

Nottinghamshire County Council – an overview

Council Structure and Broad Responsibilities

Nottinghamshire County Council is the largest employer in the county employing over 27,000 people, with a budget of £1.4bn that delivers more than 500 services to 790,000 people. This makes Nottinghamshire the 11th largest local authority in England.

The Council has a £1.3 billion budget and 12,000 employees who work directly for the Council along with 15,000 employed by schools and other bodies. The budget for schools amounts to £510m.

The Council is ultimately responsible for the provision and performance of over 500 statutory and discretionary services to 790,000 people across Nottinghamshire including the vital range of services for children, public protection, social care and highways as well as many discretionary services relating to the social, environmental, and economic well being of the area. The Council is developing new responsibilities including working in partnership with the Health Service, City, District and Borough Councils, Police, Fire and Rescue and many other statutory and non-statutory organisations. All this happens in the context of democratic politics, meeting increasing needs and providing greater transparency.

The Chief Executive of the Council is Mick Burrows. The Council has 4 departments:

Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection – Corporate Director: David Pearson

Children, Families and Cultural Services – Corporate Director: Anthony May

Environment and Resources – Corporate Director: Tim Gregory

Policy, Planning and Corporate Services – Corporate Director: Jayne Francis-Ward.

The Council's priorities are identified in the Strategic Plan. They are:

- § to foster aspiration, independence and personal responsibility
- § to promote the economic prosperity of Nottinghamshire and safeguard our environment
- § to make Nottinghamshire a safer place to live
- § to secure good quality, affordable services
- § to be financially robust and sustainable.

Nottinghamshire has a two tier system of local government. This means that services are sometimes shared between 2, or 3, councils. Nottingham City Council is a unitary authority which means it is responsible for all local government services in the city.

Nottinghamshire County Council is a 1st tier local authority responsible for the services already identified. The second tier is made up of 7 District or Borough Councils which are responsible for functions such as housing, collection of council tax, pest control, refuse collection and parks and leisure centres. Collectively they spend £84m per year on providing services.

The councils are:

- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council.

In some areas of the county there may be also be a 3rd tier – a Town or Parish Council. These councils have a wide range of functions and are the most local form of democratically elected local government. Collectively they spend £4m per year on recreational facilities, parks and open spaces, cemeteries, public conveniences, car parks, village halls and community facilities. In Nottinghamshire there are 150 Parish Councils, 10 Town Councils and 38 parish meetings.

The Political Structure of the Council

There are 67 Councillors in the County Council and all elected Councillors sit in Full Council. The elected Councillors are known as Members of the County Council. Most County Councillors are members of a political party but there are 8 independent Councillors at present. The composition is as follows:

The composition of the County Council as of March 2012 is:

- Conservative Party: 35 seats
- Labour Party: 15 seats
- Liberal Democrat: 9 seats
- Mansfield Independent Forum: 4 seats
- Selston Area Independents – Putting People First: 1 seat
- Independent: 2 seats
- UK Independence Party: 1 seat.

These Members have formed the following Groups:

- Conservative Group: 35 seats
- Labour Group: 15 seats
- Liberal Democrat Group: 9 seats
- Nottinghamshire Independent Group: 8 seats.

The Council has a constitution, which sets out the legal rules it must follow, how the Council operates and how decisions are made. This ensures that procedures are

followed correctly and that they are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

In May 2012, the County Council introduced a committee system to replace the Leader and Cabinet format.

The change to the committee system reflects new powers given to local authorities as part of the Localism Act. This gives greater freedom to local authorities and allows them to decide for themselves what system of governance they want to operate. Committees are made up of councillors from all parties to reflect the political balance of the authority and all decisions, with the exception of day-to-day operational matters, will be made by the committees. This represents a drive for greater transparency, accountability and more democratic decision making by Councillors.

There are 19 committees, 7 sub committees and Full Council, which meet every 8 weeks.

Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection (ASCH&PP)

It is the ambition of Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection (ASCH&PP) that

We will commission services which embrace personalisation and promote safety and wellbeing and are accessible and affordable

This ambition is based on the following approach:

- Commission Services to provide quality and value for money
- Embracing Personalisation
- Promoting Safety
- Promoting Health & Wellbeing
- Ensuring Accessibility
- Ensuring Affordability.

The purpose of ASCH&PP is to maximise independence, choice and control, keep people safe and support the wellbeing of vulnerable adults.

It has specific responsibility for:

- § planning and delivery of health and social care services across Nottinghamshire
- § delivery of housing related support services on behalf of the Supporting People partnership
- § leading the implementation of national and local standards in our services
- § working in partnership with other care providers, service users, carers and local stakeholders to develop, plan and deliver services
- § promoting social inclusion and wellbeing
- § emergency planning to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to manage emergencies and civil contingencies in the county
- § registration of births and deaths, and conducting civil marriages, civil partnerships and citizenship ceremonies
- § ensuring a fair and safe trading environment for consumers and reputable traders.

Key strategies and service developments

Personalisation - The most significant change for adult social care is 'personalisation' and offering choice and control to people through use of Personal Budgets and Direct Payments. From 3rd October 2010, all new service users were put onto a Personal Budget and this has taken place alongside reviewing every service user eligible for a Personal Budget.

Good progress has also been made in offering a direct payment to service users with dementia and Nottinghamshire is one of the better performing local authorities in this respect, according to the Alzheimer's Society. During 2012/13 the department will focus on extending the offer of a personal budget to new service user groups and ensuring all service users are on a personal budget regardless of the care setting,

such as residential homes. Work will also be undertaken to increase the number of people who take their personal budget as a direct payment.

Reablement - The department aims to provide support to people that will enable them to regain or maintain their independence wherever possible, to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and support successful discharge from hospital care, and to avoid the need for long term care support. To this end, the department is promoting flexible ways of working across the County to provide an effective multidisciplinary reablement service through a range of flexible services in a variety of community settings, including intermediate care and home based services.

The Short-Term Assessment and Reablement Team (START) works with people to help them regain the skills and confidence to live as independently as possible. It helps with personal care and domestic care tasks. START staff may suggest doing things differently to how they have been done in the past, offer small items of equipment to make tasks easier and inform people about other kinds of help they could receive. This support normally lasts for up to six weeks and is free of charge. During this time support needs are constantly reviewed to see if people will require any long-term personal support.

Joint Commissioning – There is a significant inter-relationship between services to adults with social care needs and many health services, as well as a significant overlap in relation to cost. Improving outcomes for service users and providing cost effective health and social care services requires excellent joint commissioning. The Health and Wellbeing Board is well placed to provide leadership to promote integrated commissioning and provision between health, public health and social care. From April 2013 the Health and Wellbeing Board is legally required to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy to advise on how to improve the health and wellbeing of the Nottinghamshire population.

Organisational structure

Four Service Directors oversee key functions within the department:

- § The **Promoting Independence and Public Protection** service is responsible for the management of customer access to adult social care services, the development of the personalisation agenda and personal budgets, provision of reablement services and trading standards, emergency management and registration services.
- § The **Joint Commissioning, Quality and Business Change** service is responsible for the management of business change and support, safeguarding adults, joint commissioning, policy and performance, and supported employment services.
- § The **Personal Care and Support Younger Adults** service is responsible for the assessment and commissioning of a range of support services to younger adults (under 65) with physical disabilities, mental health needs and learning disabilities. This includes a team for adults with asperger's syndrome. The service also manages day and residential services.

- § The **Personal Care and Support Older Adults** service is responsible for the assessment and commissioning of a range of support services to older adults (over 65). The service also continues to manage 6 residential homes which have been retained following a major project to sell Council owned homes.

Budget

The department is responsible for a gross budget of £301m. This includes income of £97m, giving a net revenue budget of £204m. The department provides health and social care services for 20,000 people every week. A further 16,000 people each year receive housing-related support organised by the department. The department manages a care market of £225m and works in partnership with over 300 care providers from the voluntary, statutory and independent sectors.

In 2010 NHS Support to Social Care funding (£9.624m) was allocated to Nottinghamshire PCTs with the requirement that the funding was transferred to local authorities for the purpose of supporting effective and timely hospital discharges. This comprised of £1.371m for Bassetlaw PCT and £8.253m to Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT. For 2012-13, Nottinghamshire will receive £9.262m, with £1.319m to Bassetlaw and £7.942m to Nottinghamshire County. In January 2012 the Department of Health announced an additional one-off allocation for 2011/12 of £2.233m.

In common with other departments and the Council as a whole, Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection is making savings and is forecast to save £65m in the 4 year period from 2011/12 to 2014/15. This includes £61.7m of savings planned for 2011/12 to 2013/14.

There are currently 49 savings and efficiencies projects in progress across the 4 service areas (41 within the Adult Social Care and Health and 8 relating to Public Protection) with the aim of making these savings. Over 2011-12, 16 projects have been fully completed. A further 8 projects were added at the February 2012 Council budget meeting.

The 10 high governance projects (including two new projects) are listed below:

- Reablement
- Day Services modernisation
- Fair Access to Care Services (FACS)
- Sale of residential care homes (soon to be completed)
- Alternatives to Residential Care
- Review expenditure on Learning Disability and Mental Health community care
- Supporting People
- Organisational re-design
- Sherwood Industries
- Redesign of commissioning of community-based care services.

Performance

Previously all Councils were expected to report to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on their achievements and areas for improvement. For adult social care the CQC then awarded a performance rating. In 2009-10 the CQC judged that Nottinghamshire County Council was 'performing excellently'. This was the third year in succession that the Council was judged as excellent – the only Council in the East Midlands to be in this position.

In April 2010 the Government changed the way it expects local authorities to report on their performance. The Council is now required to be 'self regulating', meaning that it is now the Council's responsibility to monitor and report on its own performance. Although the authority is no longer required to report to the Government on a large number of national performance indicators, we continue to assess ourselves against some of these to help improve our performance.

The Government does require the Authority to monitor and report on performance against four categories within an Outcomes Framework. The categories require us to look at how well services:

- **Enhance the quality of life for people with care and support needs**
- **Delay and reduce the need for care and support**
- **Ensure that people have a positive experience of care and support**
- **Safeguard adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm**

In January 2012 the department published a Local Account on performance in adult social care services for the period April 2010 to March 2011. Nottinghamshire was one of a small number of councils that produced a Local Account, and was the first Council in the East Midlands to do so. The next Local Account will be produced in the summer for the period covering March 2011 to April 2012.

Key responsibilities and processes

Assessment and eligibility for services

The department uses Government guidance to decide whether a person's ability to live independently would put them at risk if services are not provided or arranged to help them. This is called Fair Access to Care Services guidance (FACS). If there is a risk to a person's independence the department has to decide whether the risk is critical, substantial, moderate or low. Councils have a statutory responsibility to meet needs that are not met by other means, such as through care provided by informal carers or the health service.

People will be **eligible for help** with any problems that pose a **critical or substantial risk** to their independence. If the identified problems pose a **moderate or low risk** to their independence people **may not be eligible for help** from the Council.

The Council has a significant role in providing information and advice for people who are not eligible for Council provided social care services. The Social Care directory and the Notts 50+ website allows people to find out what services and resources are available to provide support across Nottinghamshire.

The Self-Directed Support Assessment is the core assessment used by staff to assess the needs of all service users.

The community care assessment (SDSA) is used to:

- § assess presenting need and agree level of support required
- § establish the amount of unpaid care that is available
- § determine eligibility for long term social care support. Staff must provide evidence to support their decision, based on Fair Access to Care Services guidance.
- § collect information to inform a referral to other agencies if required. It is the responsibility of the worker to make the necessary referrals or enquiries to other agencies based on the information provided by the service user or carer during the assessment

If an assessment identifies eligible need people will be offered a personal budget. This is an amount of money agreed with the individual to meet their long-term social care needs. Personal budgets can be provided in three different ways:

Direct payment - this is a cash payment given to allow people to buy the support they need. A direct payment allows people the most flexibility and control over the support they need. It also means people have more responsibility for arranging their own support.

Managed personal budget – the council arranges the services that meet a person's support needs. A managed personal budget is less flexible than a direct payment but people have less responsibility to arrange their own support.

Mixed personal budget – people can arrange part of their support themselves using a direct payment and ask the Council to arrange the rest using a managed personal budget.

Charging for services - Service users have a financial assessment to decide the contribution towards their Personal Budget. This is undertaken in line with the Fairer Contributions Policy which was introduced nationally in 2010. Fairer Contributions represents a fundamental shift from charging for units of service (Fairer Charging guidance) to people making a contribution to their total service package.

Support planning

Once people know their indicative personal budget they need to make a support plan. This must clearly show what support they need (such as help with washing or dressing or getting out in the community); what services or activities they intend to spend their personal budget on to meet these needs, what plans they have for an emergency (for example carers being ill) and any risks there are in the support plan.

Social care staff will help people complete their support plan, as well as family, friends or an advocate. The support plan has to be agreed by the Council to ensure it is affordable, legal and a proper use of social care funds. The department publishes a social care directory, which provides details of a range of organisations across Nottinghamshire that can provide support, services and activities that can be used in support planning. The Support with Confidence register provides a list of approved personal assistants who have been trained in supporting people to live independently. They have all had enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks and supplied references.

The Future of Adult Social Care

The Commission on Funding and Support of Social Care, headed up by Sir Andrew Dilnot, published its recommendations and report in July 2011. The Commission identified that under the current system adult social care expenditure will need to increase from £14.5 billion to £22.8 billion, the equivalent of £125 million for Nottinghamshire by 2025. Prior to that, the Law Commission had published a report proposing the need for a major review of the law relating to adult social care.

The Queen's Speech included a draft bill to modernise adult care and support in England, setting out what support people could expect from government and what action the government would take to help people plan, prepare and make informed choices about their care. The draft Bill focuses on:

- modernising care and support law to ensure local authorities fit their service around the needs, outcomes and experience of people and consolidating the existing law with a single statute, supported by new regulations and statutory guidance
- maintaining the focus on putting people in control of their care and giving them greater choice, building on progress with personal budgets

- simplifying the system and processes to provide the freedom and flexibility needed by local authorities and social workers to allow them to innovate and achieve better results for people, and
- giving people a better understanding of what is on offer to help them plan for the future and ensure they know where to go for help when they need it.

Children, Families and Cultural Services (CFCS)

The ambition of Children, Families and Cultural Services is:

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

The work of the Department is focused around nine priorities:

- continue to improve our work to keep children and young people safe
- continue to improve how well children and young people achieve in schools and colleges
- reduce the gap in educational achievement for all ages
- improve children and young people's health and wellbeing
- continue to improve our early intervention services to ensure that children, young people and families in the greatest need receive appropriate support
- increase opportunities for children, young people and families to take part in learning, sporting, leisure and cultural activities, to develop new skills and to have fun
- conserve and enhance our country parks, green places and cultural heritage and contribute to an improved visitor experience for Nottinghamshire
- commit to a whole department quality assurance approach with individual accountability
- improve the efficiency of our service delivery and supporting infrastructure.

The CFCS annual budget for 2012-13 is £152m, with £138m allocated to Children and Young People's Services and £14m allocated to Cultural Services. The budget for schools amounts to £510 million.

Key Responsibilities

The Department is responsible for the delivery of a range of services to children, young people and their families as well as to the wider community, many of these being statutory services. These include:

- Children's social care, supporting the most vulnerable children and young people. Services include child protection, children looked after by the local authority, fostering and adoption services and support for disabled children.
- Early intervention services for children, young people and their families, ensuring that families are provided with support when they experience difficulties in their lives. Early intervention services include preventative work

and support for children, young people and families who are vulnerable, but do not meet the threshold for support through children's social care. Services are provided to younger children and their families through Sure Start Children's Centres, and to young people through targeted youth support services. The Youth Justice service provides prevention, restorative justice and statutory criminal justice services.

- Education standards and improvement, ensuring that all children and young people in Nottinghamshire have access to high quality learning provision and support that meets the needs of all learners. This includes support to schools to enable them to improve their performance, and planning to ensure that sufficient school places are available in the localities where they are needed. The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Service delivers a range of services to ensure that children with SEND are supported to access education.
- A range of cultural services, including arts and sports services in schools, outdoor education, youth services, adult community education, libraries and archives services and country parks.

To deliver this wide range of services, the CFCS Department is organised in three divisions:

- The **Children's Social Care Division** aims to provide the most vulnerable children and young people in Nottinghamshire with the support and protection that they need to be safe, secure and happy, and to achieve their full potential. The division's current structure comprises the following service groups:
 - Regulated and Corporate Parenting Services
 - Fieldwork Social Work Team (North)
 - Fieldwork Social Work Team (South)
 - Disabled Children's Service
 - Safeguarding and Independent Review.

Children's Social Care is implementing a transformation programme, to improve local arrangements for safeguarding children, and is in the process of restructuring its service groups over the next few months.

- The Education Standards and **Inclusion Division** is responsible for raising standards and aspirations for all children and young people in Nottinghamshire. Services provided are:
 - Behaviour Service
 - Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy and Provision
 - Education Improvement, Strategic Planning and Schools Admissions
 - Business Development and Support.
- The **Youth Families & Culture Division** serves children and young people and their families, and also provides cultural services to the wider community. Services provided are:

- Young People’s Service
- Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service
- Early Years and Early Intervention Service
- Libraries, Archives and Information
- Cultural and Enrichment Services
- Country Parks.

Many of these CFCS services work in partnership with other organisations, including Health Services. Much of this work is co-ordinated by the Children’s Trust, which is a partnership of organisations providing services to children, young people and their families. The Children’s Trust Executive oversees joint planning and commissioning for children’s services, and reports to the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

(For more information:
<http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust.htm>)

Key Developments

Together with its partner organisations, the County Council has developed a Pathway to Provision, to support practitioners across the Children’s Trust in identifying the most appropriate level of support required by a child, young person or family. This describes the child’s pathway through our services, the access points and levels of service provided for all levels of need, from universal services through early intervention and targeted services to specialist and statutory support, including children’s social care, specialist health services and support for children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

(For more information:
<http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust/earlyinterventionandprevention.htm>)

Children’s Social Care is delivering a transformation programme, which is central to work to improve local arrangements for safeguarding children. Over the last year, we have achieved significant improvements in the quality and timeliness of children’s safeguarding services, validated by a successful Peer Challenge through Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID) and a successful re-inspection of safeguarding services and the removal of the Council’s Improvement Notice. The transformation programme is driven from within, by people in the service, together with colleagues across partner organisations. It will embed a new, resource-efficient model for children’s social care, creating a high quality service that inspires confidence and pride in the community, partners, county council staff and political leaders. This new model will comprise:

- the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); a single, multi-agency point of entry for vulnerable children
- district child protection teams;
- a dedicated through care service for looked after children
- improved arrangements for disabled children’s making transitions from children’s to adult’s services.

Nottinghamshire County Council is recommissioning its Children’s Centres services. Fifty-eight Children’s Centres are currently located within the Council’s Early Years

and Early Intervention Service with services delivered by the County Council and a number of other organisations. A recent service review has clarified the core purpose of Children Centres, with early intervention at its heart, and the recommissioning process is underway with new contractual arrangements due to start in April.

The Targeted Youth Support offer sets out the services provided for young people aged 8-18 who are vulnerable but who are not immediate risk of harm. About one in ten young people will require targeted support at some time during their adolescence. Targeted Support is a partnership managed by the local authority and with involvement by the police, health services, Probation and not-for-profit and voluntary sector agencies. Young people can refer themselves to Targeted Support or be referred by a professional.

The County Council's relationship with schools is evolving, reflecting its role in education provision for children and young people to improve their lives and life chances. The Department for Education expects local authorities to:

- drive up standards of achievement
- secure access and sufficiency of high quality places for all children and young people
- promote the development of new provision, particularly parent-led provision
- secure choice for learners and parents
- ensure value for money.

In Nottinghamshire, overall educational attainment has improved significantly over the last few years, with results at KS2 (age 11) and KS4 (age 16) improving at a rate greater than the national average for the last four years. If the recent trend of improvement continues in 2012, it is likely that KS4 outcomes will be in line with the national average for the first time. There remains work to be done to reduce the attainment gap between more vulnerable children and their peers, and to improve educational performance post-16.

The Department has benefited from large scale capital investment, including more than £100 million into schools and more than £25 million into youth services. The Council was also successful in the recent bidding for the Priority Schools Building Programme, receiving 15 projects, more than any other Council. There is also a capital programme investing in library services. This includes major projects delivering new library premises in Mansfield and West Bridgford.

Demographic Information

The priorities of the CFCS Department and of the Children's Trust have been developed after considering the needs of children, young people and families, and using customer feedback. The demographic needs of children and young people are identified in the 2010 refresh of the children's chapter of the JSNA. Key findings are that:

- there are 179,500 children and young people aged 0-19 in the county and the 0-19 population is predicted to increase by 13% on average across the county by 2030, with the largest growth in the 5-9 population (23%).

- there is an estimated 6.6% black and minority ethnic 0-19 population in Nottinghamshire, concentrated in the conurbation areas of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe. 3.5% of Nottinghamshire school pupils speak English as an additional language
- more than 20% of Nottinghamshire pupils have some kind of special educational need (SEN) and 1.1% have a Statement of SEN. The main SEN is behavioural/emotional/social need, and diagnoses of Autistic Spectrum Disorder have seen a steep rise in recent years.
- 17.5% of children were identified as living in poverty in 2009 (from data available September 2011). Child poverty is concentrated in the north-west of the county, with additional clusters in Retford, Newark, Arnold and Carlton, Hucknall and several scattered wards in Broxtowe.

(For the full refresh of the children and young people's chapter or the JSNA, including district profiles, see: <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust/jointstrategicneedsassessment.htm>)

Clinical Commissioning Group links

Newark and Sherwood	Jon Wilson, Service Director, Personal Care and Support, Younger Adults
Bassetlaw	David Hamilton, Service Director, Personal Care and Support, Older Adults
Nottingham North and East	Paul McKay, Service Director, Promoting Independence and Public Protection
Principia (covering Rushcliffe)	Caroline Baria, Service Director, Joint Commissioning, Quality and Business Change
Mansfield and Ashfield	Steve Edwards, Service Director, Children's Social Care
Nottingham West	Derek Higton, Service Director, Youth, Families and Cultural Services

Joint Health and Social Care Agenda

There are established joint commissioning arrangements in place for the following areas:

- § Children & young people (Teenage Pregnancy, Disability and CAMHS/emotional wellbeing)
- § Younger adults (Mental Health, Learning Disability & Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Carers)

- § Older adults (Older People & Older People Mental Health, Carers, Physical Disability, Sensory Impairment)
- § Substance Misuse.

The Health and Wellbeing Implementation Group will oversee the development and delivery of the joint commissioning agenda. This is currently being reviewed to link the work under the umbrella of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A shadow Health and Wellbeing Board was established in 2011 and there have now been 6 meetings. The Board is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council and includes 5 Councillors (including the Leader and Deputy Leader), 6 GPs from the Clinical Commissioning Groups, representatives from the District Councils, LINKs, Director of Children's, Families and Cultural Services, Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection.

The Board is responsible for the production of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the County.

Nottinghamshire Children's Trust oversees joint planning and commissioning for services to children, young people and their families. Its business is managed by the Children's Trust Executive which reports to the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. Joint commissioning groups for children and young people's services report to the Children's Trust Executive (groups for disabled children, CAMHS and emotional wellbeing and teenage pregnancy). The Children's Trust supports work on young people's substance use, but accountability for this area of joint commissioning is with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

The Children's Trust Executive is chaired by the Corporate Director for CFCS, and includes representatives of the County Council, Health Services (commissioners and providers, including Clinical Commissioning Groups), the Police, District Councils, and the voluntary sector. The Children's Trust Executive approves joint commissioning strategies related to its priorities, and receives six-monthly performance reports on these. This work is being integrated into the Health and Wellbeing Board performance reporting, and the County Council's committee structure. The Children's Trust contributes to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring these embrace all aspects of children's wellbeing, including health, social care, educational and community needs.

The joint planning and commissioning priorities of the Children's Trust are set out in the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14. This has been approved by Nottinghamshire County Council and will in future be approved by the Council's Children and Young People's Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, and reported to the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. The Children's Trust joint planning and commissioning priorities are:

- Early intervention
- Safeguarding
- Disabled children
- Child poverty

- Educational achievement, reducing the gap in achievement between more vulnerable groups and their peers
- Educational achievement for 16-19 year olds and the employment of young adults
- Emotional wellbeing.

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations co-operate to safeguard children and ensure the effectiveness of what they do. It also provides inter-agency training for colleagues working with children, young people, adults and families. The work of the NSCB fits within the wider context of the Children, Young People and Families Plan and the Board is responsible for some of the activities that contribute to the safeguarding priority of this plan. The NSCB has a scrutiny and challenge role within the Children's Trust, and has an independent Chair, who is also a member of the Children's Trust Executive.

Locality Management Groups have been established in each of Nottinghamshire's seven districts, responsible for local planning of partnership activities, with an emphasis on early intervention work. These groups report to the Children's Trust Executive and build on the previous work of Local Strategic Partnership Children (LSP) Children and Young People's sub-groups, and in some districts continue to report to the LSP. These groups are developing local action plans, and would like to work involve local Clinical Commissioning Groups in this work.

(The Nottinghamshire, Children, Young People and Families Plan, plus associated joint commissioning strategies, including those for disabled children, emotional well-being, are available at: <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust/childrengroupsandfamiliesplan.htm>)