

Our Purpose: We will make best use of our reducing resources to deliver our core integrated safeguarding, educational and health related services. We will focus upon safely meeting the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families.

Our Principles:

- *We will focus our education services on supporting and challenging schools to deliver high standards of attainment for all pupils*
- *We will focus our other services on children and families who are most vulnerable/at risk*
- *We will ensure that all of our intervention and programmes are based upon sound evidence of impact*
- *We will integrate and align our services, and make accessing them as easy as possible*
- *We will continue to intervene early where it is proved to be cost effective*
- *We will keep children safe, and together with their families where it is safe to do so*
- *We will ensure the voice of the child or young person is at the centre of children's services development and design*
- *We will deliver our services within the financial resources available to us*

We want to achieve the following outcomes:

- *Children, young people and families accessing our case holding services will see improved outcomes as a result of high quality, consistent assessments, clear and achievable plans, and appropriate interventions*
- *Looked After Children and Care Leavers will be supported through improved placement provision, health services and learning opportunities*
- *Children and young people at risk of 'emerging threats' will be appropriately identified, supported and protected*
- *Children, young people and families will experience a seamless service when moving between Early Help and Children's Social Care*
- *Children, young people and families will benefit from a stable and skilled Children's Social Work workforce*
- *Children and young people and families will experience improved physical and mental health outcomes as a result of the development and re-commissioning of key services*
- *Children will be able to access sufficient early years and school places in their local communities*
- *More children and young people will attend good or better schools in Nottinghamshire compared to the national average*
- *Vulnerable children and young people will see their educational outcomes improve at a greater rate than others, will be less likely to be missing education, and will be more able to progress in to higher level education, employment and training*
- *Young people with disabilities will have improved pathways to support their preparation for adulthood*
- *Children and young people will be able to access a broad range of youth work led positive activities*

In pursuit of our desired outcomes during 2017-2018 we will:

**March
2018**

- Undertake reviews of "care for Looked After Children" and "social work practice" to ensure that we are delivering high quality social care at best value
- Establish a culture of embedding the use of assessment tools into front line practice
- Continue to deliver a comprehensive set of recruitment and retention activities to enable further reductions in the number and cost of social work agency staff
- Further improve the integration of social work and early help services so that families receive a more coordinated service and have the right level of support at the most appropriate time
- Continue to remodel our early help services, including youth services and children's centre provision
- Implement new duties to offer extended free childcare to all 3 and 4 year olds from working households, whilst continuing to offer free childcare for 2 year olds from low income households
- Review and implement a revised short-break offer in Nottinghamshire for children and young people with disabilities
- Co-ordinate the delivery of a multi-agency SEND Strategic Action Plan, ensuring the continuous improvement of services for children and young people with SEND and their families
- Remodel our commissioning arrangements for vulnerable children and young people's education and care provision
- Implement a newly commissioned Healthy Families Programme for 0-19 year olds and their families
- Working with CCGs, continue to transform our specialist community health services for children and young people (CCYPS)
- Implement the Future in Mind Plan to improve services for children and young people with emotional and mental health difficulties
- Continue to implement the Young People's Health Strategy
- Continue to develop an effective working relationship and shared understanding with all schools and the Regional Schools Commissioner to raise standards of attainment and improve pupils' progress in all Nottinghamshire Schools
- Continue to implement the Closing the Gaps Strategy to improve attainment and progress for vulnerable children and young people identified by the *East Midlands Challenge*
- Implement the recommended actions from the Post-16 Area Based Review
- Ensure that we continue to meet the requirements of external inspection frameworks across children's services

**April
2017**