and examples suggested about how current parking issues around the school's locality could be addressed; additional school crossings and double-yellow lines, monitoring inconsiderate parking by cctv cameras with follow-up procedures by the police
- Feelings expressed that providing more school places would hopefully make existing classes smaller
- Comment made that alleged more new houses on Calverton Road would mean increased numbers of children of primary school age. Opinion then expressed that Arnold Mill Primary has sufficient land so could extend its premises further.

- In supporting the proposal, comment made that as the school is already over-subscribed the extra classrooms would provide adequate teaching spaces for pupils, especially as it was felt there is a steady stream of children requiring places at the school
- Feelings expressed that the proposal would ensure a popular school can continue to provide a good education for its community, and reduce the large class sizes throughout the school
- Opinion expressed that mixed year groups can be a positive experience for children
- In supporting the proposal, concerns raised that as Arnold Mill Primary's capacity to accommodate pupils is allegedly already full, a proposed expansion of the school is vital

C0127b

## APPENDIX 3

### Proposed permanent expansion of Pupil Places at St. Peter's CE Primary School

#### Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of leaflets distributed approximately 500

	No. of responses received  Agreed	No. of responses received  Opposed	No. of responses received  Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	7	45	7
Governor	1	0	0
Staff	9	0	0
Pupil/Other	4	17	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>

Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carers', 'governor', 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.

The above analysis does not include a petition received opposing the proposed expansion of St. Peter's CE Primary School that included 73 signatures. This petition is referred to separately within the report to CYP Committee dated 3.12.12.

## **Comments/Issues/Points raised within Written/Electronic/On-line responses:**

### **The decision making process**

- Clarification sought on why the proposed additional school places were not provided when new family housing in the area was built
- Opinion expressed that more school places will be needed in St. Peter's Primary's locality due to alleged new housing being considered for the area
- Clarification sought on why St. Peter's Primary had been chosen for expansion rather than other local primary schools. It was hoped that other alternative solutions had also been fully explored.
- Opinion expressed that there is no supporting evidence to warrant the proposed increase in school places
- Clarification sought on the proposed implementation of the new school places; would they all be provided from September 2013 or on a rolling programme
- Clarification sought about where was a traffic management plan for St. Peter's Primary, citing that pupils allegedly travel from around Mansfield town to attend the school. Feeling then expressed that it is not sufficient to simply encourage pupils to walk to the school, citing that road safety for children is a major concern.
- Opinion expressed and concern raised that the whole plan for the additional school places had not been planned adequately enough
- Opinion expressed that the consultation process was flawed in the way the consultation leaflet was circulated to parents/carers
- In opposing the proposal, reference made of the legal requirement of the County Council to publish a notice under the provisions of current statutory regulations
- In opposing the proposed expansion, opinions expressed that under the provisions of School Premises Regulations, the proposal is allegedly unlawful
- Opposition expressed to the proposal, citing there are alleged detrimental impacts on sustainability, the environment, human rights, equalities, finance, and that the rationale for recommending it's implementation is unproven
- In opposing the proposal, opinion expressed that the County Council's pupil data demonstrates that St. Peter's Primary will have future surplus school places
- Opinion expressed of having no confidence that interested parties views will be considered, unless they fit in with the County Council's strategic plan
- Support expressed for the proposal as it presents an opportunity to extend Church of England provision in Mansfield

### **Staffing matters**

- Comment made that the proposal will enable more staff to be employed at the school
- Supportive comment expressed that the proposal should go ahead providing school staffing levels are adequate to ensure the high standards at the school are continued
- Concerns expressed that the proposal would mean more stress for teachers with larger class sizes, citing that the school allegedly already relies on parental help with class activities
- Opinion expressed that a lack of additional teachers would mean pupils suffering a reduction in teaching quality currently provided
- Concerns raised about the potential for pupil/teacher ratios being affected by the proposal
- Support expressed for how the staff at St. Peter's Primary look after and educate children admitted to the school
- Comment made there is allegedly a high number of supply teachers used at St. Peter's Primary, citing that the use of mixed year groups would not be educationally effective if introduced at the school

### **Building and site related issues**

- Concerns raised about the potential impact the proposed expansion might have on children already at the school during any building works on site, especially concerning safety, health and educational issues
- Assumptions made that the proposed expansion will impact on the school's playground facilities, and so more/better use of its playing field should be considered
- Concern raised about the loss of outdoor space at the school, citing previous Ofsted reports had allegedly highlighted the need for St. Peter's Primary to improve Physical Education provision
- Concerns raised about an apparent loss of natural daylight of the main school emanating from the proposed new buildings location
- Comment made that perhaps a change in lunch and playtime management should be considered if additional children were to be admitted emanating from the proposed school expansion
- Concerns expressed that the school's current facilities are not adequate enough to cope with more children being admitted to the additional school places being proposed
- Concerns expressed that lunch and playtime management will be difficult to supervise by the proposed addition of more children
- In supporting the proposal, comments made that parking facilities should be carefully considered and planned
- In strongly opposing the proposal, concerns raised about current daily inconsiderate and potentially very dangerous and hazardous parking during school term-time when alleged parents/carers drop-off/collect their children from St. Peter's Primary
- Concern raised that a lot of commercial vehicles and lorries allegedly also use the road in the school's vicinity
- Reference made to the school's lack of on-site car park and the sharing arrangement with the local community centre. Clarification sought on

whether this agreement would be formalised to protect the school's future continuing use of it, especially in the light of potentially more cars travelling to the school.

- Concern raised that there is no planned covered link to the main school for the additional school places
- Concerns raised about the style/fabric of the new classrooms being proposed
- Concern expressed about loss of trees on St. Peter's Primary site if the proposal is approved, citing that these were donated by the Church and have alleged preservation orders on them

### **Financial issues**

- Opinion expressed that St. Peter's Primary is a fantastic school and the proposed expansion should help fund better educational facilities on the site
- Feeling expressed that the proposal will put the school on another platform to access financial support
- Opinion expressed of why should parents support the proposed expansion, citing the implications of alleged further cuts in grants and support for schools
- Reference made to an alleged financial contribution from parent/carers to buy St. Peter's Primary some new outdoor play equipment. Clarification then sought on what would happen to this equipment if its current location was affected by the proposed expansion.

### **Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues**

- Comment made that increasing the capacity of the school will provide more diversity of school places
- Feelings expressed that the proposal could have a detrimental effect on the school's excellent parent/teacher network by creating a larger school
- Feelings expressed that the Church of England ethos and educational environment at St. Peter's Primary should be extended to more children
- Concerns expressed that the school would lose its small community feel if it were expanded
- In supporting the proposed expansion, concern also expressed about the potential impact on the school of introducing so many new children all at once
- Reassurance sought that providing more school places would not impact on one-to-one teaching for existing pupils
- Comment made that the proposed additional school places will provide more opportunities for children to attend a school that is closest to their home
- Reference made to the provision of new family type housing in the vicinity of St. Peter's Primary and how this had impacted on the



school's ability to admit all children requesting to attend the school. Feeling then expressed that providing more school places is therefore desperately needed.

- Feelings expressed that St. Peter's Primary needs to grow to provide a community service to the Church and local area
- Feeling expressed that the proposal will not benefit the local community, especially as there are other primary schools within the locality that children could allegedly attend
- Supportive comment made that providing the quality of the school is not affected, then the proposed expansion should proceed
- Reference made to the school's very good reputation with the local community and that the refusal of child admissions to the school on the grounds of being oversubscribed, is very disappointing for all concerned
- Opinion expressed that class sizes are too large at St. Peter's Primary after Year 3
- Opinion expressed that mixed year groups can work very well to support children's learning and progression, and they allow teachers to plan effectively
- Comment made that the proposed increase in school places is an exciting prospect
- Opposition expressed to the use of mixed year groups, citing there is allegedly little evidence supporting this method of teaching
- Clarification sought and concern raised on how the school's admissions policy might be affected by an increase in pupil intake
- Opinion expressed that the proposed expansion of St. Peter's Primary would be detrimental to children's education, citing the school's alleged current socio-economic environment as an important factor
- Concerns raised that the Christian family ethos of St. Peter's Primary will be affected/lost if the proposed school's expansion goes ahead
- In opposing the proposal, feeling expressed that St. Peter's Primary is the right size as it is
- Concern raised about the potential effect the proposal could have on secondary school places

C0127c



## APPENDIX 4

### Proposed permanent expansion of Pupil Places at Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School

#### Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of leaflets distributed approximately 500

	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Opposed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	19	6	3
Governor	5	0	0
Staff	3	1	0
Pupil/Other	7	4	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carers', 'governor', 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.			

#### Comments/Issues/Points raised within Written/Electronic/On-line responses:

#### The decision making process

- Comment made that increasing Holy Trinity Primary School's Published Admission Number (PAN) would not increase the

pupil/teacher ratio, and would therefore not benefit pupil experience at the school

- Opinions expressed there are allegedly sufficient pupil places at other Newark primary schools that can provide educational settings, and so there's no need to expand Holy Trinity Primary
- Clarification sought on why not just build a new school in another locality to meet the projected need for additional school places
- Clarification sought that if the school is expanded, will its resources and facilities also be increased
- Opinions expressed that increasing the school's PAN will be a positive development for the school's future
- Comment made that as well as providing the proposed additional school places, a new secondary school is needed in Newark where primary phase pupils can carry on their education rather than drift out of the district

### **Staffing matters**

- Clarification sought on whether there would be an increase in qualified teachers if the school was expanded
- Clarification sought on whether there would be multi-lingual speaking teachers employed to ensure all children are taught at the appropriate level

### **Building and site related issues**

- Concerns raised by local residents about current daily inconsiderate and potentially very dangerous and hazardous parking during school term-time when alleged parents/carers drop-off/collect their children from Holy Trinity Primary. In some cases, residents are unable to access/egress their drives until the cars have moved from the area.
- Concerns raised that the above situation would only be exacerbated by the addition of more pupil places, and opinion expressed that it would be like an accident waiting to happen
- In supporting the proposed expansion, parental concern also expressed for increased parking facilities to be provided in the school's locality
- Concern raised that a lot of commercial vehicles and lorries allegedly also use the road in the school's vicinity
- Concern expressed that the existing school site is not large enough to allow for expansion
- Opinion expressed that the school's hall is already oversubscribed during school and parental 'come and see' assemblies
- Feeling expressed that Holy Trinity's playground and playing field already seem too small for the current number of pupils at the school
- Suggestion made that a larger school hall is required and consideration should be given to separate toilets and changing rooms being provided for the school's junior aged pupils

- Concern raised about the need to keep school outdoor areas as it was felt these are extremely important
- Concern expressed over lunch and playtime management if additional children were to be admitted emanating from the proposed school expansion
- An assumption made that some of Holy Trinity's classes contain more than 30 pupils and as such, feeling expressed that additional classrooms would benefit everyone

### **Financial issues**

- Feelings expressed that an increase in pupil places and, therefore, an assumed increase in its school budget, can only be beneficial to Holy Trinity Primary's children

### **Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues**

- Opinion expressed that Holy Trinity Primary would become a victim of its own success if the proposed expansion were approved
- Comment made that the influx of children at the school is already placing a large strain on its resources
- Support expressed for the proposed expansion due to the alleged current high demand on pupil places at Holy Trinity Primary
- Opinion expressed that as existing pupils do well at Holy Trinity Primary due to its caring environment, then if more children can benefit from this, a proposed expansion can only be a good thing
- Opinions expressed that the dynamics of the school are already challenged by the alleged large number of children who have English as a second language
- Concerns expressed that the school would lose its welcoming feeling and ethos if it continues to expand
- Comments made that Holy Trinity Primary is a popular well run school that provides a very good learning environment both generally, and specifically in a Catholic setting. Opinion then expressed the proposed expansion would therefore provide more places to be offered to the local community.
- Comment made that the proposed new classrooms would benefit everyone
- Comment made that small primary schools provide a fantastic foundation for children's future learning
- Comment made that Holy Trinity Primary is an outstanding school but if it expands, alleged dynamic changes would force families to send their children to other schools
- Feeling expressed that keeping class sizes under 30 pupils per class needs to have serious consideration
- Feeling expressed that should the school expand, the quality of teaching lessons and pastoral care needs to be maintained

- Feeling expressed that Holy Trinity Primary has a good reputation, with great teachers but that the school will lose its friendly family atmosphere as a small school if the proposed expansion goes ahead
- In opposing the proposal, comment made about their child having been taught mostly in two year groups already, and so did not agree to the school being made any larger than it currently is
- Opinion expressed that the future estimated pupil intake for the school would make it unsustainable, and would have an impact on the current high standard of teaching at this excellent school
- Opinion expressed that Holy Trinity Primary is allegedly already oversubscribed without the need to expand it further and allow more pupils to be admitted
- In referring to an alleged oversubscribed Holy Trinity Primary combined with a forecast of an increased pupil intake in Newark, comment made that the proposed expansion seems a sensible solution
- Concerned raised on the potential size of classes and clarification sought on whether the additional school places would cater just for new intake or across the whole school
- Support expressed for the proposed expansion providing it did not have an adverse effect on the high quality teaching provided at the school
- Feelings expressed that the proposed expansion would benefit teachers, pupils and future generations

C0127d

**3 December 2012****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE EDUCATION ADVISOR POST-16****POST-16 REFORMS****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide a summary of an announcement in October 2012 by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in respect of changes to curriculum and funding for 16 to 19 year olds and to funding arrangements for those aged 19 to 24 who have a Learning Difficulty Assessment or Education and Health Care Plan, to be implemented for the 2013-14 academic year.

**Information and Advice****Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

2. The Government is committed to ensuring that all young people continue to participate in education or training up to age 18. Summer 2013 is the first major milestone in achieving this as, from this point on, young people will be required to participate in learning up until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. This will rise to their 18th birthday in summer 2015.
3. Local authorities are required to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16-18 (inclusive) in their area (under sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009)) and to make available to young people age 19 and below support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (Section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008).
4. Draft regulations are being prepared requiring young people to participate in full-time education or training for at least 540 hours per academic year, or take up a job for at least 20 hours a week and combine this with 280 hours of part-time education that leads to qualifications. This legislation also places duties on providers to promote good attendance and to report early leavers to their home local authority. EFA expects that all programmes offered as full-time in 2013/14 will meet the minimum requirement of 540 hours of participation per academic year.
5. Other funding streams that also support full participation are: European Social Fund; funding available for young offenders in custody; and grants to local authorities. In addition the Youth Contract for 16- and 17-year-olds is a new funded programme of £126 million over three years that started in September 2012 and supports disengaged young

people who have low levels of attainment, and who are not in education, employment or training, to go back into learning.

6. Further information on RPA is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/16-10/participation/rpa/a00201391/useful-information-what-does-raising-the-participation-age-mean-for-me>

## **16 – 19 Study Programmes and Conditions of Funding**

7. The introduction of 16-19 Study Programmes from September 2013 is in response to the recommendations made by Professor Alison Wolf in her review of vocational education. Study Programmes will need to be clearly focused on the education, training and development needs of each individual student and enable them to achieve their full potential. Providers are encouraged to develop well-designed Study Programmes that offer young people:
- breadth, depth and progression either into higher education, further study at the next higher level or skilled employment
  - A levels or at least one qualification of substantial size and challenge, taking up the majority of the young person's programme or, where this is not possible, a substantial core of work experience
  - English and/or mathematics for all students without a GCSE grade C in these subjects
  - work experience and other activities that add value and enhance employability.
8. Study programmes must include English and mathematics for any student who has not already achieved a GCSE at grade C in these subjects. All institutions are expected to deliver to this requirement in the 2013/14 academic year. EFA supported by Ofsted will be introducing monitoring reports during the next 12 months to support institutions to recognise where this requirement is not being met.
9. The funding for Study Programmes for full-time students is designed around an average of 600 hours of participation per academic year. EFA is preparing more detail on what will and will not count towards the overall programme. They aim to have initial guidance available by the end of December 2012.
10. Further information on Study Programmes is available at:
- <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/a00210755/16-19-study-programmes>

## **16-19 funding formula 2013/14 and shadow allocations for 2012/13**

11. The Schools White Paper *'The Importance of Teaching'* announced that a simple, fair and transparent funding methodology would be introduced to support RPA. Following the review of 16-19 funding, a system of funding per student will be introduced in August 2013. The new 16-19 funding formula will cover all those aged 16-19 and all high needs



students up to age 25 (those with a Learning Difficulty Assessment or Education and Health Care Plan). Independent specialist providers and non-maintained special schools will be funded for high needs students via the national 16-19 formula for the first time.

12. This new formula introduces funding at a basic rate per student per year. This is adjusted for retention, programme costs, disadvantage and area costs. In October EFA sent each school and college a Shadow Allocation to show how the funding formula is calculated against data used in the 2012/13 allocation and hosted a briefing session locally.
13. The key change is to introduce a single basic funding rate per student per year regardless of where and what they study. This will fund on average a programme of study for around 600 hours for all students. The basic funding rate per student will be expressed in cash terms. It will be set annually and announced in spring each year. Students whose planned hours are recorded as 540 or more will be treated as full-time.
14. EFA expects a cluster at around 280 hours of part-time students who are also in work, and the numbers of other part-time students to reduce. As now the qualifying period to receive any funding will be set at six weeks for full-time programmes and part-time programmes of more than 24 weeks, and two weeks for all part-time students whose programme is planned to take less than 24 weeks. EFA will no longer fund programmes of less than two weeks.
15. Further guidance for local authorities from EFA is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/studentsupport/funding/a00203196/16-19-funding>

### **Funding high needs students (HNS)**

16. The SEND Green Paper, *'Support and aspiration: A new approach to supporting special educational needs and disability'*, published in March 2011, and the Government's response, *'Progress and next steps'*, set out the policy context for a new approach to funding for those with special educational needs (SEN) or learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD).
17. The new system for funding all pupils and students aged 0-25 also comes into place for all institutions to be funded by EFA (including sixth forms in schools or academies, special academies, non-maintained special schools, colleges, independent specialist providers and private providers) or maintained by local authorities (including school sixth forms and special schools) for the academic year 2013/14. Local authorities will be both commissioner and funder with a single high needs budget to cover their education and training funding and commissioning responsibilities for high needs children and young people (age 0-25) resident in their area. There will be a basic allocation to institutions for each high needs place and the local authority will allocate top-up funding.
18. EFA wrote to all mainstream funded providers in August 2012 explaining the HNS reforms, the implications of the reforms and the need to liaise with the home local authorities for their high needs students, and with EFA, to ensure that the information on which allocations to local authorities and providers will be made is as accurate as possible.

19. The Green Paper and related documents of the new system are available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send/a00213564>

### **Other Options Considered**

20. The report is for noting only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

21. This report is provided for information to Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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 report be noted.

**Tom Moffat**

**Education Improvement Advisor Post-16**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (NDR 15/11/12)**

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

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0129

3 December 2012

Agenda Item: **8****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGY ANNUAL  
PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To brief Committee members on progress following the first year of implementing Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy.
2. This report also considers the refresh of Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

**Information and Advice**

3. Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction. This has been compounded by the economic downturn which is seeing child poverty levels increase nationally and locally.

**The Child Poverty Act 2010**

4. The Child Poverty Act 2010 placed new statutory duties upon top tier local authorities and their named partners to prepare a joint child poverty strategy which set out the measures that the local authority and each partner proposed to take to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area.
5. The Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy '*Building Aspiration: working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire*<sup>1</sup>' was developed by asking partners to make organisational pledges to tackle poverty. Organisations were asked to shape their pledges based on a series of recommendations made in the local child poverty needs assessment<sup>2</sup>. A list of these pledges is included in the background paper which is the executive summary of Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

<sup>1</sup> Nottinghamshire County Council (2011) *Building Aspiration: working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire* <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childandfamilypovertystrategy0911.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Nottinghamshire County Council (2011) *Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment* <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust/childpoverty/childpovertyservicemapping.htm>

6. The Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy is reviewed annually by the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group which comprises each statutory partner including District Councils, PCTs including Public Health, Police, Probation and Jobcentre Plus.
7. Alongside the annual review of pledges made within the Strategy, progress is also assessed by examining the proportion of children living in child poverty in Nottinghamshire. Reducing child poverty to 10% by 2020 is a national target; however Nottinghamshire is keen to compare progress alongside national data, statistical neighbours, and across Districts.

### Local progress in reducing levels of child poverty

8. In 2010 across Nottinghamshire 27,950 children and young people aged 0-19 were identified as living in poverty, which equates to 17.1% of the 0-19 population.

**Figure 1: 2010 Child Poverty Data by Local Authority**

	<b>Number of Children in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (&lt;60% median income) or Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance</b>		<b>2010 % of Children in "Poverty"</b>	
	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>All Children 0-19 yrs</b>	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>All Children 0-19 yrs</b>
England	2,066,320	2,367,335	21.1%	20.6%
East Midlands	159,005	181,245	19.3%	18.7%
Nottinghamshire	24,480	27,950	17.8%	17.1%
Ashfield	5,275	5,905	23.7%	22.7%
Bassetlaw	3,760	4,340	18.8%	18.3%
Broxtowe	2,685	3,115	15.4%	14.9%
Gedling	3,105	3,565	16.0%	15.5%
Mansfield	4,540	5,200	24.1%	23.3%
Newark & Sherwood	3,555	4,025	17.3%	16.5%
Rushcliffe	1,565	1,800	8.1%	7.8%

1. 2010 child poverty data identifies that in England 20.6% of children were living in poverty, which shows a small decrease compared to the 2006 baseline year, as can be seen in Figure 2 overleaf. The 2010 data also indicates that there are fewer children in poverty in Nottinghamshire compared to England and the East Midlands.

**Figure 2: 2006-2010 Child Poverty Data - comparisons by Nottinghamshire Localities**

<b>Child Poverty Levels for all children and young people aged 0-19 years</b>					
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>England</b>	20.8%	21.6%	20.90%	21.30%	20.60%
<b>East Midlands</b>	17.9%	18.7%	18.40%	19.10%	18.70%
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	16.3%	16.9%	16.80%	17.50%	17.10%
<b>Ashfield</b>	20.7%	22.0%	21.70%	23.00%	22.70%
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	17.3%	17.9%	18.30%	19.10%	18.30%
<b>Broxtowe</b>	13.5%	14.0%	14.20%	15.20%	14.90%
<b>Gedling</b>	14.1%	14.4%	15.00%	15.70%	15.50%
<b>Mansfield</b>	23.0%	24.0%	22.70%	23.60%	23.30%
<b>Newark and Sherwood</b>	16.6%	17.0%	16.80%	17.01%	16.50%
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	8.0%	8.1%	7.90%	8.20%	7.80%

### Comparisons with statistical neighbours

- 2010 data identified that child poverty levels have increased for all of Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours since the baseline year with the exception of Cumbria; Nottinghamshire's increase in child poverty levels is therefore comparable with progress in similar local authority areas for 2010.

**Figure 3: % of children aged 0-19 living in Poverty - comparisons by Statistical Neighbour**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>England</b>	20.8%	21.6%	20.9%	21.3%	20.60%
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>17.10%</b>
<b>Staffordshire</b>	13.7%	14.2%	14.2%	15.7%	15.30%
<b>Derbyshire</b>	15.4%	15.9%	16.0%	17.0%	16.70%
<b>Lancashire</b>	18.2%	19.0%	18.2%	18.6%	18.00%
<b>Cumbria</b>	15.4%	15.6%	15.1%	15.4%	14.90%
<b>Kent</b>	16.9%	17.3%	17.0%	18.0%	17.70%
<b>Lincolnshire</b>	15.8%	16.2%	15.9%	16.8%	16.70%
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	14.6%	15.4%	15.5%	16.5%	16.10%
<b>Dudley</b>	21.2%	22.1%	18.7%	23.1%	22.50%
<b>Wigan</b>	18.1%	18.7%	18.8%	20.00%	19.70%

## Ward level child poverty levels

11. 2010 child poverty levels have also increased in the majority of wards in Nottinghamshire since the 2006 baseline year.
12. A hotspot ward is identified as a locality where over 16.7% of children live in poverty, as defined by government's indicator of relative poverty. In 2008 59 wards within Nottinghamshire were identified as hot spots, by 2010 there were 63 wards. Figure 4 below identifies those wards in Nottinghamshire where over 30% of children lived in poverty in 2010. It is however important to note that the 30% marker is arbitrary and does not account for wards where child poverty levels are nearly 30%.

**Figure 4:** Nottinghamshire wards with over 30% levels of child poverty (2010)

	<b>2010 Wards with over 30% of children living in poverty</b>
<b>Ashfield</b>	Kirkby in Ashfield East – 36.4%
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	Worksop South East – 37.4%
<b>Gedling</b>	Killisick – 38.7%
<b>Mansfield</b>	Cumberlands – 30.7%
	Pleasley Hill – 32.5%
	Ravensdale – 47.2%
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	Boughton – 31.9%
	Devon – 35.0%

## Poverty Projections






13. Child poverty figures are predicted to rise over the next few years. The Institute of Fiscal Studies<sup>3</sup> has predicted that relative child poverty will stand at 24% by the financial year 2020/21 – significantly more than the target of 10% set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.
14. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has also predicted that the median income of families in the UK is predicted to fall by 7% between 2009/10 and 2012/13. This would equate to the largest three-year fall in income for 35 years.

## Child Poverty Strategy Performance






15. Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy was designed with partners who agreed to submit pledges to state what their organisation was going to do to alleviate the impact of poverty on children and families, how they planned to improve outcomes for the poorest children and families; and how they could help lift children out of poverty. A list of these pledges is included in the Child and Family Poverty Strategy which is available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty).

<sup>3</sup> Brewer M, Browne J, Joyce R (2011) 'Child and working-age poverty from 2010 to 2020'; Institute of Fiscal Studies

16. There were 84 pledges covering activity by 18 different organisations, two of which are District Strategic Partnerships. All organisational pledges include at least one measurable milestone to help us assess progress and performance. There are 169 milestones in total.
17. Progress against each of the pledges can be assessed by measuring activity against a number of milestones listed under each pledge.
18. Of the 84 pledges made the following progress has been made:

		No. of pledges
	<b>Behind or not happening</b> – work has not started when scheduled or has started but activity is not meeting or unlikely to meet its milestones	2
	<b>Happening but behind schedule</b> – work has started but activity is not meeting milestones, but us expected to by the deadline if adjustments are made	8
	<b>On schedule</b> – work has started and is meeting milestones	43
	<b>Completed</b> – work has been successfully completed to deadline	19
	<b>No judgement possible</b>	2
	<b>No information received</b>	10

19. Of the 169 milestones measured:

		No. of milestones
	<b>Behind or not happening</b> – work has not started when scheduled or has started but activity is not meeting or unlikely to meet its milestones	4
	<b>Happening but behind schedule</b> – work has started but activity is not meeting milestones, but us expected to by the deadline if adjustments are made	14
	<b>On schedule</b> – work has started and is meeting milestones	89
	<b>Completed</b> – work has been successfully completed to deadline	33
	<b>No judgement possible</b>	5
	<b>No information received</b>	24

### Examples of Progress against Key Pledges

20. Since the launch of the Strategy Nottinghamshire County Council and four Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have pooled funding for the development of a Nottinghamshire Family Nurse Partnership. The work is highlighted within a pledge from **Public Health** who have co-ordinated the work. The Family Nurse Partnership is an intensive evidence based preventive programme for vulnerable, first time young parents that begins in early pregnancy and ends when the child reaches two years old. The



programme goals are to improve antenatal health, child health and development and parents' economic self-sufficiency. The Family Nurse Partnership programme is known to improve the following outcomes:

- improvements in antenatal health
- reductions in children's injuries, neglect and abuse
- improved parenting practices and behaviour
- fewer subsequent pregnancies and greater intervals between births
- improved early language development, school readiness and academic achievement
- increased maternal employment and reduced welfare use
- increases in fathers' involvement

21. **Nottinghamshire Police** pledged to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in target wards across Nottinghamshire. Annual data indicated reductions in anti-social behaviour (ASB) across all districts, and although adverse weather may have made a contribution, the introduction of Operation Animism in some areas provided a highly visible response to calls and planned ASB patrols have had an impact.
22. The Closing the Gap strategy led by **Nottinghamshire County Council** was launched in 2012 in line with their pledge to reduce the achievement gap between pupils on Free School Meals (FSM) and their peers each year. A number of achievement gaps are measured at ages 11, 16 and 19. Achievement gaps at all ages in Nottinghamshire are wider than national achievement, however at age 16 Nottinghamshire saw a greater reduction than that achieved at national level. At age 19 the gap has remained broadly static since 2008 although FSM attainment has seen a steady, year on year increase.
23. **Jobcentre Plus** pledged to deliver a welfare system which recognised work as the primary route out of poverty. To achieve this pledge Jobcentre Plus (JCP) services have been delivered from Children Centres where staff have promoted opportunities to parents to increase their interest in improving work related skills and essential skills such as literacy, numeracy and IT. In addition, JCP staff have provided information to parents on the range of JCP services, they have promoted opportunities for parents to become volunteer helpers which has enabled Jobcentre Plus to provide references based on contact with the centre. JCP also provides advice on access to childcare for parents while they are working or attending education or training sessions.
24. The **Adult Community Learning Service** within **Nottinghamshire County Council** has been successful in engaging families from key target groups including those without a Level 2 qualification in literacy and/or numeracy. Furthermore, 82% of learners on Family Learning courses came from the 250 most disadvantaged Super Output Areas<sup>4</sup> (62% from the 150 most disadvantaged Super Output Areas). 91% of those on Family Learning Courses reported being more confident to learn and 93% reported feeling more confident to support their child's learning. 75% of those on Family Learning courses reported receiving information and guidance about further learning opportunities.

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<sup>4</sup> Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. SOAs have been created by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for collecting, aggregating and reporting statistics. They have been automatically generated to be as consistent in population size as possible, and the minimum population is 1000 and the mean is 1500 residents.



25. The **Newark and Sherwood Local Strategic Partnership Board** has commissioned a Family Intervention Worker with a focus on debt advice. The post commenced in July 2012. The worker supports high risk and vulnerable families in the district targeting in particular families experiencing debt problems and long term unemployment. In addition a Vulnerable Families summit was held jointly with Newark and Sherwood CCG in June 2012, which has resulted in a new service being commissioned from October 2012.
26. The newly merged **Ashfield and Mansfield Employment and Skills Group** worked closely with a new supermarket development in Kirkby in Ashfield to help employ 300 local individuals, and 'retail gateway' training was provided for approximately 40 local, long-term-unemployed individuals. All of these were interviewed and around half were offered employment.
27. There are examples of activity that is behind schedule or no longer happening, often stemming from financial pressures and budget restrictions.
28. There are also examples of activity that it is no longer possible to measure because of adjustments in information sharing and national data collection changes.
29. An overview of progress indicates that there is a greater targeting of resources, services and interventions to those most in need. Target groups for the Strategy are well known and were evidenced in the child poverty needs assessment.

### **Refreshing the Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy**

30. The Strategy is currently being refreshed and amended to ensure that all activity is current and progress can be assessed. It is likely that the Child and Family Poverty Strategy will be developed as part of Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention Strategy which aims to ensure that children, young people and their families will receive the most appropriate support to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity, in order to ensure better outcomes and the cost effective delivery of services.

### **Suggested approach or way forward**

31. Using organisational pledges has been a useful way to engage all statutory partners and Nottinghamshire County Council Departments. It is however envisaged that future work to refresh and implement a local Child and Family Poverty Strategy should focus on the added value of partners working together to improve outcomes.
32. It is hoped that the refreshed Strategy will continue to focus on target groups and localities.

### **Other Options Considered**

33. None.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

34. There is a statutory duty on top tier Local Authorities to develop a child poverty needs assessment and strategy alongside named partners. This duty has been delegated to Children, Families and Cultural Services on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

35. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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**

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the content of the report.
- 2) approves the suggested way forward when refreshing the Child and Family Poverty Strategy in the future.

**Anthony May**  
**Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services**

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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 08/11/12)**

36. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

## **Financial Comments (NDR 08/11/12)**

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

## **Background Papers**

Building Aspiration: Working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire – report to County Council (22/9/11)

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.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All  
C0116

**3 December 2012****Agenda Item: 9**

## **REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

### **CHARTER FOR CARE LEAVERS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Children and Young People's Committee of the Care Leavers Charter and seek approval for Nottinghamshire County Council's sign up to it.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. On 30 November 2012 the Department for Education (DfE) wrote to all Directors of Children's Services informing them of a new Charter for Care Leavers and asking for their support for it (see **Appendix 1**).
3. The Charter for Care Leavers is a set of principles and promises and sets out promises care leavers want the central and local government to make. These include:
  - respect who they are, and remember that they are individuals
  - listen to them and place their views at the heart of decisions made about them. If you don't agree explain why.
  - provide them with practical help and support
  - value their strengths and help them learn from their mistakes
  - not forget them when they are no longer anybody's statutory responsibility
4. The DfE also sets out some key areas of service to care leavers which it wanted local authorities to improve. These were financial support to care leavers, accommodation and 'staying put' options; and education, training and employment opportunities. Nottinghamshire is well placed against the requested improvements and already has embedded practices in these areas.
5. In terms of financial support, local authorities are being tasked to ensure that care leavers receive an adequate grant to enable them to make the transition to independent living successfully. A mandatory minimum figure is not being proposed however £2000 per care leaver is given as a guide. In Nottinghamshire every care leaver is already entitled to a 'home establishment grant' of £2000 which is to assist them in setting up their own home. In addition we also provide their first year TV licence fee and home contents insurance. This is well established in Nottinghamshire and its use is monitored and supported closely by the After Care Service.

6. Nottinghamshire has a Staying Put policy, published in August 2012, which supports young people in the transition to adulthood and means that their living arrangements are not suddenly disrupted just because they turn 18 and enables them to remain with their foster carers post 18 years of age.
7. Each care leaver has his/her own Education, Employment and Training Advisor who sits within the After Care Service and works closely with the social worker/personal advisor for the young person. The statistical return to the DfE regarding the percentage of care leavers aged 19 years who are in education, employment or training for 2011/12 was 64% compared with 79% in 2010/11. The main reason for the decline in percentage performance is due to changes in Border Agency and Home Office processes which has resulted in a number of our young people who were 'Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers' being deported following failed asylum claims.
8. There is recognition in Nottinghamshire that there is a need for continual improvement and engagement with our care leavers. To this end a review of our leaving care services has been commissioned with the intention of building on the already good work taking place but recognising that the service needs to develop in line with the changing landscape (not least economically) we and our care leavers find ourselves in.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. The alternative option is not to sign up to the Charter for Care Leavers. This option would send a negative message to the public about Nottinghamshire County Council's commitment to its care leavers and would undermine the good level of service currently afforded to this group of young people. For these reasons it is not felt that this is a viable option.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. The proposal to sign up to the Charter for Care Leavers set out in this report underlines Nottinghamshire County Council's commitment to young people who have been in its care and will assist in engagement with this group.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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 Children and Young People's Committee approves sign up to the Charter for Care Leavers by Nottinghamshire County Council.

**Dawn Godfrey**

**Group Manager, Social Work Services**  
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**Constitutional Comments (LM 08/11/12)**

12. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report

**Financial Comments (NDR 09/11/12)**

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

**Background Papers**

Staying Put Policy 2012

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.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0125



3 December 2012

Agenda Item: **10****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, EARLY YEARS AND EARLY  
INTERVENTION SERVICE****RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2012****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Committee of the Council's response to the issue raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 20 September 2012.

**Information and Advice**

2. A petition of 200 signatories was presented to the County Council on 20 September requesting *"the re-instatement of Sure Start Market Place Children's Centre services to the John Godber Centre, Hucknall, providing security and stability to children, parents and staff and also a fixed base from which to access these important services."*
3. The Council currently has a Commissioned Accountable Body (CAB) agreement with County Health Partnerships to deliver Children's Centre services on its behalf in Ashfield. In Hucknall, there are three Children's Centres: Butler's Hill, High Lees and The Market Place.
4. The Market Place Children's Centre currently occupies limited rented space (at a basic rental cost of £27,840 per annum) in the John Godber Community Centre building to deliver some of its programmed work. The Community Centre is also used by a separate pre-school group every morning.
5. Following consultation with staff, families and stakeholders, County Health Partnerships have, in recent months, modified the pattern of delivery from Market Place Children's Centre, both to improve outcomes for children and families, and to reduce premises costs. In consequence, it is intended that use of the John Godber Centre for children's centre provision will cease by April 2013.
6. However, the Market Place Children's Centre is not closing. Set out below are the Centre's new arrangements:
  - staff teams and associated administrative functions have been relocated to existing staff bases in Hucknall (High Lees and Butler's Hill Children's Centres)

- community based Centre activity is being focused more upon delivery from Hucknall Library and the Interchange Young People's Centre, and other settings such as Leen Mills Pre-School.
  - in addition, resources are being more efficiently managed across Hucknall's three Children's Centres to offer more opportunities for children and families to access services at all three Centres, including the purpose built Centre premises at Butler's Hill and High Leys
  - the Interchange Young People's Centre is now regarded as the central hub for Market Place Children's Centre
7. In the period since the relocation of the Centre's provision has taken place, the number of local families registered with the Centre has increased from 66% (586) to 76% (684). In addition, the number of individual children under 5 worked with in the last 12 months has increased from 697 to 812 children.
  8. The latest user satisfaction survey (February 2012) undertaken for children's centre provision across Hucknall shows that 98% of parents surveyed are very satisfied with the service received.
  9. This data indicates that the new service delivery arrangements for the Centre have helped to make access to services for families that need them easier rather than harder.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

7. To inform Committee of the Council's response to the issue raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on the 20 September 2012.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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**

- 1). That the Committee considers the response and the petitioner organiser be informed.

**Justine Gibling**

**Group Manager, Early Years and Early Intervention Service**

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Justine Gibling

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### **Constitutional Comments**

9. Because the report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 15/11/12)**

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

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Hucknall:	Councillor Kevin Rostance
	Councillor Mick Murphy
	Councillor Rev. Tom Irvine

C0128



3 December 2012

Agenda Item: **11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR HOME EXTENSION TO ENABLE A SIBLING  
GROUP OF FOUR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TO REMAIN WITH FOSTER  
PARENTS AS THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDER  
THROUGHOUT CHILDHOOD****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to fund the cost of an extension to the foster carers' home to allow them to continue to care for four children who have been placed with them since November 2011. The carers are seeking a Special Guardianship Order for the younger two children and are willing to sign a written agreement to continue to care for the older two children until they have reached adulthood and beyond as they wish to continue to foster for the County Council when the children have decided to leave the family home. In order to do this they will need to extend their current property from four bedrooms to five, with a downstairs toilet. The estimated cost for these works is between £60,000 and £100,000. Unfortunately, it is not possible to more accurately estimate the costs at this stage but work is underway to ensure that accurate estimates are made and costs kept to the minimum (see paragraph 3).
2. The County Council has been directed by Nottingham County Court to report back on the funding request – the Court is of the view that the carers should be supported in this way to enable them to care for the children under the relevant orders for the children. The specific details of the orders are full Care Orders for two children to remain Looked After and Special Guardianship Orders for the other two children. The Children's Guardian is fully supportive of the plan that the children remain with these carers throughout their childhood.
3. Initial plans have been drawn up and accurate estimates are being sought. If the works are to proceed, approval will be required from the carers' mortgage lender regarding the County Councils proposal to place a charge over the property. Once these arrangements are in place, a planning application will be made.

**Information and Advice**

4. The children (who will be referred to as child A, female aged 7 years old, child B, male aged 5 years old, child C, female aged 2 years old and child D, female aged 1 year old)

were accommodated under police protection in November 2011. The children were the subject of parental physical abuse, emotional abuse, cruelty and chronic neglect. The children are currently subjects of Interim Care Orders under Section 38 of the Children Act 1989.

5. On 18th September 2012 Nottingham County Court ordered that the children should not return to their parents care. There will be a final hearing held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in order to secure the placements for the children with their current carers, and to discuss final contact arrangements for the children with their parents.
6. The children's current foster carers have bonded effectively with all four children. They have been fully committed to the children and have been assessed as providing a high quality of care. The children have developed well during this time and are making progress despite their complex needs. The foster carers have expressed a desire to keep all four children together and see this as critical to their development needs. This assessment is supported by the social workers managing this case. As a result they have requested that they be considered as Special Guardians for the two youngest children, child C, female aged 2 years old and child D, female aged 1 year old and to continue to care for the two eldest children, child A, female aged 7 years old and child B, male aged 5 years old as long term foster care. The reason for the different orders is that the foster carers wish to remain in their current role, and they feel that child A and child B will receive all the support they will need throughout their childhood under the County Council's Looked After umbrella.
7. The children have been in their current placement for one year.. During this time the foster carers have recognised the children's individual and complex needs, and demonstrated the ability to provide and respond to those needs in such a manner that all of the children have thrived. It is recognised that this placement needs to be capitalised on in order to secure the children's permanence and future care.
8. A recent independent Psychological assessment has concluded that the children's relationship with each other was the most important key protective factor to consider as they all had a positive attachment with each other. The report recommended that a continuing placement with their current carers would be a suitable means of ensuring this. The Psychologist gave evidence in court on 18 September 2012 to this effect.
9. It is proposed that the children will have direct contact with their mother and birth father four times a year, which will be supervised by their carers and their paternal grandmother. The current carers are willing and able to facilitate this, and will continue to do so throughout their childhood.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. If the two younger children were to remain the subject of a Care Order, they would then remain as Looked After Children until they reach the age of 18 years old, and fostering allowances would be payable in respect of all four children. There would also be ongoing further costs associated with this, including Social Worker intervention and support, additional allowances for clothing and holidays and the cost of Aftercare support services.

11. The Local Authority currently has the option to secure permanency for all four children by way of a Special Guardianship Order in respect of child C and child D and long term foster care for child A and child B. In relation to best possible outcomes for all four siblings, this gives them the opportunity to all be a permanent member of this family and most importantly remain together as a sibling group.
10. The White Paper 'Adoption: A New Approach' states that a Special Guardianship Order would:

**'give the carer clear responsibility for all aspects of caring for the child and for taking the decisions to do with their upbringing: The child will no longer be looked after by the Local Authority: Provide a firm foundation to build a lifelong permanent relationship between the child and their carers: Be legally secure: Preserve the basic link between the child and their birth family'.**

11. If the current foster carers are not able to be supported financially with an extension to their home to create the living space needed, the children would not be able to remain together as a sibling group. The plan for the two younger children, child C and child D would be one of adoption outside of their birth family. This second option has also been placed before the court. It is the view of the Judge dealing with this matter that there is an alternative route to permanency for the younger two children through a Special Guardianship Order to their current carers. This will provide the children with permanency and ensure that they are not separated from their sibling group. All the siblings already have an existing relationship and attachment to the family who are committed to care for them throughout their childhood.
12. Adoption would not be an appropriate plan for child C and child D given that there is a good alternative family who can meet their needs. If an adoption plan was pursued, a placement would be required through an outside agency. The cost of an inter agency placement would be £27,000 per child and there would be ongoing financial costs associated with this through adoption financial support. Given the children's ages, and complex physical and emotional needs, a placement together could not be guaranteed.
13. The court will not grant a Placement Order which would allow the County Council to place the child for adoption given the current carers' application. The Judge and Children's Guardian are fully aware of the funding issue in this case and that it is being presented to the Committee. They are supportive of the plan that the children remain in their current placement as the subject of a Special Guardianship Order and long term foster care in order to keep the children together.
14. The Local Authority will be able to reduce financial risk by having a legal agreement with the carers regarding repayment of the grant should the carers cease to look after the children prior to them reaching the age of 18 years old.
15. This proposal represents the best value in terms of both financial investment and in securing the best possible outcomes for the children. The children can also enjoy an ongoing relationship with their siblings as the main key protective factor in the children building resilience and achieving their full potential in life.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

16. To ensure that the children have a safe, stable, secure upbringing with carers with whom they have an existing positive relationship. The current carers are experienced foster carers who wish to continue fostering as their career choice.
17. In order to enable the carers to keep these children as the subject of a Special Guardianship Order and to remain fostering for this County Council they would need an extra bedroom. Their property is a four bed roomed house and they have their own son who has his own bedroom. Child D is currently in a cot in the foster carer's bedroom, which is not ideal. However due to her physical needs and given that she has to wear callipers on her legs at night this is still in her best interests for the next few months. Child A and child C are sharing a bedroom, and child B has his own bedroom. Given the nature of the sexual abuse the children have suffered, the eldest sibling, child A will require her own bedroom and privacy as she grows and develops. The proposed extension would provide the fifth bedroom which would be used for child A, and it would extend on child B's bedroom. It will also allow for a downstairs toilet which child D desperately needs due to her physical disability.
18. The extension of the foster carers property would involve the front and back of the house being extended due to where the property is situated on the street, and to take into consideration neighbouring properties that may be affected.
19. The proposal is that the children remain in their current carers' care, thus avoiding the cost of an inter-agency adoption placement costing £27,000 per child to the Local Authority plus additional allowances and support costs. The proposal is also that the carers remain County Council foster carers thus avoiding the cost of recruiting new carers at a cost of £12,000.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment as well as 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.

## **Implications for Service Users**

21. These children have a right to achieve permanence and long term stability and security within their existing network. It offers the greatest likelihood of success for these children.

## **Financial Implications**

22. The current carers would require an estimated £60,000 to £100,000, to enable such an extension to be completed to their property, which would allow the children to have their own bedroom in the family home. This would be approximately equivalent to 10% of the

cost of the two youngest children remaining Looked After. Payment of this lump sum would come from the Permanence Team budget and Fostering Team budget and would be subject to a legal charge.

23. The financial assessment is that the carers are likely to receive a Special Guardianship Order allowance; as a result they would not be required to make a financial contribution to the rest of the extension.

### **Human Rights Implications**

24. The family has a right to a private and family life (Article 8) with the least intervention from the Local Authority. This plan would be in line with this directive and also ensure that the children remain together as a family unit. This will ensure that when the children reach adulthood they will all have each other as their support network.

### **Safeguarding of Children Implications**

25. The current arrangements ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children until such a time as they reach adulthood. Assessments have been carried out which support that the carers are able to meet the children's long term needs and ensure that they are all free from risk of significant harm.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) Approval is given for the extension to the foster carers' home to be carried out at an estimated cost of between £60,000 and £100,000.
- 2) A legal charge order is made, to ensure that the costs of the extension can be reclaimed or reimbursed if the children do not remain in this placement until adulthood.

**Steve Edwards**  
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### **Constitutional Comments (SSR 21/11/12)**

26. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 22/11/12)**

27. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the report.

### **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.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0132