

Children and Young People's Committee

Monday, 13 September 2021 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

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<u>Notes</u>

- (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 Martin Gately (Tel. 0115 977 2826) 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.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar <u>http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx</u>



Meeting CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE Date 26 July 2021 (commencing at 2:00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Tracey Taylor (Chairman) Sinead Anderson (Vice-Chairman) Sam Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Matt Barney Anne Callaghan Samantha Deakin Jim Creamer Roger Jackson Johno Lee Andy Meakin Michelle Welsh

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

4 Vacancies

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Colin Pettigrew	Corporate Director, Children and Families Services
Marion Clay	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Laurence Jones	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Irene Kakoullis	Group Manager, Children and Families Services
Martin Gately	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 21 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and have been signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Creamer substituted for Councillor Henry for this meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

4. <u>CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME AND</u> CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/053

That:

- 1) Quarterly performance data be included in the quarterly performance reports to the committee.
- Annual reports providing an overview of the work to address the threat of Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care in Nottinghamshire be received.

5. <u>ANNUAL REPORT ON THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER</u> <u>CHILDREN</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/054

That:

- 1) No further action was required in relation to the information in the report on the impact of the work of the Virtual School and its partners for academic year 2020/21.
- 2) Further annual reports on the work of the Virtual School be presented to the Children and Young People's Committee.

6. FOSTER CARER ITEMS

Rachel Cutts and Elizabeth Keogh of the Foster Carer Liaison Group joined the meeting via Teams, but did not raise any particular concerns.

7. <u>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET – PERFORMANCE AND</u> <u>FINANCE FOR QUARTER 4 2020-21</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/055

That:

 No further actions were required in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for children and young people for the period 1st January to 31st March 2021.

8. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES PLACE PLANNING STRATEGY 2021-2026

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/056

That:

- 1) The proposed Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Place Planning Strategy for 2021-2026, attached as Appendix, be forwarded to Policy Committee for approval.
- 2) An annual update on progress with the implementation of the strategy be received.
- The Chairman of the Committee writes to the Department of Education regarding the relatively low level of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities related funding for Nottinghamshire.

9. CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/057

That:

- 1) No further actions were required in relation to the issues contained within the report
- 2) A further update on Children Missing Education be received and that this be included in the work programme.

10. <u>SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY</u> MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2023/2024 TO 2026/2027 AND QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE – CHANGE TO DATES FOR 2021/2022

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/058

That:

- 1) The school holiday pattern for 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 as outlined in Appendix 1 be agreed
- 2) The change to school holiday dates for 2021/2022, as outlined in Appendix 2, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee be agreed.

11. <u>VARIATION TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION</u> <u>ARRANGEMENTS 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023 AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S</u> <u>STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL TO COMPLY WITH</u> <u>SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE 2021</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/059

That:

- 1) The variations to the admission arrangements for 2021-2022 and 2023 be approved
- Approval be given to carry out consultation on the Fair Access Protocol between 4th August and 19th September 2021.

12. <u>AMENDMENT TO CATCHMENT AREA DUE TO CLOSURE OF MANNERS</u> <u>SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, AVERHAM, NEWARK</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/060

That:

1) Approval be given for officers to seek approval from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to reassign the existing catchment area of Manners Sutton Primary School as outlined in Appendix 2.

13. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE : CASE FOR CHANGE

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/061

That:

- 1) No further action is required in relation to the issues contained within the report
- 2) To receive a follow up report on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care when the final recommendations have been published
- 3) To consider the proposed transformation programme for children and families at the Children and Young People's Committee meeting in September.

14. <u>COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME AND COVID LOCAL SUPPORT GRANT</u> <u>FINAL REPORT</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/062

That:

- 1) The progress and outcomes of two Covid related grant schemes for children, families and vulnerable adults who have experienced financial hardship because of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted.
- 2) The proposals and budget allocation for the Covid Local Support Grant Scheme Part 2 extension which will provide supermarket vouchers to eligible children and young people be endorsed.

15. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2021-2025

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/063

That:

1) An annual update of progress against the priorities in the Early Help Strategy 2021-2025, attached as Appendix 1, be received.

2) No further actions were required in relation to the information contained in the report.

16. <u>SUPPORTING FAMILIES UPDATE AND CHANGES TO THE FAMILY SERVICE</u> <u>STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/064

That:

- 1) A follow up report be received in six months and that this be included in the work programme.
- The establishment of the following posts in the Family Service be approved from 1st August 2021 to 31st March 2022:
 - 1 FTE Supporting Families Project Officer (Grade 5)
 - 0.5 FTE Reducing Parental Conflict Coordinator (grade subject to job evaluation)

17. <u>SUPERVISION OF DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS IN SECONDARY</u> <u>SCHOOLS</u>

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/065

That:

 The establishment of a fixed-term 1 FTE Advanced Practitioner (Band C) post, for the academic year commencing in September 2021, to provide group supervision to Designated Safeguarding Leads in Secondary Schools, as part of a pilot, funded by What Works for Children's Social Care, be approved.

18. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES DURING THE PERIOD 18TH JANUARY TO 18TH JUNE 2021

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/066

That:

1) The appointments listed in the report be noted and further updates be received regarding future appointments on a quarterly basis in accordance with the Constitution.

19. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2021/067

That:

1) No further amendments were required to the work programme.

The meeting closed at 3:17 pm.

CHAIRMAN



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

ELECTED MEMBER OVERSIGHT OF CHILDREN IN LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE: CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER GOVERNANCE BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree the Terms of Reference for the Children Looked After Governance Board.

Information

- 2. At Children and Young People's Committee it was agreed that that the current Children's Homes Governance Board which provides Elected Member oversight of the seven children's homes directly operated by the County Council should be reconfigured to provide an oversight of all places where our children who are looked after live. This would include those children's homes and foster placements directly provided by the Local Authority and those commissioned from external providers including the Youth Custody Service. The focus of this 'Children Looked After Governance Board' would be on safety and those aspects of children's wellbeing that have a direct impact on their safety. It was further agreed that the Board should have Elected Member representation from all parties represented on the Children and Young People's Committee in recognition of the commitment to corporate parenting.
- 3. Draft Terms of Reference for the Board are presented as **Appendix 1**. It is recommended that the Vice Chair of Children and Young People's Committee who leads on social care should chair the Board with additional membership from each of the parties on the Committee and an additional place for an Elected Member not on the Committee. It is proposed that this should be offered to non-aligned Independents in the first instance so that there is demonstrable corporate parenting responsibility taken across the political spectrum.
- 4. The Terms of Reference give a lead role to Elected Members on the Board in leading visits to care settings accompanied by other Elected Members. This is in line with an agreed recommendation from the report to Committee in June that in order to develop better insights into the lives of children who are looked after all Elected Members on the Children

and Young People's Committee should visit a children's home setting annually, in line with the already agreed guidance, and Members on the Children Looked After Governance Board should visit quarterly. Briefings and trainings will be made available to Members prior to visits being undertaken and a schedule of visits will be available by November 2021. An officer will also accompany Members on these visits.

5. Children and Young People's Committee has previously agreed to receive a report annually on the sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in the care of the Council. Due to the risk of identifying individual children the detail in this report has been in the form of an Exempt Appendix. It is recommended that this report is now presented to the Children Looked After Governance Board where more in depth scrutiny can be provided with close support from officers and that any issues arising from it are escalated to the Committee. It has been agreed that the Board would continue to report back to Children and Young People's Committee with recommendations at least every six months.

Other Options Considered

6. The Terms of Reference have been constructed with reference to the previous decision of the Children and Young People's Committee and as such other options have not been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. Having clear Terms of Reference will allow a consistent and thorough approach to achieving the outcomes set for the Children Looked After Governance Board by Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implication arising directly from this report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

10. The proposed Children Looked After Governance Board will allow increased Elected Member oversight of the children in the care of the Local Authority and would complement other aspects of oversight undertaken by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the Terms of Reference for the Children Looked After Governance Board, attached as **Appendix 1**, are agreed
- 2) the annual report on sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in the care of the Council be presented to the Children Looked After Governance Board in future with relevant issues escalated to the Children and Young People's Committee.

Laurence Jones Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Laurence Jones Service Director, Commissioning and Resources T: 0115 977 3921 E: <u>laurence.jones@nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (LPW 19/08/21)

11. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 17/08/21)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Staffing Resources for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - report to Policy</u> <u>Committee on 15 June 2016</u>

<u>Responses to Historical Child Abuse – Resources - report to Policy Committee on 20 December</u> 2017

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - report to Full Council on 18 January 2018

<u>Response to Historical Child Abuse – Resources - report to Children and Young People's</u> <u>Committee on 18 March 2019</u>

Children in the care of the Nottinghamshire Councils Investigation Report – July 2019

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – Initial Response – report to Policy Committee on 18 September 2019

Guidance for Elected Members – Visits to Children's Residential Homes - report to Children's Homes Governance Board – September 2019

<u>Review of Elected Member oversight of children in Local Authority care – report to Children &</u> Young People's Committee on 21st June 2021

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1493



Children Looked After Governance Board

1 Background

On 21 June 2021 the Children and Young People's Committee agreed a recommendation that the Children's Homes Governance Board should be reconfigured to provide an oversight of all places where our children who are looked after live and with a focus on safety and those aspects of children's wellbeing that have a direct impact on their safety. The revised Children Looked After Governance Board is not a sub-committee and does not have any of the delegated decision-making powers.

2 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Children Looked After Governance Board will be:

- To provide an oversight of the safety of all places where our children who are looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council live. This would include those children's homes, foster placements and supported accommodation directly provided by the Local Authority and those commissioned from external providers including the Youth Custody Service
- 2. To scrutinise information relating to children in care missing from home or education and to recommend any improvements
- 3. To scrutinise information relating to children in care who are alleged victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, at risk of sexual exploitation or who commit sexually harmful acts whilst in a care setting and to make recommendations for any improvements
- 4. To scrutinise information on children in care's emotional and mental health and the quality of services they receive and to make recommendations for any improvements
- 5. To consider issues relating to the criminalisation of children in care
- 6. To consider any relevant recommendations from academic research, national reviews, rapid reviews and practice reviews to inform our strategic approach to keeping children in care safe
- 7. To ensure that the views of children and young people receiving care and, where relevant, their parents or carers, foster carers and residential staff are taken into account in the development of safe services.

3 Accountability and Challenge

The Chair of the Governance Board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the Board meets its objectives
- Ensuring the Board remains focused, has clear authority, and that work is actively managed
- Ensuring that decisions requiring formal agreement are referred to the relevant Committee in line with the Council's constitution.

4 Core Membership

Core members will include:

- Vice-Chairman (social care) of the Children and Young People's Committee (Chair)
- An additional three Elected Members representing each of the parties who sit on the Children and Young People's Committee
- A further Elected Member representative not on the Children and Young People's Committee (to be offered to non-aligned Independents)
- Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work
- Service Director, Commissioning and Resources
- Group Manager, Regulated Services
- Group Manager, Looked After Children
- Group Manager, Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement
- Group Manager, Commissioning

Other attendees may be asked to attend as and when required for one-off meetings, or for a specific period of time. This might include the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fostering Liaison Group (FLAG). The Service Managers for Residential Services, Clayfields House, Fostering, Placements and Youth Offending will provide professional and technical advice to the Board.

Membership of the Board may change as it becomes more established and the role of specific representatives are defined more clearly.

5 Scope & Responsibilities

- Considering relevant observations and recommendations from Ofsted inspection and Regulation 44 reports.
- Considering local and national reports that make recommendations about practice and strategy in relation to the safety of looked after children
- Receiving data reports that can be used to formulate questions and investigations into different aspects of the safety and wellbeing of children in care
- Taking an active interest in the services delivered by health, justice and school/education partners for children in residential settings.

6 Frequency and Format of Meetings

The Governance Board will be held on a quarterly basis. Meetings will not be open to the public and minutes and papers will not routinely be published and may be protectively marked if they contain sensitive information.

The final agenda will be set in consultation with the Chair and will be circulated, with accompanying papers, to members a minimum of five clear working days before the meeting. Any late papers will normally be tabled.

Agreed action points will be provided to members within a week of each meeting.

7 Ways of Working

Members should endeavour to read agenda papers in advance of meetings to allow for informed discussion.

Members will identify a suitable deputy to attend in their absence as an exception.

Members will be expected to lead regular visits to care settings in line with local guidance accompanying as appropriate other Elected Members beyond membership of this Board.

Members should upon invitation attend the Children in Care Council meeting to gain views directly from children and young people.



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

CHANGES TO THE STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT AT ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS

Purpose of the Report

- 1. This report seeks approval to establish 2 FTE Social Work Support Officer (Grade 4) posts within Adoption East Midlands and to disestablish the following posts:
 - 0.1 FTE Team Manager (Band D)
 - 0.1 FTE Panel Manager (Band C)
 - 1 FTE Social Worker (Band B).

Information

- 2. The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) was established in May 2015 by the Department for Education (DfE) because there was recognition that many adoptive families needed some kind of therapeutic support following adoption and too many struggled to get the specialist support that they needed. In October 2016, the demand for funds was over twice the level that the DfE had forecast and despite an increase in funding, it was necessary to introduce a Fair Access Limit of £5,000 per child (and the opportunity to match fund with the local authority). In the year 2017/18, as well as a £5,000 Fair Access Limit for therapy per child, a Fair Access Limit of £2,500 per child to fund a specialist assessment was introduced. The defining aim of the Adoption Support Fund was to provide financial support to local authorities following an Adoption Support Needs Assessment, to commission specialist therapeutic support for families where the local authority did not have the relevant resource or expertise to deliver.
- 3. Since its inception in 2015, the Adoption Support Fund has fundamentally changed the landscape of Adoption Support and how the needs of adoptive families across our region are supported. Whilst undoubtedly access to the Adoption Support Fund provides valuable therapeutic support, there is now an increasing expectation from families that that this should be the primary source of support to meet their adoption support needs. Increasing knowledge and understanding of the Adoption Support Fund within the adoption community has resulted in many families believing that they are entitled to access the fund, and many have already identified the type of therapy and therapist that they want to work with prior to

contacting the Team. This increase in adopter led demand as well as their increasingly established relationships with and reliance on therapy providers, has resulted in adoption support social workers taking on an increasing role as 'commissioner' in the eyes of adoptive families as well as a provider of support themselves.

Financial Year	Applications	Total £
2015/16	145	629,000
2016/17	367	1,009,000
2017/18	370	849,000
2018/19	547	1,424,000
2019/20	442	1,297,645
2020/21	583	1,404507
2021/22	187	549,346
(Quarter 1)		
	748 – est FYE*	2,197,384 – est FYE*

* estimate for financial year end

- 4. The growth in applications to the Fund, as well as the complexity involved in the application process and the increasing administrative demands of the application process, are having a significant impact on the service from a resource, time and cost perspective, which is unlikely to have been anticipated at the time of its launch. Resource diverted into facilitating and administering the Adoption Support Fund funded work is increasing and is anticipated to continue to increase as more families within the region are aware of and wanting to access the Fund for specialist therapeutic interventions alongside the direct support work they receive from the social work team.
- 5. In addition, re-commissioning is becoming more the norm for families (successive applications to the Fund over a period of time), and there is a significant growth in families who are pre adoption order also now accessing specialist therapeutic support via the Fund, which, whilst positive as a form of early intervention, creates additional work for the post order team which has sole responsibility for administering the Fund applications.
- 6. As the volume of commissioning work and therefore related administrative tasks and processes increases, the turnaround time for completion of applications to the Fund is increasing which directly impacts on the timeliness of support provided for all families who make contact with the service, whether this be for a commissioned service or for social work support. Ultimately this will go on to have an impact on the overall satisfaction of adoptive families who are wanting / needing to access a service from Adoption East Midlands and indeed feedback from adopters both locally and nationally is often that they have to wait too long to access a service from adoption support teams which inevitably heightens their feelings of being 'in crisis'.
- 7. As well as the above costs, in order to remain compliant with procurement rules, work is currently being undertaken to enable the future tendering for therapeutic work to come through ProContract, the Council's Tendering and Contracts system. Set up tasks are

currently underway with the new process going live from September 2021. Whilst there are significant benefits to the service in commissioning in this way (increased pool of providers, quality assurance, best value, improved access to support), it will inevitably add additional administrative process to the task which will need to be resourced.

8. Whilst providing valuable additional support to vulnerable adoptive families and children across the region, the ongoing administration of the Adoption Support Fund is resulting in escalating direct and indirect costs to Adoption East Midlands. In order to meet these costs, the overall adoption support service provided by Adoption East Midlands is being compromised as expensive skilled resources are diverted into largely administrative tasks away from client facing direct social work. This is resulting in a more dissatisfied workforce and a compromised wider support offer from Adoption East Midlands as resource is used to administer the Adoption Support Fund rather than the development and growth of our universal support offer within the region.

Other Options Considered

- 9. Since Adoption East Midlands went live in 2019, significant work has been undertaken to identify solutions to the increasing challenge of resourcing the Adoption Support Fund commissioning task
 - a comprehensive LEAN review of the commissioning process has been undertaken to streamline tasks and to identify whether tasks require a qualified social worker input or whether they are largely administrative / business support tasks
 - tasks have been delegated where appropriate to Business Support colleagues and Social Work Support Officers in an attempt to increase social workers' time for direct work
 - a new Pathway to Support has been established and launched which provides a graduated response to families seeking support for their identified adoption support needs. As part of this service / support offer, Adoption East Midlands has established a comprehensive programme of universal support services and access to consultation which provide options for early intervention support, hopefully reducing the need for long term therapy for many children and families and builds the confidence of adoptive families in Adoption East Midlands.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 10. Despite making significant changes to the service, the continued impact of the Adoption Support Fund commissioning process on current resource within the Team can no longer be sustained and this is only anticipated to increase.
- 11. As well as supporting the administrative needs associated with the Adoption Support Fund commissioning process, the additional resource would be utilised proactively (alongside current Social Work Support Officer resource) to support the new Universal Support offer to families within the Adoption East Midlands region, including being frontline support for families accessing our Information Line. The benefits that this will realise will include a more timely and robust social work support offer to regional adoptive families when they need it with an increased focus on early intervention and support.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

- 13. The establishment of 2 FTE Social Work Support Officer (Grade 4) posts will cost £56,934 and this can be fully contained in the current Adoption East Midlands staffing budget by disestablishing the following posts:
 - 0.1 FTE Team Manager (Band D)
 - 0.1 FTE Panel Manager (Band C)
 - 1 FTE Social Worker (Band B).

Human Resources Implications

14. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. The new posts will be appointed to in line with the vacancy control and recruitment procedures.

Smarter Working Implications

15. These additional posts will be based within Nottinghamshire, and part of the overall service adhering to smarter working habits.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the following changes to the Adoption East Midlands establishment be approved:
 - disestablishment of 0.1 FTE Team Manager (Band D) post
 - disestablishment of 0.1 FTE Panel Manager (Band C) post
 - disestablishment of 1 FTE Social Worker (Band B) post
 - establishment of 2 FTE Social Work Support Officer (Grade 4) posts.

Steve Edwards Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Shelagh Mitchell Group Manager Adoption East Midlands T: 0115 9774169 E: <u>Shelagh.mitchell@adoptioneastmidlands.nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (AK 18/08/21)

16. This report falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (JG 19/08/21)

17. The establishment of 2 FTE Social Work Support Officer posts will cost £56,934 and will be funded through the disestablishment of 1 FTE Social Worker post, 0.1 FTE Team Manager post and 0.1 FTE Panel Manager post. The current Adoption East Midlands staffing budget is £3,406,692.

HR Comments (BC 12/08/21)

18. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. The new posts will be appointed to in line with the vacancy control and recruitment procedures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1494



13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE & IMPROVEMENT

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET - PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE FOR QUARTER 1 2021/22

Purpose of the Report

 This report provides the Committee with a summary of the performance and finance of the Council's services for children and young people for quarter 1 of 2021/22 (1st April to 30th June 2021).

Information

- 2. The Council's Planning and Performance Framework establishes the approach that the Council takes to planning and managing its performance to deliver effective and responsive services.
- 3. The Council has agreed that the key measures of its performance will be defined through a number of core data sets which are detailed in its Council Plan and each of its Departmental Strategies.
- 4. Performance against these core data sets is reported to Committee every three months (quarterly) to support the performance management of the delivery of services.

Performance Reporting for 2021/22

- 5. This report provides a summary of the quarter 1 position for the Children's Social Care and Education Core Data Set performance measures that fall within the responsibility of the Children and Young People's Committee. The full Core Data Set is included in **Appendices 1 and 2**. **Appendix 1** shows those measures which have received updates since the previous quarter. **Appendix 2** shows those measures which have not changed.
- 6. For each measure, the following information is provided:
 - Current performance and whether a high or low value is regarded as 'good'.
 - The period this current value relates to.

- An indication of whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period. The most recently available annual performance and which year this relates to.
- The underlying numbers used to calculate the % for some measures is provided within the measure description.
- If a measure is cumulative, this is stated in the measure description.
- Comparator data of the national average for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available.

Child and Family Assessments

7. The Authority continues to see consistently good performance in this area despite an increase in demand and blended working practice.

Child Protection

- 8. The Service is aware that for some time there has been a gradual reduction of the number of children in the County subject to child protection plans and this has brought the Authority into line with our statistical neighbours.
- 9. Child Protection Coordinators continue to closely monitor the length of time that children are subject to child protection plans and there is a robust system in place for addressing drift and delay where this is apparent.
- 10. The Service continue to hold discussions with our Child Protection Coordinators, and Children's Service Manager colleagues in social care about the numbers of repeat child protection plans. This has also been a discussion point for Child Protection Coordinators in their quarterly meetings with team managers across the County. There is concern about 'revolving door' scenarios, and the use of forums such as Complex Case Panel are to be encouraged to support thinking around these complex situations.
- 11. Child Protection Coordinators and all social work teams remain very mindful of the need to ensure all reviews are held within timescales, and the requirement to seek service manager agreement to move a conference outside of this, which would only be agreed with valid justification usually to ensure attendance of relevant family members and/or professionals that would be crucial to the meeting being a productive one. The Authority remains in line with our statistical neighbours on this measure.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing

- 12. As anticipated, the number of children for whom Child Sexual Exploitation concerns have been identified has increased upon the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. This has translated into more Child Sexual Exploitation strategy meetings for both children in local authority care and children based at home; there has been a greater increase for Child Sexual Exploitation strategy meetings for children based at home but this increase is in line with previous data pre-Covid measures.
- 13. As anticipated, numbers of children missing have increased with the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. The total number of children who have gone missing has not increased significantly but the number of times they have gone missing has increased. 5+ missings

remain similar to previous quarters meaning that the children who have been missing on multiple occasions have not exceeded 5+ occasions. Nevertheless, the reasons for these increased missing incidents for individual children will be analysed.

Looked After Children

- 14. This measure considers children in care who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all children in care. The latest data indicates continuing strong performance in general, though the steady decline during the last year reflects the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the challenge it continues to present in maintaining stable placements which has been referenced in this commentary during previous quarters.
- 15. Although this data continues to evidence that the majority of children in care experience very stable placements over the longer term, the decline during the past year in the actual percentage of children in care to which this applies is reflective of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on placement stability. Equally older children in care aged 16+, who make up more than 25% of the total number of children in care, typically experience more changes of placement as part of their care plan as they move into semi-independent accommodation as part of their wider transition into adulthood.

Adoption

- 16. The increase in time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family from previous quarters is due to delays in some court hearings, due to the pandemic. There are long delays when a final hearing is to be contested within the County. The length of time will also be impacted by a number of children who are harder to place.
- 17. Performance for the time between the Local Authority receiving the court authority and deciding on a match indicated that once court authority has been obtained to seek adopters the match moves ahead quickly.

Care Leavers

- 18. Due to a known issue on Mosaic, which is affecting the updating of care leaver information on employment, education, and training and accommodation, the performance indicators for quarter 4 cannot be accurately calculated. In April, the Service identified 93 young people whose data could not be updated due to this issue.
- 19. The Information and Systems Team have been in contact with Servelec regarding the issue and continue to work to resolve the problem. As this work is ongoing, it is unlikely that accurate performance metrics for care leavers will be available for quarter 1 of 2021/22. Providing the Mosaic issue is fixed within the next month, it is estimated that quarter 2 performance indicators would be available and accurate.

Youth Offending

20. The rate (per 100,000 population) of First Time Entrants remains low relative to previous years with significant reductions when compared to the last full year. National statistics highlight a long-term decline in First Time Entrants, with greater numbers of young people

being diverted from formal outcomes (e.g. receiving a Community Resolution as an alternative). This is a pattern which has been reflected locally.

Summary Financial Position

21. The Children and Families Department Revenue Budget is forecast to overspend by £5.989m, including additional Covid-19 costs of £4.751m and £1.238m (0.82%) excluding Covid-19 costs as summarised in the Table below.

Previous Variance Incl Covid Addn Costs		Division	Annual Budget	Actual to Period 3	Year-End Forecast	Under(-) / Overspend Variance	Covid19 Addition al Costs	Variance Excluding Additiona I Costs	Variance as%of Budget
£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
		Children & Young People's Committee							
2,233	99	Youth, Families & Social Work	61,596	12,777	64,040	2,444	2,344	100	0.16
(51)	(51)	Education Learning & Skills	6,219	1,692	6,157	(62)	0	(62)	1.00
3,747	1,200	Commissioning & Resources	69,757	11,008	73,364	3,607	2,407	1,200	1.72
0	0	Capital & Central Charges	12,892	(33)	12,892	0	0	0	0.00
5,929	1,248	Net Committee Overspend	150,464	25,445	156,453	5,989	4,751	1,238	0.82

 Table 1 – Summary Revenue Position

- 22. The Youth, Families & Social Work Division is forecasting an overspend of £2.4m including Covid-19 additional costs of £2.3m. The major contributing factor is £2.0m overspend on social work staffing which has arisen due to the service still needing to use high levels of agency workers during Covid-19. The reasons for the high use of agency social workers include;
 - workforce preparedness; newly qualified social workers who have experienced their first year of practice during lockdown have not had the joint working opportunities they would have had in a non-pandemic year. Consequently, they have not yet fully developed the necessary skills, confidence and experience to undertake child protection work.
 - 2) demand in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is currently at its highest ever level, 900 referrals per month higher than the same period last year and over 500 referrals per month higher than the same period in 2019. This is a consequence of latent demand and hidden harm; children are now being seen again by schools and services. Although we are working proactively to manage demand, it is anticipated that high levels of demand may decrease slightly during school summer holidays but will resume in the autumn.
 - 3) there are very significant delays in the Family Courts, this is a consequence of Covid related delay and an ongoing lack of judicial time. Children are having final hearings delayed by up to six months and hearings are being cancelled at short notice. As cases are not being progressed Social Worker caseloads are increasing, and re-assessments

are being requested when there has been delay. Delays in Special Guardianship Orders and Adoption cases mean that children are remaining in care for longer.

- 23. The remaining overspend of £0.4m relates to Looked After Children Placements, in particular supporting 16 & 17 year olds living independently and the homes for young people with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.
- 24. The Commissioning & Resources division is reporting a £3.6m overspend including Covid-19 additional costs of £2.4m. The major contributing factor is an £4.1m overspend on external residential placements for Children Looked After of which £2.9m is an estimate of Covid-19 related costs (additional placements, specific additional/anticipated costs and temporary additional internal residential provision); the remaining overspend of £1.2m is the impact of the closure of Minster View.
- 25. External placements increased by a net of two in June which was as predicted for the month.
- 26. There is a net £0.5m underspend across a number of other budget heads, some of which are temporary in nature. This is mostly made up of staffing underspends, unused budget for pay protection and a temporary subsidy on the NHS employers pension rate. The remaining £0.3m overspend mainly consists of staffing budget overspends linked to the Vacancy Level Turnover across the division and a budget shortfall for Trade Union recharges.
- 27. Clayfields is currently forecasting a deficit of £0.3m against its income target of £0.51m. This takes into account an estimated £605,000 (550 welfare bed nights @ £1,100) loss of income for the period April July. Original plans to increase the occupancy by the summer have been delayed further due to large amounts of staff having to self-isolate because of Covid-19. It is estimated that full occupancy should be achieved over the Autumn. The forecast also takes into account a final loan repayment estimated at £0.1m and a contribution towards the increased cost of employer liability insurance of £0.2m. The balance on the trading reserve is £0.564m
- 28. As well as the implications arising from the Covid-19 emergency there are risks associated with the forecast in relation to external residential placements and social work staffing due to the volatile nature of the demand on these budgets. In view of the high cost of external residential placements the forecast is highly sensitive to changes in e.g. numbers, weekly costs and placement mix. There is a robust monthly monitoring process to track trend data, average costs and actual numbers of children in placement to highlight potential issues as soon as possible.

Other Options Considered

29. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of all areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis. The departmental strategy was agreed on 24th January 2018 and the format and frequency of performance reporting were agreed by the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee on 12th March 2018. Due to the nature of the report no other options were considered appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

30. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

31. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

32. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

33. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for children and young people for the period 1st April to 30th June 2021.

Nigel Stevenson Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 18/08/21)

34. The report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 17/08/21)

35. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Children and young people core data set – performance and finance for Quarter 4 2020-21 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 26th July 2021</u>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1495

Nottinghamshire County Council

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

				Comparator Data				
Key Performance Indicator	Current \	/alue	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Child and Family assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within statutory timescales	98.6%	+	High	2021/22 Q1	97.1%	97.1% (2020/21)	83.8% (2019/20)	84.7% (2019/20)
Percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescale	91.8%	-	High	2021/22 Q1	93.4%	93.4% (2020/21)	91.5% (2019/20)	91.5% (2019/20)
Children subject to a Child Protection Plan – Rate per 10,000	39.6	N/A	N/A	2021/22 Q1	42.9	42.9 (2020/21)	42.8 (2019/20)	40.9 (2019/20)
Children who are subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more	1.8%	+	Low	2021/22 Q1	3.4%	3.9% (2020/21)	3.6% (2019/20)	3.4% (2019/20)
Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion	26.3%	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	15.4%	23.8% (2020/21)	21.9% (2019/20)	22.8% (2019/20)
Total number of individual children reported missing this quarter	312	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	267	747 (2020/21)	_	_
Of the children reported missing, % missing from home (188/312)	60.3%			2021/22 Q1	56.9%	66.4% (2020/21)	_	_
Of the children reported missing, % missing from care placement (131/312)	42.0%			2021/22 Q1	44.6%	38.8% (2020/21)	_	_
Of the children reported missing, % missing from NCC LAC care placement (76/312)	24.4%			2021/22 Q1	28.1%	24.1% (2020/21)	_	_
Total number of missing occurrences* this quarter generated by these children	669	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	520	2044 (2020/21)	_	_
Percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC missing from placement by individual child (L) (76/988)	7.7%	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	7.5%	24.1% (2020/21)	11% (2017/18)	10.1% (2017/18)
Number of children reported to MASH as at risk of CSE	128	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	107	334 (2020/21)	_	_
Number of LAC children subject to CSE strategy meeting	4	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	1	3 (2020/21)	_	_
Number of non LAC children subject to CSE strategy meeting	15	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	6	47 (2020/21)	_	_
Percentage of looked after children placed 20 miles or more from home (L) (161/940)	17.1%	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	16.8%	16.8% (2020/21)	16.0% (2019/20)	15.6% (2019/20)
Looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year (L)	11.6%	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	10.6%	10.9% (2020/21)	11.0% (2019/20)	10.4% (2019/20)
Percentage of looked after children remaining in long-term placements (L)	65.7%	-	High	2021/22 Q1	68.1%	68.1% (2020/21)	68.0% (2019/20)	66.1% (2019/20)

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2021/22 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value

NB Missing definition = reported as missing to Police, includes missing no risk (absent) as well as missing

* missing occurrences - Current value is total over 3 months, annual performance is total over 12 months

Nottinghamshire County Council

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

			Not	tinghamsh	ire		Comparator Data					
Key Performance Indicator	Current V	alue	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours				
Percentage of school-age LAC with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (L) (346/635)	54.5%	+	High	2021/22 Q1	52.2%	48.6% (2020/21)	_	_				
Percentage of LAC who took up the opportunity to be consulted by their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to the LAC Review Meeting (L) (243/651)	37.3%	+	High	2021/22 Q1	34.4%	33.9% (2020/21)	_	_				
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for those adopted children, adjusted for foster carer adoptions (days)	931	-	Low	2021/22 Q1	491	363 days (2018-21)	285 days (2016-19)	360 days (2016-19)				
Average time between a LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	86	+	Low	2021/22 Q1	89	188days (2018-21)	134 days (2016-19)	162 days (2016-19)				
Participation in education, employment and training (EET) aged 16-17	96.4%	+	High	2021/22 Q1	95.7%	95.7% (2020/21 Q4)		_				
Percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16-17	1.7%	=	Low	2021/22 Q1	1.7%	1.7% (2020/21 Q4)		_				
Percentage whose destination is not known aged 16-17	1.8%	+	Low	2021/22 Q1	2.6%	2.6% (2020/21 Q4)		-				
Numbers of individual children and young people engaged in positive activities delivered by the Young People's Service (cumulative; previous value is same guarter last year)	2,098	+	High	2021/22 Q1	743	3,459 (2020/21)		_				
Numbers of children and young people accessing Outdoor and Environmental Education (cumulative; previous value is same quarter last year)	3,836	+	High	2021/22 Q1	617	4,593 (2020/21)		_				
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000) (cumulative; previous value is same quarter last year)	147	+	Low	2020/21 Q4	171	251 (2018/19)	224 (2018/19)	_				

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2021/22 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value

Appendix 2 - Indicators that remain unchanged from previous report

Nottinghamshire County Council

			Comparator Data					
Key Performance Indicator	Current Va	alue	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Average Strengths and Difficulties Question (SDQ) Score per LAC (for at least 12 months) (L) (Maximum possible score 40)	15.2	+	Low	2018/19	15.9	15.9 (2017/18)	14.2 (2018/19)	14.2 (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) with up to date immunisations (L) (589/592)	99.0%	+	High	2018/19	99%	98.9% (2017/18)	87% (2018/19)	85.2% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) who have had their teeth checked by a dentist (L) (460/592)	78.0%	-	High	2018/19	82%	82% (2017/18)	85% (2018/19)	80.1% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) who have had their annual health assessment (L) (581/592)	98.0%	+	High	2018/19	94%	93.9% (2017/18)	90% (2018/19)	88.7% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months & under 5) whose development assessments are up to date (46/46)	100.0%	=	High	2018/19	100%	100% (2017/18)	88% (2018/19)	95.3% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) identified as having a substance misuse problem (L) (27/592)	5.0%	=	Low	2018/19	5%	5.0% (2017/18)	4% (2018/19)	3.0% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand (L) (0/592)	0.0%	=	Low	2018/19	0.0%	0.0% (2017/18)	3% (2018/19)	3.4% (2018/19)
Percentage of Return Interviews completed within timescale (L) (293/358)	81.8%	+	High	2020/21 Q2	79.0%	73% (P) (2018/19)	_	_
Percentage of children reported missing this qtr who have gone missing 5+ times in last 12 mths (60/267)	22.5%	=	Low	2021/22 Q1	22.5%	13.5% (2020/21)	_	_
Primary schools judged by Ofsted as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	93.4%	+	High	As at Sept 2015	92.7%	n/a	94.3% (Sept 2015)	94.1% (Sept 2015)
Secondary schools judged by Ofsted as having good/outstanding standards of behaviour	79.1%	-	High	As at Sept 2015	83.3%	n/a	85.1% (Sept 2015)	84.2% (Sept 2015)
Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in low income areas registered with children's centres (snapshot)	100.0%	=	High	2018/19 Q1	100.0%	100% (2017/18 Q4)		_
Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in low income areas seen at children's centres (cumulative)	75.5%	+	High	2018/19 Q1	72.4%	75.5% (2017/18 Q4)		_
Numbers exiting substance misuse treatment in a planned manner	75%	+	High	2020/21 Q3	74%	94% (2019/20)	82% (2019/20)	_
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, incl. mixed feeding methods (Nottinghamshire NHS)	43.4%	=	High	2019/20 Q3	43.4%	41.9% (2018/19)	46.2% (2018/19)	45.7% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Reading (L) (9/15)	60.0%	+	High	2018/19 academic	31.3%	31.3% (2017/18)	52.0% (2018/19)	_
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Writing (L) (7/15)	46.7%	+	High	2018/19 academic	25.0%	25.0% (2017/18)	43.0% (2018/19)	_
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Maths (L) (9/15)	60.0%	+	High	2018/19 academic	37.5%	37.5% (2017/18)	49.0% (2018/19)	_
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Reading (L) (17/33)	51.5%	+	High	2018/19 academic	46.9%	46.9% (2017/18)	49.0% (2018/19)	50.0% (2018/19)

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2021/22 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

Appendix 2 - Indicators that remain unchanged from previous report

Nottinghamshire County Council

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire				Comparator Dat			
	Current V	alue	Best to be	Reporting Period	Previous Value	Annual Porformanco	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Writing (L) (19/33)	57.6%	+	High	2018/19 academic	37.5%	37.5% (2017/18)	50.0% (2018/19)	46.0% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Maths (L) (13/33)	39.4%	+	High	2018/19 academic	37.5%	37.5% (2017/18)	`51.0%´ (2018/19)	48.0% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC achieving 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths at KS4 (L) (8/71)	11.3%	+	High	2018/19 academic	6.8%	6.8% (2017/18)	7.3% (2018/19)	10.0% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC achieving 9-4 grades in GCSE English & maths at KS4 (L) (17/71)	23.9%	+	High	2018/19 academic	22.7%	22.7% (2017/18)	18.0% (2018/19)	21.3% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC classed as persistent absentees (L) (29/385)	7.5%	+	Low	2018/19 academic	8.9%	8.9% (2017/18)	10.9% (2018/19)	10.9% (2018/19)
Percentage of LAC permanently excluded (L) (0/365)	0.0%	=	Low	2017/18 academic	0.0%	0% (2016/17)	0.05% (2017/18)	_
Percentage of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion (L) (38/365)	10.4%	+	Low	2017/18 academic	10.6%	10.6% (2016/17)	11.7% (2017/18)	11.0% (2017/18)
Number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	1	+	Low	2019/20 Q4	2	n/a	-	_
Number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	3	-	Low	2019/20 Q4	2	n/a	_	_
Early years foundation stage attainment (Reaching a 'Good Level of Development' - at least expected in all early learning goals in all prime areas and in the specific areas of literacy and mathematics)	70.6%	+	High	2018/19 academic	69.7%	69.7%	71.8% (2018/19)	72.0% (2018/19)
Attainment gap for a good level of development in EYFSP between pupils taking free school meals and the rest	23.0%	-	Low	2018/19 academic	22.7%	22.7%	18.5% (2018/19)	_
Pupils achieving at least the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics at age 11	64.7%	=	High	2018/19 academic	64.7%	64.7%	65% (2018/19)	64.7% (2018/19)
Attainment gap at age 11 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (FSM during past six years)	22.6%	=	Low	2018/19 academic	22.6%	22.6%	19.0% (2018/19)	_
Achievement of 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths	45.4%	-	High	2018/19 academic	45.6%	45.6%	43.4% (2018/19)	42.9% (2018/19)
Achievement of 9-4 grades in GCSE English & maths	67.6%	+	High	2018/19 academic	66.6%	66.6%	64.9% (2018/19)	65.1% (2018/19)
Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (<i>FSM during past six years</i>) 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths	26.4%	+	Low	2018/19 academic	28.2%	28.2%	24.5% (2018/19p)	_
Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (FSM during past six years) 9-4 grades in GCSE English & maths	26.7%	+	Low	2018/19 academic	28.0%	28.0%	26.3% (2018/19p)	_
Percentage of A level entries at A*-B grades	49.5%	+	High	2018/19 academic	49.3%	49.3%	48.4% (2018/19)	_
Percentage of A level entries at A*-E grades	98.2%	-	High	2018/19 academic	98.5%	98.5%	97.2% (2018/19)	_
Percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 passes at A-Level or equivalent) by age 19	52.0%	+	High	2018/19 academic	51.9%	51.9% (2017/18)	56.9% (2018/19)	55.4% (2018/19)
Percentage of young people who have not attained a Level 2 qualification in English & maths at age 16 who go on to attain Level 2 or higher in both by the end of the academic year in which they turn 19	24.7%	+	High	2018/19 academic	23.8%	23.8% (2017/18)	28.7% (2018/19)	27.4% (2018/19)
Percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools	4.4%	+	Low	2018/19 academic	4.5%	4.5% (2017/18)	4.7% (2018/19)	4.7% (2018/19)
Rate of permanent exclusions from school (primary, secondary and special schools)	0.04%	=	Low	2018/19 academic	0.04%	0.04% (2017/18)	0.10% (2018/19)	0.10% (2018/19)
Percentage of two year olds taking up their free entitlement	68.4%	-	High	Summer Term 2020	74.3%	74.3% (Summer 2019)		_

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2021/22 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One


Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES FOR FIRST ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TRANSFER FROM INFANT TO JUNIOR/PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022, AND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023-2024

Purpose of the Report

- 1. This report seeks approval to run a publicity campaign to inform parents and families about applying for school places for September 2022 for children starting school for the first time (reception) and transferring from infant school (year 2) to junior/primary education (year 3).
- 2. This report also seeks approval to carry out the statutory consultation on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed school admission arrangements 2023-2024 including:
 - Relevant areas
 - Proposed Published Admission Number reduction at Carnarvon Primary School.
- 3. This report also seeks approval of a communication strategy to inform stakeholders about the consultation on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed school admission arrangements 2023-2024.

Information

Children starting school for the first time (reception) and transferring from infant school (year 2) to junior/primary education (year 3)

- 4. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that a school place is allocated for all Nottinghamshire children whose parents require one.
- 5. Parents have the best chance of being allocated a place at a school they prefer if they apply on time, make four preferences, and ensure that at least one preference is for a school where their child has high priority within the oversubscription criteria.

- 6. Previous publicity campaigns to make this information widely available have been effective. For first admission (reception) in September 2021, 93.4% of on-time applicants were allocated their first preference, and 98.8% of on-time applicants were offered one of their preferences.
- 7. It is proposed that information reminding parents of the need to apply for a school place, and of information available to support them when applying, will be communicated to the following electronically:
 - Known Early Years providers including children centres
 - All schools in Nottinghamshire
 - Chairs of governors of schools clerked by the Council
 - County Councillors
 - Borough/District Councillors
 - Parish Councils
 - Dioceses
 - MPs
 - Neighbouring Local Authorities
 - GP surgeries
 - Nottinghamshire Libraries
 - Nottinghamshire Leisure Centres
 - Internal services including
 - Elective Home Education
 - Fair Access
 - Integrated Children's Disability service (ICDS)
 - Place Planning
 - School Improvement.
- 8. Parents of known children living in Nottinghamshire will receive information, posted to their home address, about how to apply for a school place. An additional visual publication will accompany this correspondence giving parents useful tips and reminders about the application process.
- 9. There will also be publicity via social media and the Council's intranet from the opening of the admission round (8 November 2021) to the closing date (15 January 2022).
- 10. Promotional videos about applying for school places will be posted on the Council's public website and on social media throughout the application round.

Consultation on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed school admission arrangements 2023-2024

- 11. All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements by 28 February every year.
- 12. Nottinghamshire County Council, as the local authority, is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools.

- 13. The County Council is also responsible for coordinating admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools in its area. These requirements are described in the School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 and the School Admissions Code (SAC) 2021 which are available from the Department for Education website <u>www.education.gov.uk</u>
- 14. Where changes to admission arrangements are proposed, all admission authorities must consult for a minimum of six weeks between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year on the admission arrangements for those schools for which they are responsible (School Admissions Code 2021, paragraphs 1.45 1.48).
- 15. Admission authorities **must** consult with:
 - a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen years
 - b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed arrangements
 - c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools)
 - d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority
 - e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority
 - f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.
- 16. Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation on school admission arrangements 2023-2024 will take place from 4 October 2021 to 28 November 2021.
- 17. Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation on school admission arrangements 2023-2024 will include:
 - a review of the relevant areas, these are set by the local authority and must be reviewed every two years. The relevant area details the area which the admission authority for that school must consult all other prescribed schools on changes to its admission arrangements. It is proposed to retain the existing arrangement which is coterminous with the district boundaries.
 - proposed change to Published Admission Number at Carnarvon Primary School (Rushcliffe district) to decrease from 70 to 60. The school has experienced challenges managing a Published Admission Number of 70 and whilst additional classroom capacity was created there is not sufficient capacity to provide three classes per year group each year. There is provision in the area at first admission that can support the reduction to the Published Admission Number.
- 18. To ensure that all stakeholders are informed and have the opportunity to respond to the consultation, it is proposed that a poster advising of the consultation and a summary of the consultation will be sent by email to those listed in **paragraph 7** above.
- 19. There will also be publicity via social media and the Council's intranet throughout the consultation period.

20. The consultation will include a direct link to the online survey on the Council's public website where respondents can provide comments on the consultation.

Other Options Considered

- 21. Without the publicity about applying for school places for September 2022 for children starting school for the first time and transferring from infant school to junior/primary education, there is a risk that parents, particularly vulnerable groups, will not apply on time for a school place. Late applicants are more likely to receive an alternative offer of a place at a school which can be at a greater distance from the home address than the schools they prefer.
- 22. Consultation regarding proposed changes for the school admission arrangements 2023-2024 is not optional.

Reason/s for Recommendations

- 23. To enable the County Council to meet its statutory responsibility to consult on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed admission arrangements for 2023-2024.
- 24. The methods used are cost effective, particularly the use of social media.

Statutory and Policy Implications

25. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

26. Consideration has been given to using electronic communication wherever possible to reduce postage costs. The cost of publications for parents and consultees will be met by the Admissions budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the publicity campaign to inform parents and families about applying for school places for September 2022 for children starting school for the first time (reception) and transferring from infant school (year 2) to junior/primary education (year 3) be approved.
- 2) the proposal to consult on Nottinghamshire County Council's school admission arrangements 2023-2024 be approved.

3) the communication strategy to inform stakeholders about the statutory consultation on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed school admission arrangements 2023-2024 be approved.

Marion Clay Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Karen Hughman Group Manager, Education Access and Partnership T: 0115 977 2572 E: <u>karen.hughman@nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (ELP 25/08/21)

27. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (MDN 19/08/21)

28. Consideration has been given to using electronic communication wherever possible to reduce postage costs. The cost of publications for parents and consultees will be met by the Admissions budget. The cost will be met by the Admissions budget which is £1.116m and funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Determined Admission Arrangements 2022-2023, available at https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/3769248/determined-arrangements2022-2023.pdf

School Admissions Code 2021, available at <u>www.education.gov.uk</u>

School Admission Appeals Code (SAC) 2012, available at www.education.gov.uk

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1496



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL STATUTORY CONSULTATION UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update on the progress of the Fair Access Protocol statutory consultation and the proposed route for agreeing the final Protocol.

Information

- 2. Every local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol, and this must be consulted upon and developed in partnership with all schools in its area, as stated in the School Admissions Code, September 2021, Section 3. The previous Nottinghamshire Fair Access Protocol was agreed in February 2019 and requires revision in order to comply with the provisions of the School Admissions Code September 2021.
- 3. Following agreement at the meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee on 26 July 2021, consultation on an updated Nottinghamshire Fair Access Protocol began on 4 August 2021. The consultation remains open, and the deadline for responses to be received is 19 September 2021.
- 4. The dates set for consultation were agreed on the basis that the new School Admissions Code was laid before Parliament for 40 days, commencing 13 May 2021, and publication of the final document was not due until this process had completed. It is not reasonable to consult with schools over the summer holiday period and the consultation was extended into September in order to allow them time to consider the proposed changes and respond. Proposed dates were communicated to schools from May 2021 in order to give them notice of the Council's intentions.
- 5. Notification was received from the Department for Education on 13 July 2021 that the School Admissions Code, effective from September 2021, had been published.
- 6. Department for Education; Annex Frequently asked questions on implementing the new provisions on Fair Access Protocols and admissions priority for children adopted from state care outside of England, published on 13 July 2021, states 'Local authorities must make changes to their existing Fair Access Protocols in order to give effect to the new provisions

in the 2021 Code, which come into force on 1 September. This means that a new Fair Access Protocol will be operational on 1 September. Due to the timing of the release of the new School Admissions Code it is not possible to meet this deadline and it is necessary for the revised Nottinghamshire Fair Access Protocol to be agreed as soon as is practicable following the deadline for consultation responses.

Other Options Considered

- 7. The timescale for consultation responses could have been shortened to allow them to be analysed and a final protocol agreed by 1 September 2021. The implication would have been that consultation would only be open for a shortened two week period and this would have fallen entirely during the school holiday period. It was not reasonable to expect schools to consider and respond if this option had been taken, and this would have left the Council open to challenge as stakeholders would not have been given the chance to comment.
- 8. Due to the need to agree the revised Protocol at the earliest opportunity the analysis of the consultation and the proposed Fair Access Protocol will be presented to Policy Committee on 14 October 2021 for approval. To delay the decision would mean that vulnerable children may not be supported effectively through the Fair Access Protocol as the current protocol does not reflect the provisions of the new Code, potentially leaving the Council open to criticism and potential challenge.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. In order to remain lawful and to ensure that vulnerable children can be supported effectively through the Fair Access Protocol, agreement of a revised Protocol is needed at the earliest opportunity following the conclusion of the consultation period and analysis of responses.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

12. It is necessary to have an operating Fair Access Protocol in place in order to ensure that vulnerable children are allocated school places quickly and are not at risk as a consequence of spending time missing from education.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Policy Committee be requested to consider the consultation response and the revised Fair Access Protocol at its meeting on 14 October 2021 in order that it can be effective from that date.

Marion Clay Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sarah Whitby Team Manager, Fair Access T: 0115 9773946 E: <u>sarah.whitby@nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (ELP 25/08/21)

13. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (MDN 19/08/21)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Department for Education; School Admissions Code, September 2021

Department for Education; Fair Access Protocols, July 2021

Department for Education; Annex – Frequently asked questions on implementing the new provisions on Fair Access Protocols and admissions priority for children adopted from state care outside of England, published on 13 July 2021

Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation on a revised Fair Access Protocol

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1497



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF NORTH CLIFTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND RESPONSE TO PETITION TO KEEP THE SCHOOL OPEN

Purpose of the Report

- 1. This report informs Committee of the responses received to the stage one consultation seeking views on the future of North Clifton Primary School. In addition, the report seeks Committee approval to defer a decision on the proposal to close the school until June 2022, thus allowing the governing body and wider community to secure the viability of the school. Finally, the report requests approval for a review of the small school estate in partnership with any relevant dioceses with the objective of strengthening the viability of Nottinghamshire's small schools.
- 2. The report also recommend to Committee the responses to the issues raised in a petition, *North Clifton Primary School; request to keep school open* (Ref 2021/0418), which was presented to the County Council at its meeting on 22nd July 2021.

Information

3. This report is written within the context of Department for Education Statutory Guidance which presumes against the closure of rural schools. North Clifton Primary School is designated as a rural school. Nottinghamshire County Council will therefore follow the guidelines regarding the presumption against the closure of rural schools. This is enshrined in the prescribed process described in 'Opening and closing maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' Department for Education, 2019 which states that

"... the Department expects all decision-makers to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This doesn't mean that a rural school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area."

Proposers should provide evidence to show they have carefully considered:

- alternatives to closure including: federation with another local school; conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust; the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities e.g. child care facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access etc;
- transport implications i.e. the availability, and likely cost of transport to other schools and sustainability issues
- the size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g. in terms of breadth of curriculum resources available
- the overall and long term impact on the local community of the closure of the village school and of the loss of the building as a community facility
- wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate the displaced pupils.
- 4. North Clifton Primary School serves the small villages of North and South Clifton and is alone in a rural Planning Area in the Newark district. The school is isolated; the next nearest Nottinghamshire school is Dunham on Trent Primary, which is 4.3 miles away by car. North Clifton Primary School is a small school with a Published Admission Number of 8, maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council. The last Ofsted inspection of the school (January 2018) rated the school as 'Good'.
- 5. There are significant concerns about declining pupil numbers at North Clifton Primary School. The past five years have seen the number of children on the school roll reduce from 36 to 26. In October 2020, only 3 pupils were in the school's Reception year, despite a Published Admission Number of 8. This number is expected to reduce to 2 Reception pupils for academic year 2021/22 in September 2021. There is no new housing proposed for the immediate area in the Newark Local Plan. It is therefore not expected that admission numbers will increase in future years.
- 6. With such low numbers on roll, the school's Governing Body, Headteacher and Council officers have serious concerns about the school's viability given the small size of future pupil cohorts. Following discussions between North Clifton Primary School's Governing Body, Executive Headteacher and Council officers regarding concerns over the sustainability of the school, it was agreed that options for the future of North Clifton Primary School should be explored.
- 7. On 21st June 2021, the Children and Young People's Committee approved the undertaking of an initial statutory consultation to explore options for North Clifton Primary School including possible closure.
- 8. The consultation period opened on 23rd June 2021 and closed on 23rd July 2021. Interested parties were invited to respond to the following questions either online, by email or post:

Please state your preference for which of the options outlined in the accompanying report should be adopted.

- Continue with no change
- Academisation
- Federation

Amalgamation
Closure

For the Stage One consultation document published on 23rd June 2021 see **Appendix 1**

- 9. On July 12th Council officers held four meetings with the school staff and members of the public to listen to community views and answer questions about the statutory process currently taking place. For a summary of questions and issues raised at these meetings and responses later provided by the Council for public consumption via the school's website, see **Appendix 2**.
- 10. On July 23rd, the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services wrote to parents and carers, thanking them for their attendance at the public meetings and stating:

'I write therefore to offer my opinion that any judgement or view that the school inevitably faces closure would be premature, and to urge any parent or carer currently considering their child's future school place to bear with the school. This first period of consultation is due to close today, 23rd July, after which we will consider the representations made and determine the necessary next steps.'

- 11. During the consultation period 146 responses were received.
 - 114 (78%) indicated a preference that the school remain open with no change
 - 5 (3%) indicated a preference that the school academise
 - 5 (3%) indicated a preference that the school federate with another school
 - 6 (4%) indicated a preference that the school amalgamate with another school
 - 15 (10%) indicated a preference for the closure of North Clifton Primary School.

Further details of the consultation responses can be seen at Appendix 3.

- 12. In addition, during the consultation period a petition signed by 1,052 people was presented to the meeting of the County Council on 22nd July 2021 by Councillor Maureen Dobson, the local County Councillor, requesting the Council to 'assist the governors and the community in retaining the school'.
- 13. The petition raised two issues of note relating to:
 - residence and status of signatories
 - reasons cited for wishing to retain North Clifton Primary School.
- 14. It was clear that many signatories were family members of existing or former pupils at North Clifton Primary School, while others represented members of the local community. It was also clear that a proportion of signatories had no direct connection with North Clifton Primary as such, but supported the general principle of retaining small rural primary schools.
- 15. The petition comprised two parts:

- a) a handwritten signed petition containing 48 signatories with addresses in the areas of Newark and Lincoln.
- b) an online petition containing 1,004 names of which:
 - 54% gave postcodes within Nottinghamshire and areas of Lincolnshire adjacent to North Clifton
 - 44% gave postcodes from elsewhere in the UK
 - 2% gave addresses outside the UK.
- 16. 26 signatories of the online petition added comments giving reasons for wishing to retain this rural primary school.
 - 9 of these, with Newark or Lincoln postcodes, commented very positively about the school's ethos, performance and characteristics, expressing the hope that, post-Covid, its pupil numbers would grow again
 - 15 others with postcodes elsewhere in the UK, or in one case USA, mainly expressed the view in more general terms that small, rural schools should be preserved and nurtured for the benefit of the children and communities that contain them.
- 17. There is overwhelming community support for this school to be viable as a small school serving two rural communities. The public meetings held on 12th July allowed residents of the two villages, North and South Clifton, to express concern about the impact on the rural community should the school close. The school is viewed as valuable and following the closure of the remaining pub in 2012, the school, along with the parish church, is seen as among the last remaining key facilities within the community. Without a school available for local families, any children who may live in the catchment in the future would be scattered to other schools thus eroding further the sense of 'community'.
- 18. It was clear that the North Clifton governing body is committed to increasing the popularity of the school through, amongst other initiatives, setting up a before and after-school club providing wrap-around childcare. The governing body has requested additional time and would need an academic year to allow this plan to bear fruit.
- 19. Other options considered by the consultation included federation, amalgamation and academisation. The government remains committed to schools being part of strong Multi-Academy Trusts. This is set out in the Department for Education guidance for academy trusts and prospective converters (May 2021) and is listed as a background paper. This suite of documents includes a model service level agreement which supports maintained schools to agree short-term service level agreements with a Multi-Academy Trust to allow them to explore the benefits of academisation before formally committing to it. (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980753/Trust_partnerships_service_level_agreement_template.docx)

Finance

20. While this consultation was running, officers learned additional information that will affect the school budget from financial year 2022/23. On 19th July 2021, the Education and Skills Funding Agency published school-level provisional funding allocations for 2022/2023 through the schools national funding formula. These funding allocations are notional and

for illustrative purposes but showed that if pupil number and characteristics remained constant from the 20th October census date, North Clifton could expect to receive an additional £61,000 in its school's budget for 2022/23. This additional budget would primarily be due to changes in criteria for attracting sparsity funding which, based on the pupils on roll in October 2020, would see North Clifton Primary School receive £55,000 for which it would not previously have been eligible.

21. It must be noted that local authorities will continue to determine final allocations for all local mainstream schools in 2022/2023 based on the October 2021 school census data. Any significant change in the geographical areas from which North Clifton admits pupils could cause its eligibility for sparsity funding to change in the future.

Transport

- 22. A key issue highlighted by parents/carers at the school during consultation referred to school transport. Precisely, could the school bus that collects children from Collingham and Besthorpe and transports to Harby, Queen Eleanor, be diverted to serve North Clifton, thereby increasing the possibility of out-of-catchment families making applications to North Clifton?
- 23. The Council's Transport & Travel Services officers report that, as a school bus already goes to North Clifton, the route could be revised to pick up at other stops along the route, but if timings had to be changed, an additional vehicle would be required at an additional cost.
- 24. Free travel could be available by making North Clifton part of a coterminous (overlapping) catchment with Harby, which would involve statutory consultation on altering the admission arrangements of both schools but could not be resolved until at least 2023/24. However current Home to School Transport policy meets the statutory entitlement for pupils attending their nearest school. A discretionary entitlement to their catchment school, where an address is covered by more than one catchment entitlement, is assessed to the nearest catchment school. It is likely that this would disadvantage Harby Primary School, as any pupils from Besthorpe and Girton would then be eligible for free travel to North Clifton but not to Harby.

Admissions

- 25. Officers will monitor admissions to North Clifton from September 2021 and report back on any change in the number on roll. It should be noted that, according to the Council's data, in the school year 2020/21 there were only two children from North Clifton's catchment who attended school elsewhere. It should also be noted that parents/carers from any catchment, both within or outside Nottinghamshire are free to apply for places at North Clifton Primary School should they wish.
- 26. Currently, admissions arrangements for North Clifton Primary School rest with the admission authority, which is the Council. Should closure of this school be proposed according to the statutory procedure, the County Council would also then make a proposal for the catchment of North Clifton Primary School to be distributed between the catchment(s) of neighbouring school(s).

Other Options Considered

- 27. The stage one consultation asked interested parties to state their preference on which of the following options should be adopted for the future of North Clifton Primary School and the outcomes are detailed in **paragraph 11**:
 - Continue with no change
 - Academisation
 - Federation
 - Amalgamation
 - Closure.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 28. The statutory conditions of consultation allow Elected Members 12 months in which to consider a decision in this regard: 'A statutory proposal should be published within 12 months of the initial consultation period being completed. This is so that it can be informed by up-to-date feedback' Opening and closing maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers, DfE, 2019 p.21.
- 29. Following analysis of the responses received to the stage one consultation, it is proposed that Elected Members request officers to review the situation of North Clifton Primary School and report back to Committee in June 2022, at which point an informed decision will be made based on the latest available information.

Statutory and Policy Implications

30. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

31. It is anticipated that there will not be any costs for future consultation identified at this stage.

Human Resources Implications

- 32. The following posts would potentially be impacted by a possible closure:
 - 0 Headteacher2 Assistant Headteachers / Class Teachers (both part-time)1 Class Teacher (part-time)
 - 1 Class Teacher (part-time)
 - 3 Teaching Assistants (all part-time)
 - 2 Midday Supervisors
 - 1 Administrator (part-time)

33. Work is being undertaken with the Governing Body to address the various contractual issues which will arise if the school closes using the existing agreed policies and procedures around redundancy and redeployment with appropriate consultation and involving the recognised trade unions.

Implications for Service Users

34. There are currently 27 pupils on roll at North Clifton Primary School.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 1) supports North Clifton Primary School governing body's commitment to securing the viability of the school during 2021-22 in order to inform the Committee's decision on this matter in June 2022 when further information will be available.
- 2) requests that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the Committee's consideration and that this be reported back to Full Council.
- 3) recommends a review of the small school estate in partnership with the dioceses to ensure that rural schools can be sustainable into the medium and longer terms.

Marion Clay Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jonathan S. Smith Pupil Place Planning Officer T: 0115 9772497 E: jonathan.smith2@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LPW 02/09/21)

35. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (MDN 26/08/21)

36. It is anticipated that there will not be any costs for future consultation identified at this stage.

HR Comments (BC 31/08/21)

37. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report and detailed in **paragraph 33**.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed consultations on options for the future of North Clifton Primary School and the alternative use of the Manners Sutton Primary School site – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 21st June 2021

Department for Education (DfE) Guidance 'Opening and closing maintained schools; Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers', November 2019

Building strong academy trusts: Guidance for academy trusts and prospective converters May 2021

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Collingham Division

Councillor Maureen Dobson

C1508

Options for the future of North Clifton Primary School

Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council wishes to seek the views of interested parties regarding the future of North Clifton Primary School.

Background

North Clifton Primary School primarily serves the small villages of North and South Clifton and is alone in a rural Planning Area in the Newark district. The school is isolated; the next nearest Nottinghamshire school is Dunham on Trent Primary, which is 4.3 miles away by car.

North Clifton Primary School is a small school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 8, maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council. The last Ofsted inspection of the school (January 2018) rated the school as 'Good'.

On 21 June 2021, Nottinghamshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee approved the undertaking of an initial statutory consultation to explore options for North Clifton Primary School including possible closure.

In this regard Nottinghamshire County Council is following the prescribed process described in '**Opening and closing maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers'** published by the Department for Education, November 2019. See:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attach ment_data/file/851585/Opening_and_closing_maintained_schools1012.pdf

According to the above, Stage One of the statutory process makes it a legal requirement to consult any parties the Local Authority (LA) thinks appropriate before publishing proposals under section 3: *Proposing to close (discontinue) a maintained school.*

North Clifton Primary School is designated as a rural school, Nottinghamshire County Council will therefore follow the guidelines regarding the presumption against the closure of rural schools.

The LA, which is the proposer, may use the consultation to consider a range of options for the future of a school (i.e. amalgamation, academisation, federation or closure). However, the proposer must then publish specific proposals according to Stage Two of the statutory process outlined at **Appendix One**.

Reasons For consultation

1. Declining Pupil Numbers

There are significant concerns about declining pupil numbers at North Clifton Primary School. The past 5 years have seen the number of children on the school roll reduce from 36 to 26. In October 2020, only 3 pupils were in the school's Reception year, despite a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 8. This number is expected to reduce to 2 Reception pupils for academic year 2021/22 in September 2021.

Table 1: Number on roll (NOR) at North Clifton Primary School on DfE October census dates



Table 2: Numbers on roll of North Clifton Primary School by year group

Year	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
NOR	3	4	4	3	6	4	2

The school also currently has four non-statutory school aged (early years) children on roll.

There is no new housing proposed for the immediate area in the Newark Local Plan. It is therefore not expected that admission numbers will increase in future years.

With such low numbers on roll, the school's Governing Body, Headteacher and Council officers have serious concerns about the school's viability given the small size of future pupil cohorts.

2. Difficulty in Offering A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Schools are required to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. The Governing Body of North Clifton Primary School is of the view that the projected numbers on roll will render this objective very difficult to achieve in the future – particularly if the school has no option but to offer a single class of children aged 4 to 11 (i.e. YR - Y6) in 2021/22.

3. School Financial Position

Due to the reduction in the number of pupils on roll, North Clifton Primary School has seen a reduction in the funding it receives to run the school in recent years. This has resulted in significant financial challenges.

Measures have already been taken to improve the school's financial position. These include the reduction to two primary classes, and the employment of an executive headteacher shared with another school.

The school ended the 2019/20 financial year with a small deficit revenue balance. However, this deficit increased significantly by the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

4. <u>Safeguarding against future risk</u>

Due to the low number of teaching staff employed by the school, it has become very difficult to cover absences that occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

5. <u>Governor Body decision</u>

Following a meeting between North Clifton Primary School's Governing Body, Executive Headteacher and Council officers to discuss concerns over the sustainability of the school, it is recommended that options for the future of North Clifton Primary School should be explored.

These could include amalgamation, federation or closure.

If it is decided that closure should be explored, then the consultation recommended in this report would constitute the first stage of the statutory process for closure, as set out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) guidance document; 'Opening and closing maintained schools, statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' (November 2019).

Figures from DfE school censuses carried out in January 2020 and 2021 indicate that an average of 32% of North Clifton's pupils lived outside its catchment.

Options available

1. Continue with no change

Should the school continue with no change, it would remain open with an unviable number of pupils on roll. This is highly cost inefficient and is not sustainable. It is anticipated that the school will receive extremely low pupil-led funding for 2021/22, so would find it highly challenging to provide a suitable learning environment. Nottinghamshire County Council has a responsibility to ensure the efficient use of public money.

2. Academisation

The DfE and Local Authority are not able to insist that North Clifton Primary School joins a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). To date, the school has not been approached by any interested MATs. Should the school join a MAT, then it is inevitable that the MAT would wish to change the way the school operates in accordance with its own core values.

With a declining number of pupils on roll, it is highly unlikely that any MAT would deem it viable to admit North Clifton Primary School into its Trust.

3. Federation

Federated schools operate in collaboration with each other, sharing senior staff and possibly governing bodies, which allows them to maximise good educational practice, while achieving economies of scale.

For this option to be feasible, North Clifton Primary School would be required to work with the Local Authority to identify another school that would see the benefits in federation.

North Clifton Primary School is already realising the benefits of having a shared headteacher, so one major benefit of federation has already been gained.

With minimal numbers of pupils on roll and uncertainty regarding North Clifton's future, it is highly unlikely that another school would deem it viable to federate with North Clifton Primary School.

4. Amalgamation

Should North Clifton amalgamate with another school it would close and reform as part of a new and bigger entity, i.e. a new amalgamated school.

For practical reasons, an amalgamation would need to be with another school within reasonable travelling distance. There is only one Nottinghamshire school within this category.

School	Latest Ofsted rating	Distance measured by road
Dunham on Trent C.of E. Primary School	Good	4.3 miles

Table 3. Nottinghamshire schools within 5 miles of North Clifton

A proposed amalgamation would be sponsored and led by the LA. The LA cannot compel another school to amalgamate with North Clifton Primary School - consequently this is not seen as a viable option.

With an unviable number of pupils on roll and uncertainty regarding North Clifton's future, it is highly unlikely that another school would deem it viable to amalgamate with North Clifton Primary School.

5. <u>Closure</u>

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure the efficient use of resources. Maintaining a school for very few or no pupils could not be considered efficient, given that there are surplus places in other local schools.

The Local Authority also has a duty to respond the concerns raised by the Headteacher and the Governing Body of North Clifton Primary School regarding its ongoing viability.

Closure would require all pupils on roll at North Clifton Primary School to join the roll of another school. Parents/carers would be free to exercise preference in their applications for any primary school of choice, while the LA would allocate places at the nearest Nottinghamshire school with places available for those children for whom no places had been obtained prior to possible closure.

It is extremely important to note that at this point in time no definitive decision has been made about the future of the school.

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If you wish to respond to the consultation on this proposal please send written comments to:

- The Corporate Director of Children and Family Services (for the attention of Jonathan S Smith), Pupil Place Planning, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP
- or by email to place.planning@nottscc.gov.uk
- Comments may be submitted online at <u>www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk (insert link)</u>

To be received no later than 23:59 hrs on 23 July 2021

Consultation Question

Please state your preference for which of the options outlined in the accompanying report should be adopted.

• Continue with no change

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- Academisation
- Federation
- Amalgamation
- Closure

Please provide reasons for your views below:

It will help us to analyse responses if we know more about you.

Please complete the following details: (Please tick and complete all boxes that apply)

I am a:

Parent / Carer	Which school / academy do(es) your child(ren) attend?
Governor	At which school / academy?
Member of Staff	At which school / academy?
Pupil	At which school / academy?
Other	Please specify (e.g. resident)
What is your post code?	

.....

Appendix One – Prescribed Stages and proposed timeline for the consultation process to consider the future of North Clifton Primary School.

Stage one: Pre-publication consultation	23rd June 2021 - 23rd July 2021	This is the start of the process when the Local Authority provides information about what is being proposed and gathers the views of interested parties to help them develop the proposals.
Stage two: Publication	Mid- September 2021 (date t.b.c.)	A legal notice is published in the local paper (usually the Newark Advertiser) and on the Council website which sets out brief details of the proposal and where more information can be found. It also gives details of where objections and comments can be sent and the closing date for these. It marks the start of the representation period or formal consultation.
Stage three: Representation	Mid-September 2021 to mid-October 2021 (dates t.b.c.)	This is the formal consultation stage. During this period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal to the LA, to be taken into account by the decision-maker.
Stage four: Decision	Spring 2022	All the objections and comments gathered during the representation period are provided to the decision maker (Local Authority Elected Members) to enable them to make the final decision. A statutory notice outlining the decision will be published.
Stage five: Implementation	Summer 2022	The decision made in stage four is implemented.

North Clifton Primary School: Consultation on future options

Questions from the staff meeting, 12 July 12:00 – 12.45

1. Can the catchment for the school be reviewed and expanded? It is currently too small

Yes. It is possible to review the catchment area and propose changes. The earliest we could consult for changes would be for admission in 2023-2024. This would require statutory consultation which the LA would undertake within its annual consultation process (commencing 1 October 2021). If changes were proposed earlier (for 2022-2023), a variation would have to be sought with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator; again consultation with local schools/governing bodies would need to be undertaken as part of that process.

2. Can free transport be offered to families who wish to attend the school?

See Qs. 11-13 regarding Home to School Transport Policy

3. Could federation or academisation support the school to be more sustainable?

Both federation or academisation has the potential to support North Clifton to reduce some of its costs through shared delivery across more than one school. However, the current deficit of the school's budget is a barrier to either of these options. A clear deficit recovery plan, along with a successful marketing of the school, could make the school more attractive from a federation or academisation standpoint.

Issue raised

There is a lack of affordable housing in the village; as a result, there are insufficient families moving into the area.

Questions from 3 Public Meetings, 12 July 2021 (thematically grouped)

Demographics

1. As a result of Covid, more families are moving to rural areas including North Clifton. Therefore, can the place planning projections be changed to incorporate this movement into the area?

Actual movement into the area would show up in school census data (school-aged children) or Office of National Statistics (ONS) population data (for pre-school children), both of which strongly influence projections. However, any significant movement of children into North Clifton resulting from Covid would not yet be reflected in such data. In theory, an adjustment could be made but this would not be based on numerical evidence. While small changes in small planning areas can have an impact, any change in North Clifton would need to be particularly significant in order to materially affect discussions around the future of the school. Inward movement to North and South Clifton would presumably be limited by the size of the two villages and the availability of housing stock.

2. The nearby school in Collingham is full. Why is the LA considering closing North Clifton primary school when it will be required to take the overspill from Collingham?

2020 pupil projections for John Blow Primary, Collingham, show a surplus of places from 2020/21 to 2022/23. From 2023/24 there is a deficit of 3 places and in 2024/25, a deficit of 24 places. During this

period, it is projected that demand for some year groups will exceed the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 but these projections are based in part on previous trends in demand from both within and out of catchment. At any event, parents/carers living in the John Blow catchment are perfectly free to apply for places at North Clifton if they wish.

It should be noted that there are at least 15 schools nearer to Collingham than North Clifton, which is almost 7 miles distant by road.

For First Admission to YR in September 2021, there are places available in Collingham, which is 7 under PAN currently.

3. If North Clifton were to close, can neighbouring schools admit the current children on roll at North Clifton?

The combined PAN for Dunham on Trent CE Primary and Queen Eleanor Primary is 25; the table below indicates there would be capacity across the neighbouring schools to accommodate the children, with the exception of Year 5.

	NCY							
School	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Grand Total
Dunham-on-Trent CofE Primary								
School	16	15	14	12	10	13	14	94
North Clifton Primary School	3	2	4	З	5	4	2	23
Queen Eleanor Primary School	5	5	7	5	7	12	6	47
Total	24	22	25	20	22	29	22	164

4. What has caused the school's numbers to dip so significantly in the last few years?

The decline in the numbers attending North Clifton is a result of declining numbers of children living within the catchment area. There are also fewer parents/carers from outside the school's catchment making a preference for the school. Finally, there is a national decline in the birth rate across the country and across Nottinghamshire, which saw a fall of 2.5% between 2018-19 and 2019-20. Birth rate data is not available for North Clifton in isolation.

5. Can the LA provide more information about the demographic nature of the catchment area particularly in relation to primary school aged children?

See Appendix 1.

Catchments

6. The catchment for North Clifton is very small. Can it be increased?

Catchments are long established, mainly around Parish boundaries and do not follow symmetrical or straight lines. North Clifton's catchment is small compared to that of Queen Eleanor's, for example, as Q.E.gained the catchment of Besthorpe Primary when that school closed in 2008. This specific area could, possibly, become a shared catchment between QE and NC in future years. This would be the subject of consultation and would probably be objected to by neighbouring schools.

7. How can the school attract families who live outside the school's catchment?

There are various ways, which may take time to have an effect. These include:

- Marketing; publicising the school and its events as widely as possible to make sure that other communities are aware of North Clifton primary and its activities
- Ensuring that standards stay high and that the school remains in an Ofsted Good category
- Encouraging out of catchment families to make a preference for North Clifton when applying for primary school places

<u>Finance</u>

8. Why are teaching assistants employed in school when the school is in deficit?

Teaching assistants (TAs) have been employed for a number of years at North Clifton, before the budget situation dipped into deficit. A staff restructure of TAs may be appropriate for the reduction of the budget deficit (in full, or in part) but this is the decision of the Governing Body and Executive Head Teacher.

- 9. How can the community support the school financially to reduce the deficit?
 - Through parents/carers of catchment children making a preference for North Clifton Primary rather than to other local schools when applying for places.
 - Through parental donations/contributions (e.g. equipment/free services) to school, as seems appropriate
 - By maximising take up of Free School Meals on census days in October & January, to ensure all available funding is received
- 10. Can the Council extend the school's deficit recovery plan to provide the school with more opportunity to become financially and educationally sustainable?

NCC can be flexible with the Deficit Recovery Plan, possibly up to 4 or 5 years if there are extenuating circumstances. This would have to be with the approval of both the Directors of Children's & Chief Executive's departments. This could not be extended to seven / ten years or anything similar, as this would significantly contravene our Scheme for Finance, and would be unfair to other schools

11. What is the number of pupils required in a small school to ensure that the budget can balance, and high quality education delivered?

There is no set number whereby a school becomes, or is not sustainable, whilst at the same time "quality education" is subjective. All schools will have different circumstances as a starting point if their budgets go into deficit. Some may have the luxury of having significant surpluses they may draw on to mitigate a short-term deficit position; some may move straight to a reduction in salary and/or non-salary costs. Some schools may utilise a mixture of these options to manage a declining budget. Other schools may be able to rely on an increase in the budget due to increases in pupil numbers (or other factors), which allow them to transition through a deficit, without having to take significant remedial action.

Transport

12. Harby Queen Eleanor is supported by a school bus. Why does this bus collect children from Besthorpe and transport them to Queen Eleanor and not North Clifton?

The Besthorpe area is in Queen Eleanor's catchment and therefore children in this area qualify for free school travel assistance under NCC Home to School Transport Policy if they attend Queen Eleanor. School transport is normally put in place where there are children who are eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy to free travel assistance.

13. If John Blow Primary School is full, why can the LA not pay for a bus to transport children to North Clifton? Can parents who make a preference for North Clifton be supported with access to free school transport?

Free travel will only be awarded to children who are eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy. To be entitled to free travel a child must be attending their nearest available school to the home address or catchment school. If North Clifton is the nearest available school as other schools which are closer are full, then free travel may be awarded and if necessary, transport would be procured for those children. Free travel will not be awarded if parents/carers have not preferenced all the closer schools and been refused a place.

14. Can Local Authorities work across county boundaries in order to accommodate children who live in Lincolnshire to access a school place in North Clifton?

Children living in Lincolnshire would need to apply to Lincolnshire County Council for travel assistance. If they are attending North Clifton as the nearest available school to the home address, they may be entitled to free travel assistance from Lincolnshire. It would be up to Lincolnshire CC. to put appropriate assistance in place.

Community Impact

15. How will the Local Authority 'measure' the impact on the community if the school closes?

The LA will consider all the responses made by the school, parents and wider community when the consultation closes. The consultation feedback will capture the view of the school and wider community and the report and recommendation will be informed by these views.

Local Authority support throughout the consultation and beyond

16. How can the LA support North Clifton school to become more sustainable?

The LA can look for partners to support a formal federation. The LA can explore options with Multi Academy Trusts to facilitate an academisation if the governing body requests this. The LA can seek to extend the financial recovery plan.

17. Will the Council provide the school with time to attract more pupils before making any recommendation as to the school's future?

NCC has until 23rd July 2022 to make a decision following this stage of the consultation.

18. The current consultation may 'scare' many potential parents who may not want to apply for a school at risk of closure. Is there an unintended consequence of the consultation ultimately putting parents off applying for the school?

This is a possibility, but Governors, the school and the community can use their influence to try to attract rather than put off potential applicants through the further marketing of the school.

19. By what date does the Council need to take a decision about the future of North Clifton primary School?

The Council has until 23rd July 2022 to make a recommendation about the school's future. A paper will be taken to Children and Young People's Committee in the autumn of 2021 which will provide Members with the feedback from this consultation.

Community Support for school throughout the consultation and beyond

- 20. What can the community do to ensure the school is sustainable and what are the immediate actions which parents, carers and the community can take to ensure the school remains open into the longer term?
 - a. Engage with the consultation and provide formal feedback by the 23rd July 2021
 - b. Engage with the petition
 - c. Be open minded about alternative governance solutions such as federation or academisation
 - d. Participate in fund raising and practical work parties to undertake small tasks which will enhance the school
 - e. Explore funding options to run a before and after school club
 - *f.* Engage with effective marketing which will include social media as well as more traditional methods
 - g. Petition Parish Councils to actively promote the school through tools such as 'Parish Welcome Packs' when new families move into the immediate area

Academisation

21. If the school academises, what happens to the assets?

The Department for Education will not approve the academisation of a stand-alone school. Schools considering academisation must join an existing Multi Academy Trust (MAT). All the assets of the school move to the MAT unless there are specific items identified in the school inventory which indicate ownership by a third party.

22. What are the benefits to the LA if the school academises? What are the 'threats' to academisation for the LA?

NCC's Schools Policy makes clear that it is for governors to decide on the nature of the school's governance arrangements. This means that it is ultimately the governing body which makes this recommendation and decision. Academisation poses neither opportunities nor risks to the LA - which is committed to all schools being Good or better.

Affordable Housing

23. How can councillors at County, District and Parish Council levels secure more housing in the area?

Local Members will be advised through the consultation feedback that concerns about the lack of affordable housing have been raised.

Comments made throughout all meetings

- 1. The closure of the North Clifton School would have an adverse effect on the community because:
 - a. The current school is in between North and South Clifton and therefore is key in unifying both communities.
 - b. The closure of the local pub means that the school and the church are the remaining two community 'services' which help to support and unite the rural community
 - c. Closing a rural school would effectively fracture the community with any children attending different schools reducing the opportunity to strengthen friendships with those who live nearby.
- 2. Children are at the heart of any rural community and have a 'right' to walk and cycle to school if possible; closing the school would result in children travelling further for education.
- 3. The church, Parochial Church Council and Diocese will be contributing to the consultation to state their support for the school and concerns around the negative impact on the community in the event of closure

Appendix 1



North Clifton Primary School - pupil distribution data

Key point 1: the North Clifton catchment is much smaller than that of Queen Eleanor, which lies to the east and south. Queen Eleanor gained the catchment of Besthorpe Primary which in closed in 2008.

The table below indicates the children that live in the North Clifton catchment area and where they currently attend school as at w/b 5 July 2021.

PRIMARY CATCH OLD	North Clifton Prima	ry School 🖅	
		.,	
Count of NCY	Column Labels	_	
Row Labels	-	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Gi	and Total
John Blow Primary Sch	pol	1 1	2
North Clifton Primary So	chool	3 2 3 2 3 1 2	16
Grand Total		3232323	18

Key point 2: 16/18 catchment children attend North Clifton.

2/18 attend one other school (John Blow)

There is, though, an overall gain of 5 pupils from out of catchment.

The catchment matrix below provides the number of North Clifton catchment pupils attending schools elsewhere in Notts, based on the January census over the last 5 years, as follows:

		Scho	ols atte	nded		
	Total catchment pupils	North Clifton Primary	John Blow Primary	Queen Eleanor Primary	Total attendingschools elsewhere	% of pupils attending schools elsewhere
2017	33	25	7	1	8	32. 0 %
2018	30	22	6	2	8	36.4%
2019	26	20	5	1	6	30.0 %
2020	19	16	3	0	3	18.8 %
2021	21	19	2	0	2	10.5 %

In January 2021, the school's roll (26 pupils) included 4 from Queen Eleanor (Harby) and 3 from Lincolnshire , while 2 pupils from North Clifton's catchment attended John Blow Primary – an overall gain of 5 pupils from out of catchment.

The numbers above tell their own story: the number of school-aged pupils living in North Clifton's catchment has decreased steadily and so has the proportion attending school elsewhere in Notts. However, the figures above do not show the complete picture, as NCC does not have access to census data for schools in other LAs.

The DfE has, for the first time, provided some supplementary data (from 2020), but it's inconclusive because it combines the catchments of North Clifton and Queen Eleanor. It shows 12 NC and QE pupils in Lincs. schools but doesn't differentiate between the two schools; the number solely from North Clifton could be anywhere between 1 and 12.

Key point 3: Early Years children in NC catchment – low numbers and no guarantee of application to North Clifton for First Admissions (to Year R in Sept. 2021)

The number of pre-school children living in the planning area / catchment is shown below:

	pre-school				
	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4
North Clifton: Adjusted Population 2021	9	8	8	7	5
North Clifton: Adjusted Population 2020		7	7	7	5

The above shows a slight increase from 2020 to 2021 but numbers look set to remain low. Also, it's important to note that there is no guarantee that all of those children will still be living in the area when it comes to their first admission, or that their parents will choose to send them to North Clifton. The best indicator of future demand for school places remains our projections, and the 2020 projected pupil numbers already reflect the majority of the children shown above.

Key point 4: First Admissions 2021 indicate very low numbers allocated for YR 2021/22

Admissions data currently shows that 2 places have been accepted for Sept 2021 (both living in catchment).
Analysis of responses to Stage One consultation, North Clifton Primary School

Consultation period: 23rd June – 23rd July 2021

Options chosen

Please state your preference for which of the options should be adopted.

There were 144 responses to this question (121 online, 23 written). 2 respondents did not answer this question (1 online, 1 written).



Summary of key points received

1. Continue with no change

The parents, grandparents, school governors, staff and wider community are all doing whatever they can to prevent the closure and we would implore you to help us in this matter.

At the very least to give us extra time to turn the School around and make it viable but hopefully to save the School for many future pupils. Please help our children not to have to suffer any further trauma after what they have been through with the covid pandemic.

The Trustees [of a local charity] have always seen the importance of the local school to the community and responded in any way it can to support. We are aware the school itself has been supportive itself to the community and has always been seen as a very well-run school helping to produce many children who have gone on themselves to be valuable members of society.

The next nearest school is quite some distance away and over a Toll Bridge. The children at the school predominately walk, cycle or use a scooter to get to school. Any move away from the school will involve transport. More than twenty cars a day making two or four trips will impact on the environment and the cost for these families. Even if a bus was provided the cost of this to the local authority and the environment would be more than significant I would ask that the mind set is centred on finding a way to keep the school open rather than going through a predefined process which will only end with the school closing.

I love North Clifton Primary because we have kind students and teachers who keep us safe when we're outside or learning. This school is so fun to learn in because we have sentence stacking and writing rainbow to help us. All the people at our school are always up for a challenge and we take care of each other.

I have one little one due to start pre-school this year and another baby on the way. We are a small community and I will struggle to stay in such a place if I don't have childcare locally. We already have so few resources in these small villages that a school is so important. If the school goes then there will be even less chance that families would pick such an area to live as it will mean a commute to take children to school daily.

NCPS plays a major role in the life of our local villages and is & hopefully always will be the best influence for education & life skills to all the children who are lucky enough to attend this school.

We have lived in South Clifton for nearly 50 years, in that time school numbers have varied. Our children attended, as well as our five grandchildren. In the meeting it was stated that in the country school numbers are generally down so not surprising that Clifton numbers are down. Some changes - breakfast club, after school club to help working parents - could be tried. Hopefully families will move into the village and numbers will rise. We need the school to maintain the community, not to become an ageing village.

2. Academisation

The school is Good Ofsted and so is a good prospect for becoming part of an academy trust. Plus ensuring the sharing of staff will mean no negative impact on children's education.

Our last Ofsted report narrowly missed out on an outstanding rating and governors and staff have worked hard to maintain a high level of education. It would be a tragedy if the school had to close ... The school needs more time to consider its future and be allowed

adequate time to properly explore options which haven't been fully examined due to the negative effect of the pandemic.

3. Federation

A great venue and public resource not to be cast away because current village numbers can't currently support it. There has to be a longer term outlook, otherwise the villages won't survive. There are younger families and couples moving to the villages and the current short sighted view will only push them away.

Having already seen the benefits of a shared headteacher this seems the best way forward in order to keep the school open and viable. Being an ex-pupil I know what a special place the school is and the impact it has on its pupils and the surrounding community ... It would be a huge loss to the community to see the school close and everything that can be done needs to be done to keep the school open and thriving.

4. Amalgamation

I think the school is too small to continue as it stands. Numbers have dropped too far and there are not many new children in the village. Some of the neighbouring children take their children to other local schools as they say it is now too small to give the children the best start in life. It should join with another local school.

This school has superb facilities for younger learners to really experience the full EYFS curriculum in an idyllic rural location. I feel that this is the real unique feature of North Clifton's site, and would urge the Council to look for an option that can really make the most of this. I feel a model where the school amalgamated with another local school, and EYFS/KS1 provision was based at North Clifton with KS2 at an alternative site better suited to their needs (adequate sports hall space, for example) would provide the children of this rural part of Nottinghamshire with a wonderful start to their early education

5. <u>Closure</u>

It's not viable. The pupils should go to another local school. Cost per child must be high . Amalgamation would be good but the other local school might not decide to do this. Sad for the local community but cost of running the building etc. seems unequal to other local schools.

It is with a very heavy heart that I choose the closure option but I see no other viable option; the school has had falling numbers for years. The school is already a 2 class structure with 3 year olds in the same class as 7 year olds and in the KS2 class 7-11 year olds are combined. With continual financial woes I'm unsure where the school can "cut" from next. Staff work tirelessly to not just educate but to make school fun, but alas it just doesn't feel viable any longer.

If the children are not there, then closure looks the best option. As stated in the report no housing is planned for this area. I am sorry to see the closure of any school but the resources can be reinvested in other areas.

My children have attended the school over the last 11 years. As much as I feel the school has a role to play in the community - and I would be very sad to see it close - I

don't think it can continue. All the work and focus in the last few months is too little too late to save it. Shame on the Council and the Government for allowing your schools to try and operate like this. It is no good for anyone for it to continue as it is is, just hanging on.

Characteristics of respondents

It will help us to analyse responses if we know more about you.

There were 143 responses to this question (119 online, 24 written). 3 respondents did not answer this question (all 3 online).



Option	Total	Percent
I am a parent / carer	37	25.34%
I am a governor	2	1.37%
I am a member of staff	4	2.74%
l am a pupil	9	6.16%
Other	91	62.33%
Not Answered	3	2.05%

Total number of respondents: 146 (122 online, 24 written).



13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT & GROWTH

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CARLTON LE WILLOWS ACADEMY

Purpose of the Report

1. To outline the current status of the proposed project to increase pupil places at Carlton le Willows Academy and to seek approval for the release of further funding to enable the scheme to proceed.

Information

- 2. At its meeting on 13th May 2020 Policy Committee received a report on proposals for the expansion of Carlton le Willows from 8 forms of entry to 12 and gave approval to provide funding to the Academy of £546,700 for pre-construction works. On satisfactory receipt of planning consent and receipt of a tender acceptable to the Academy approval was also given for further funding to a maximum of £10,375,940 for undertaking the project. Committee also approved the commissioning of Arc to undertake an assurance role through the course of the funding agreement at a cost of £40,000.
- 3. The project provides for an additional 28 classrooms on site, plus additional supporting accommodation and facilities, and the additional pupil places will meet an anticipated shortfall of places in the Carlton secondary planning area. The original programme was for start on site in February 2021 with the scheme completed to take enhanced numbers in September 2022. There have been Covid related delays and delays in the planning process but the need still remains to provide the places for 2022; the Academy believes that it can provide one further form of entry for 2022 in its existing buildings, with the additional required form of entry delivered for September 2023.
- 4. Since Policy Committee approval the project delivery team led by the Academy has been working on detailed designs and undertaking site surveys and investigations. Planning consent for the proposed scheme has been received and the construction contract has been tendered. Tenders were received on 6th June 2021 and in view of the scale of them the Academy has had to conclude that they do not have an acceptable tender which will allow them to build the scheme within the funding previously approved by Policy Committee.
- 5. Arc has undertaken a review of the tenders that have been submitted to the Academy and has identified the below which have added to the costs of the works:
 - a BT line and a Severn Trent pipeline that need to be moved prior to the new site entrance being constructed

- a requirement under planning to install a further sports pitch
- a need to re-route a Western Power supply
- significant cost inflation that is impacting the construction industry.
- 6. The impact of these factors has increased the total cost of the scheme from £10,375,940 to £13,984,719 and the Council is requested to increase available funding through the Grant Funding Agreement to this total to enable the scheme to proceed.
- 7. Arc has been monitoring the scheme through the design and tender process and has confirmed that the scheme as designed does meet the Council's requirement to provide the minimum necessary accommodation and facilities to meet the pupil place expansion requirement. It is accepted that the total cost is significantly higher than originally estimated but it is a tendered figure and Arc has also concluded that this is representative of the current marketplace. Arc will continue to monitor the development and will ensure that all opportunities for savings can be exploited where possible.

Other Options Considered

- 8. Review the scope of the development to provide a reduced scheme that can be provided within the existing funding envelope: this would take time, push back the completion date and lead to a scheme insufficient to properly provide for the increased intake.
- 9. Withdraw from the scheme: this would lead to a deficit of pupil places in the area where they are clearly needed.
- 10. Request the Trust to seek funding to make up the shortfall: this would inevitably take time and have no certainty of success thereby threatening the availability of increased places.

Reason for Recommendation

11. The increased school places are needed as a priority for this area and the scheme is required to be progressed to enable an increase of one form of entry for September 2022 and a further form of entry for September 2023.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. The increase in costs for this project will mean that the Basic Need budget will be affected by £3,062,079. This figure is explained more fully in the main body of this report.

Implications for Service Users

14. The increase in school places will ensure that sufficient secondary school places are available in this area.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

15. The increase in school places will reduce the need for local children to travel. The new school buildings will be energy efficient and where possible materials from sustainable sources will be used.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That approval is given to increase the available funding for this project, through the Grant Funding Agreement, from £10,922,640 to a total maximum sum of £13,984,719.

Matthew Neal Service Director, Investment & Growth

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matthew Neal Service Director, Investment & Growth T: 0115 9773822 E: <u>matthew.neal@nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (SSR 02/09/2021)

16. The recommendation set out in this report falls within the scope of decisions which may be approved by Children & Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (GB 02/09/2021)

17. It is proposed that the £3.6m increased total funding required for this project will be funded from the School Places Programme which is already approved within the Children and Young People's capital programme. The implication of this may mean that other projects earmarked to be funded from this programme will need to slip or be funded from future year Basic Need allocations or alternative sources.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed expansion of Carlton le Willows Academy – report to Policy Committee on 13th May 2020

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Carlton East Councillor Mike Adams

C1500



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACADEMY

Purpose of the Report

1. To outline the current status of the proposed scheme to increase pupil places at South Nottinghamshire Academy and to seek approval for the release of further funding to enable the scheme to proceed.

Information

- 2. Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to secure a sufficiency of school places for all children of statutory school age (5-16 years old) whose parents want them to be educated in a state-funded school. As the Local Authority's role shifts to that of being a 'commissioner' of school places, it will be necessary to work in a different way with a diverse range of providers and different models of governance. The future landscape of education provision in Nottinghamshire is expected to be a 'mixed economy' approach, characterised by a wide variety of schools, academies and other providers.
- 3. At its meeting on 15th July 2020, Policy Committee received a report outlining increasing pressure for pupil places in the Rushcliffe East secondary planning area, largely resulting from a number of significant housing developments, and identified the potential of the expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy from four forms of entry to five to help meet this demand and to strengthen curriculum range and delivery. Committee gave approval for the completion a Grant Funding Agreement with the Redhill Trust to provide funding of £25,000 for a feasibility report which would show whether or not the school and its site was able to expand and offer additional places.
- 4. With this funding from the Council the Trust has commissioned a team to consider the feasibility of the extension of the school from four forms of entry to five with such work suggesting that this can be achieved and the school is now seeking funding from the Council to progress through detailed design, planning, tendering and through to construction.
- 5. The project will allow the academy to grow from a 4 form entry (4 FE) setting with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 120, to a 5 FE school with a PAN of 150. In doing so, the school will be able to admit an additional 30 more children at primary to secondary transfer each September. When the project is completed the school will have capacity for

another 150 students. The additional pupil places will meet an anticipated shortfall of places by 2022-23 in the planning area.

- 6. This proposed scheme will include a 10 classroom extension and the reconfiguration of existing buildings, some of which were classrooms previously. The 10 new classrooms include some replacements of those that have been reconfigured and will be used as specialist areas. As an academy, SNA has decided this model to deliver the curriculum for a 5 FE setting. The Trust has submitted a full planning application for the scheme, which was validated by Rushcliffe Borough Council on 15th July 2021. The Trust has also issued a Consultation Notice to parents and nearby schools, the closing date for which is 10th September 2021. The Trust has confirmed that should approval be given in September 2021, they will be able to remain on-programme to deliver places for the 2022/23 academic year. Cost is anticipated to be £1.95 million.
- 7. It is recommended that Arc Partnership be commissioned by the Council to act on its behalf through the project to give assurance that the project is being progressed to provide the expected accommodation including review of the proposals and to be comfortable that the designs provide for the Council's pupil places requirements with the costs benchmarked and acceptable.
- 8. It is proposed that the Council will enter into a funding agreement with the Trust. The funding will be limited to the amount identified and the risk of cost of higher costs will remain with the Trust. Funding will be paid in instalments in accordance with the Council's standard funding agreement terms to reflect progress with the project. The Council will also incur the cost of the Arc Partnership's assurance role estimated at £40,000.

Other Options Considered

9. The proposed extension is necessary if the Council is to be able to continue to provide required school places in the area. Design options will be considered to ensure a value for money approach is adopted.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To enable an appropriate strategy to be put in place to ensure that secondary school pupils can be accommodated in the Rushcliffe East planning area.

Financial Implications

- 11. The project will be funded by two contributions arising from Section 106 Agreements, together with Basic Need funding. The project is included in the 2021/22 2022/23 Basic Need funding programme.
- 12. Funding for this project is a mix of Section 106 contributions and Basic Need funding, as set out below:

Section 106 Contributions:

13/02329:	£1,136,192
18/02269:	£ 159,777

Basic Need:	£ 704,031
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Total: £2,000,000

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. South Nottinghamshire Academy is included in the Basic Need projections across 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Implications for Service Users

15. Pupils will be able to attend a school close to home, reducing travel time and traffic congestion.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

16. The new development will be constructed using environmentally-friendly materials and will be energy-efficient.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee approves:

- 1) the completion of a funding agreement with the Redhill Trust to provide funding to a maximum of £1,950,000 for the expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy to five forms of entry in a form to be agreed by Legal Services.
- 2) the commissioning of Arc Partnership to undertake an assurance role through the course of the funding agreement at a cost of £40,000.

Matthew Neal

Service Director, Investment and Growth

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matthew Neal Service Director, Investment and Growth T: 0115 9773822

E: <u>Matthew.neal@nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (LPW 19/08/21)

17. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (GB 18/08/21)

18. It is proposed that the project set out in this report will be funded from Basic Need funding (£0.7m) and Section 106 contributions (£1.3m). The Basic Need funded element is already approved in the Children and Young People's capital programme. A request to vary the Children and Young People's capital programme to incorporate the £1.3m Section 106 contributions was submitted to Finance Committee on 6 September 2021.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy - report to Policy Committee on 15th July 2020

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Radcliffe–on-Trent Councillor Roger Upton

C1501



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

PROPOSED CONSULTATION ON THE USE OF RETFORD CENTRAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Purpose of the Report

- 1. The report seeks approval from Committee to launch local consultation regarding the future use of the Retford Central Children's Centre with findings and proposals brought back to Committee for consideration and approval in December 2021.
- 2. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, Committee is asked to review findings from the consultation to agree a change in use of the premises at Committee in December. If consultation recommends that the premises become a Maternity Hub (Option 2), colleagues in Place department will be tasked to progress a lease.

Information

Children's Centre Service Property Portfolio

- 3. The Children's Centre Service is delivered through a network of premises and properties across Nottinghamshire, with increasing amounts of work being delivered through outreach work including home visits. Since 2018, the Children's Centre Service has been more targeted which has meant that the staff carry out a lot more outreach work and support families in their own home to engage harder to reach families. The service is not focused just on buildings and engaging only the parents that walk through the door.
- 4. To ensure families have local access to a range of services to suit their needs, the Children's Centre Service properties have always hosted sessions and clinics delivered by relevant service providers. Since the move to a more targeted service, more space has been available on the timetable for such services, whilst still ensuring sufficient space for the Children's Centre Service's own provision. Several Children's Centre Service properties host childcare provision to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient high-quality childcare; many also host midwifery clinics and appointments for families to meet their health visitor.

Retford Central Children's Centre

5. Retford Central Children's Centre is located adjacent to Retford Young People's Centre, behind the bus station in Retford. Both buildings share a small car park and service the community of Retford located within walking distance of St Saviours Estate which is identified as a priority neighbourhood. The building is also situated near a large public car park.



- 6. The Retford Central Children's Centre property is owned by the Council with running costs of approximately £17,500 per annum. This includes cleaning and caretaking, utility bills, maintenance etc.
- 7. In 2017/18, Family Action was awarded a lease to operate from Retford Central Children's Centre to provide childcare through their new 'Tall Trees Pre-School' for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds. They officially opened in April 2018; at this time, Children's Centre staff relocated to Hallcroft Children's Centre in Retford to free up space for the childcare provision. Most Children's Centre services were also relocated to Hallcroft Children's Centre. The Children's Centre Service retained some space in the building for 1-2-1 and family appointments and the midwifery team from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust continued to offer appointments once a week from the centre.
- 8. Unfortunately, Tall Trees Preschool was not viable, and they closed on 31st December 2019.
- 9. Since January 2020, the property continued to be used for Children's Centre Service appointments and midwifery clinics although Children's Centre Service face to face appointments were reduced during lockdown. In March 2020, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust approached the Council property team with a view to leasing all the building to create a local 'Maternity Hub'. This request was very much in line with their Covid restrictions at the time and the greater need to see vulnerable patients away from hospital sites.
- 10. As advised by Strategic Property colleagues, a room hire agreement was devised by the Council's Legal Services and was issued to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to enable them to use the building Mondays to Fridays pending formal consultation about the use of the property.

Family Hubs

- 11. In October 2020, a Family Hubs partnership group was established as a subgroup of the Early Help Executive Group. The purpose of the group was to plan the development of Family Hubs in Nottinghamshire in line with central government ambitions.
- 12. Local authorities are encouraged to establish Family Hubs which are being championed by a number of bodies such as the Children's Commissioner, and Government Departments and initiatives including 'Supporting Families' (formerly Troubled Families). Family Hubs are also a key feature in the Best Start for Life Review by Andrea Leadsom MP who asks that all Family Hubs include a specific 'start for life offer'.

Family Hubs are local support centres where families with children and young people aged 0-19 can access a broad range of services to overcome difficulties and build stronger relationships amongst family members. Often co-located with early years' health care and support in children's centres, if not they are found in schools and community centres, they also signpost and seek to integrate with services located at other delivery sites. Family Hub services have a range of objectives, varying from area to area, but will broadly speaking provide early help and intervention for families with the aim of improving education, health and public service outcomes for children and adult members of the family (LGIU 2021).

- 13. Family Hubs aim to provide help for families on a range of issues, e.g.:
 - Helping parents overcome the problems they are facing such as difficulties in their relationships, finances, and other areas of family life
 - Help to improve the confidence, skills, and wellbeing of children in need
 - Children from poorly functioning families who are often underachieving in school, have poor physical and mental health and who are more likely as they get older to become caught up in drugs, gangs, and other criminal activity
 - Couples, including those who have separated, in chronic conflict, struggling to resolve difficulties and provide their children with the safe, stable, and nurturing relationships they need to thrive
 - Families coping with disabilities unaware of the help that is available to them locally or how to access it.
- 14. In Nottinghamshire we understand that the needs of young people are different, and it is unlikely that they will attend a Family Hub unless it is young people friendly and designed with them. Young People's Centres will be a crucial part of the Family Hub network in Nottinghamshire.
- 15. The national Family Hubs Network uses the following principles when planning and delivering Family Hubs:
 - An understanding of the importance of Early Help and prevention

- Families with children aged 0-19 (and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) have somewhere they know they can go if they need information, advice, or guidance
- Provision for children's early years (0-5) so their families get whatever help they need to give them the best start in life and ensure they are school-ready
- Integrated health and public health priorities, such as health visiting and maternity, with social services and Troubled Families programmes
- A central access point to services and support, connected to all other delivery sites in the area
- A relational culture embodied by everyone who works in the Hub
- A whole-family approach that focuses on disadvantaged and vulnerable children
- Access to relationship support when there is conflict, not just help with parenting
- The voluntary sector and wider community make an extensive and vital contribution.
- 16. In March 2021, the Family Hubs Group agreed that the preferred model for Family Hubs in Nottinghamshire would be a hub and spoke model using a combination of physical and virtual support and activities, a hub being a physical building and the spokes being a combination of services and physical assets such as schools, district council offices, youth clubs, as well as websites, virtual support, and call centres. There will also be two main virtual Family Hubs which will be the Early Help Unit as the 'early help front door', and Notts Help Yourself which provides a range of information and resources for families.
- 17. In May July 2021, the Family Hubs Group reviewed local data and intelligence from District and Borough Councils to confirm priority neighbourhoods where Family Hubs could be piloted, these are defined either as 'wards' and/or 'estates'.
- 18. As Retford Central Children's Centre building is located near a priority neighbourhood, in an accessible site shared with the Young People's Centre, the Family Hubs partnership Group is keen to consult with local families and young people to understand if the site would be an appropriate Family Hub.

Maternity Hubs

- 19. The option to create a Maternity Hub in Retford follows the NHS England National Maternity Review¹ carried out in 2015 by an independent panel of experts led by Baroness Julia Cumberlege. The review set out wide-ranging proposals designed to make care safer and give women greater control and more choices.
- 20. The review states that Maternity Community Hubs should be established, where maternity services, particularly ante- and postnatally, are provided alongside other family-orientated

¹ NHS England (2015) 'Better Births – improving outcomes of maternity services in England' <u>national-maternity-review-</u> report.pdf (england.nhs.uk)

health and social services provided by statutory and voluntary agencies. The proposal for Retford Central is to call this a Maternity Hub.

- 21. The concept of a Maternity Hub is that it is a local centre where women can access various elements of their maternity care. They could be located in a children's centre, or in a freestanding midwifery unit. Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are already regular users of Children's Centre Service properties in Bassetlaw and if the property is changed to a Maternity Hub, this will be identified as a free standing midwifery unit.
- 22. Different providers of care can work from a Maternity Hub, offering midwifery, obstetric and other services easily accessible for women. These might be ultrasound services, smoking cessation services or voluntary services providing peer support. Women may also be able to meet professionals who will be involved with them after childbirth, for example, their health visitor. It is proposed that the Children's Centre Service will retain a room at the building if it was to become a Maternity Hub, this space will also be used by Health Visitors from the Healthy Family Team.



- 23. Maternity Community hubs will have two key purposes:
 - To act as 'one stop shops' for many services. This means different teams operating out of the same facility. Bringing services together in this way will make it easier for women to get the care they need, and achieve the choices they want.
 - To provide a fast and effective referral service to the right expert if a woman and her baby need more specialised services. If a woman and/or her baby need specialist care or develop a complication, she will be referred quickly to her obstetrician (with whom the midwifery team has an existing working relationship). Or if she has or develops a mental health condition, she will be offered appropriate care.

24. Creating a Maternity Hub is very much in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board's Best Start Strategy² and increased focused on working with children during their first 1,001 Days.

Proposals for the Retford Central Children's Centre property

- 25. Early Childhood Services who manage the building are required to consult with the public if any change is proposed to a Children's Centre property.
- 26. This report seeks permission to embark on local consultation to confirm the preference of local families (including expectant parents, young people and parents of children and young people aged 0-19, and parents of young people aged 19-25 with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities), on the following two options:
 - Option 1 Family Hub: To change the use of the building so it includes a wider range
 of services for families (including weekly maternity clinics), and the whole site becomes
 a Family Hub. Option 1 will provide opportunities for more Council service delivery such
 as use by Family Service and Children's Centre Service, as well as partner led services
 such as appointments to discuss substance use, emotional health, work readiness etc.
 Responsibility for the day to day management and funding of the building will remain
 with the Council.

• Option 2 – Maternity Hub:

To create a local Maternity Hub to be managed and delivered by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This will provide an opportunity for frequent Parent Education Programme classes and groups as well as daily clinics and appointments. Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will also continue to provide clinics in other Children's Centre Service buildings. The Council's Children's Centre Service intends to retain a small room to enable the service to continue to offer family and 1-2-1 appointments whilst activities remain in the nearby Hallcroft Children's Centre and through continued outreach work. Responsibility for the day to day management and funding of the building will fall to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

- 27. If consultation findings identify that a Family Hub (Option 1) is the preferred option, additional work will take place in the locality with children, parents/carers, young people, and local stakeholders to confirm what will be provided, how and by whom. We anticipate that the District Council, voluntary sector, and community and acute health providers will be engaged in planning and delivery. If this option is approved, it will be Nottinghamshire's first Family Hub pilot.
- 28. If the Family Hub (Option 1) is progressed, the cost of running the building will remain with the Council, but service users who hire rooms on a regular basis will be asked to contribute towards the running costs of the building. Users of the building will be asked to sign a room hire agreement.
- 29. If the consultation identifies that local families prefer for the centre to be a dedicated Maternity Hub (Option 2), work will be undertaken by colleagues in Property and Estates to progress a formal lease for Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS

² nottinghamshire-best-start-strategy-2021-2025.pdf Page 88 of 126

Foundation Trust to enable them to lease the whole site pending a decision at Economic Development and Asset Management Committee or an Operational Decision. The building will remain a physical asset of the Council and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will seek landlords consent for any structural changes they wish to invest in.

Other Options Considered

30. The only other option available to the Council is to declare the property as surplus and colleagues in Property and Estates asked to find an alternative tenant.

Reason for Recommendations

31. Any planned change of use of a Children's Centre property is subject to public consultation with local families and stakeholders. The two options for the use of the property are a change in use so the views of local families must be sought as detailed in the Statutory Guidance Section 5D and outlined in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009).

Statutory and Policy Implications

32. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

- 33. The Children's Centre property budget is managed by the Place Department at £1.1 million per annum and this will remain unchanged.
- 34. If Option 1 is progressed so that the site becomes a Family Hub, the Council will be expected to continue to pay for running costs. Some of these costs will be offset by charging a room hire for some partners who intend to use the building on a regular basis. This historically has not been in place for Children's Centre Service buildings, who have permitted free use of the building to partner services who work to meet the same intended objectives for families with preschool children. This means that maternity services and others have previously been able to use the buildings for free. Further work may be required to firm up funding arrangements for physical Family Hubs and this will be dealt with in a future report to Committee on Family Hubs.
- 35. If Option 2 is progressed so that the site becomes a Maternity Hub, the vacation of this property by the Council will result in a cost saving of approximately £18,000 in a full year, to the Children's Centre property budget held by Place Department. This will alleviate some of the pressure on that budget which is currently forecasting an overspend of approximately £19,000.

36. Changing the use of a Children's Centre Service property funded from the Department for Education Sure Start Children's Centre Capital Grant may carry a clawback risk, however the risk is mitigated if at least 50% of the property is used for families with preschool children. The Council is awaiting clarity from the Department for Education regarding any clawback risk if a Children's Centre Service building becomes a Family Hub (Option 1). There would be no clawback risk if the property becomes a Maternity Hub (Option 2), since services would continue to be predominantly for children under 5 and their families.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

37. Consultation will ensure that the views of families are gathered to shape the delivery of services from the building. Any users of the property will be required to safeguard children and families as a condition of a lease or room hire agreement.

Implications for Service Users

38. The views of local families will shape service developments so it is anticipated that the outcome of the consultation will benefit the local community and local families by identifying and addressing their needs.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

- 39. The consultation will be carried out online on the Council's Citizen Space, this will be promoted to all organisations in the area working with expectant parents, and families with children aged 0-19; as well as stakeholders from the District Council and Parish Council. These stakeholders will be asked to promote the consultation to their service users and families living in Retford. The Council will also promote the consultation through social media channels.
- 40. Hard copy questionnaires will also be provided for those without internet access, and will be sent to key stakeholders to pass to families. The questionnaire will also be made available in a variety of languages on request.
- 41. An Equalities Impact Assessment has also been completed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee:

- 1) approves the pending consultation exercise which will inform the change in the use of the Retford Central Children's Centre building to become a Family Hub (Option 1) or a Maternity Hub (Option 2)
- 2) reviews the findings of the consultation exercise at the December meeting of the Committee and makes recommendations to colleagues in Property and Estates to progress a lease if the preferred option is to create a Maternity Hub.

Laurence Jones Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 18/08/21)

42. The report and recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 19/08/21)

- 43. There are no financial implications arising directly from undertaking the proposed consultation exercise.
- 44. Ultimately, any cost savings/income as detailed in **paragraphs 34-36** would accrue to the Children's Centre property budget that is managed by the Place Department, circa £1.1million per annum. This would be subject to a future committee report and clarification of any potential clawback risk.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Maximising the value of Nottinghamshire's Children's Centre Services – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19th March 2018

Children and Young People's Committee 26th July 2021 <u>Nottinghamshire Early Help Strategy</u> 2021-2025

Change of use for Retford Central Children's Centre Equalities Impact Assessment <u>https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jobs-and-working/equality/completed-equality-impact-assessments-eqias</u>

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

Retford East Retford West Cllr Mike Introna Cllr Mike Quigley

C1498



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 13

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

CHANGES TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE STRUCTURE

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for changes to the Youth Service and Notts Outdoors staffing structure to better meet current and future demand.

Information

- 2. The work of the Young People's Service includes the Youth Service which provides access to high quality, safe and enjoyable activities for children and young people outside of the school day, and Notts Outdoors, the Council's outdoor education service which provides learning and development outside of the classroom.
- 3. The Young People's Service has a long and successful history of delivering universal and bespoke programmes of youth work intervention, an offer which contributes to the Council's commitment to preventative and early help services for children and young people. Recent developments in collaboration with partners has seen an increased appetite for commissioned work, which enhances and complements the Council's existing Youth Work offer. Whilst this is an example of good partnership working at a grassroots level and an endorsement of the high-quality youth work provision offered by the Council, at times, the opportunity for such work and corresponding funding only becomes available at short notice. Therefore, the growing demand from local communities, District and Borough Councils and partner organisations for support to deliver an increased youth work offer requires a dynamic response as and when identified, and when appropriate funding has been secured.
- 4. At present the Young People's Service is only able to temporarily establish posts for a 12 week period, until formal Committee approval has been sought. Current examples of additional youth work sessions established temporarily for 12 weeks pending formal Committee approval includes:
 - a) continuation of an additional evening youth work session per week at Carlton in Lindrick Young People's Centre for a 6 month period, funding for this project has been secured by Carlton in Lindrick Parish Council. It is proposed that the following posts are established term time only starting September to 31st March 2022:

- 1 Worker in Charge 4 hours per week
- 2 Youth Support Workers 2.5 hours per week

The costs for these posts and any operation costs can be contained within the £4,601 funding.

- b) establishment of a new youth work session in Beckingham, with an aim of delivering universal open access youth work, funding for this project has been secured by Beckingham Youth Club, a voluntary sector organisation. This session will be targeted at school Years 7 to 11 on a Friday night 6pm to 8.15pm. It is proposed that the following posts are established starting September 2021 to 31st March 2022:
 - 1 Worker in Charge 5 hours per week
 - 1 Youth Support Worker 2.5 hours per week.

The costs for these posts and any operation costs can be contained within the £4,283 funding.

- c) establishment of a new Targeted Youth Work team for 6 months aimed at addressing issues highlighted by Ashfield District Council and their Community Safety Team, funding for this project has been secured by Ashfield District Council. The programme will target 10 to 14 year olds who are involved in low level anti-social behaviour and/or are classed as vulnerable. It is proposed that the following posts are established starting October 2021 to 31st March 2022:
 - 1 FTE Youth Worker
 - 4 Youth Support Workers 3 hours per week

The costs for these posts and any operation costs can be contained within the £38,500 funding.

- d) establishment of a new Targeted Youth Work team for 6 months aimed at addressing issues highlighted by Mansfield District Council and their Community Safety Team, funding for this project has been secured by Mansfield District Council. The programme will target 10 to 14 year olds who are involved in low level anti-social behaviour and/or are classed as vulnerable. It is proposed that the following posts are established starting October 2021 to 31st March 2022:
 - 1 Youth Worker 28 hours per week
 - 3 Youth Support Workers 3 hours per week

The costs for these posts and any operation costs will be contained within the £24,750 funding.

e) establishment of posts at the Mill Adventure Base which will provide targeted outdoor learning to support resilience and self-confidence on various vocational courses at West Notts College from September 2021 to August 2022, funding for this project has been secured by West Notts College. It is proposed that the following posts are established on a 12 month fixed term contract to deliver outdoor learning provision: • 4 FTE Grade 4 Instructors

The costs of these posts is £111,444 and any other operation costs can be contained within the £90,000 funding and existing budgets set aside for associate tutors within the Outdoor Education Service.

5. The total value of these contracts is approximately £162,134.

Proposals

6. Making slight changes to the Young People's Service staffing establishment will enable some flexibility to respond to local needs and urgent requests to commission additional youth work support. It is proposed that the following posts be established on a provisional basis subject to securing short-notice, ad hoc funding. Until that time, they will remain vacant and only when funding is secured will they be recruited to on a fixed term basis:

Youth Service: to set up a Youth Work Externally Funded Projects staffing establishment under the Youth Work Senior Practitioner for Commissioned Projects with provisional posts established for all Youth Work Grades, for instance Senior Practitioner, Youth Worker, Worker in Charge and Youth Workers. In response to future demands Youth Work externally funded fixed term posts can be utilised as and when required, and only once funding has been secured.

Notts Outdoors: to set up a Notts Outdoors Externally Funded Projects staffing establishment under the Team Manager for the service, for Notts Outdoor posts, for instance Senior Tutors, Tutors and Instructors. In response to future demands Notts Outdoors externally funded fixed term posts can be utilised as and when required, and only once funding has been secured.

- 7. The current staffing structure is attached as **Appendix 1** and the proposed structure from October 2021 is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 8. This approach will enable greater flexibility and a dynamic response, which is lacking in the current arrangements. If approved, all future developments of enhanced local youth work projects and will be reported to Committee on an ongoing basis. All permanent posts and longer term fixed term posts will continue to require Committee approval before they are established.

Other Options Considered

9. To retain the existing structure: this is not felt to be an appropriate option considering the challenges faced with recruiting on a 12 week temporary basis.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The proposed new structure will ensure that the Young People's Service continues to remain responsive to local needs, with appropriately qualified and skilled staff. This will provide a responsive youth work model which will allow the service to fill posts on a fixed term basis once funding has been secured.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

- 12. It is anticipated that there will be no additional costs incurred by the Council for existing projects (as set out in **paragraph 4**), as costs will be met from approximately £162,134 of external funding and existing budgets in Outdoor Education which will cover both administration and operating costs.
- 13. There should be no additional costs incurred by the Council for the revised staffing structure for the Young People's Service, attached as **Appendix 2**. This is a responsive youth work model where posts will not be filled unless funding has been secured.

Human Resources Implications

14. Recruitment and selection will be in line with Nottinghamshire County Council's employment procedures.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the establishment of the posts detailed in **paragraph 4** of the report be approved.
- 2) the revised staffing structure for the Young People's Service, attached as **Appendix 2**, be approved in order to provide a responsive youth work model which will enable the service to fill posts on a fixed term basis once funding has been secured.

Steve Edwards Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Pom Bhogal Young People's Service Manager T: 0115 9932722 E: pom.bhogal@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CEH 20/08/21)

15. The report and recommendations falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (LCD 02/09/21)

- 16. It is anticipated that there will be no additional costs incurred by the Council for existing projects (as set out in **paragraph 4**), as costs will be met from approximately £162,134 of external funding and existing budgets in Outdoor Education which will cover both administration and operating costs.
- 17. There should be no additional costs incurred by the Council for the revised staffing structure for the Young People's Service, attached as **Appendix 2**. This is a responsive youth work model where posts will not be filled unless funding has been secured.
- 18. The budget for Young People's services is £3.383m.

HR Comments (BC 20/08/21)

19. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. The provisional fixed term posts detailed in the report will be recruited to in line with the Council's recruitment procedures once funding has been secured.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1499







Outdoor Education and Environment

Appendix 1





Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item:14

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

CHANGES TO THE STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB AND THE EARLY HELP UNIT

Purpose of the Report

- 1. To update Committee on the levels of enquiries currently being made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help Unit and seek approval for plans to ensure safeguarding concerns about vulnerable children continue to be effectively responded to.
- 2. To seek approval for the establishment of the following temporary posts for an initial period of six months, to both maintain operational stability and enable service improvement and change and the transition to new, more effective ways of working:
 - 1 FTE Children's Services Manager (Front Door Development) (Hay Band E)
 - 2 FTE Children's Social Work Team Managers (Hay Band D)
 - 6 FTE Social Workers (Hay Band B)
 - 2 FTE Advanced Practitioners (Hay Band C)
 - 3 FTE Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Officers (NJE 4)
 - 3 FTE Early Help Officers (Hay Band A)
 - 1 FTE Project Manager (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Project Officer (Hay Band A)
 - 1 FTE Business Systems Analyst (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Business Intelligence Report Developer (Hay Band B).

Information

Current situation within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

3. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub was established by Nottinghamshire County Council in 2012, and acts as the front door for new safeguarding concerns about vulnerable children and adults. It brings together representatives from Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Police and Health, co-located in one place to receive and respond to safeguarding concerns with virtual links to other services, such as the Probation Trust and District Councils. Since the start of the pandemic the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has been working in a hybrid model, with some staff home based and the remainder working together from the Piazza.

- 4. Enquiries to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub have grown significantly since its establishment in 2012. In the last five years, the number of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub enquiries relating to children has increased by an average of 15% per annum from just under 20,000 in 2015/16 to almost 35,000 in 2020/21. Had there not been a reduction in enquiries in the last 12 months due to the pandemic, the expected level would have reached 40,000.
- 5. Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, historic performance data has been used to forecast the future number of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub enquiries to be received based on low, middle and high scenarios. Since April 2021, the easing of lockdown and children returning to school, the numbers of enquiries received relating to children has exceeded the "high" scenario, placing significant pressure on the staff within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub who are working hard to continue to respond effectively to the enquiries they receive in a timely way.



- 6. The staffing establishment was last increased within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in 2018, when an additional 4 Social Workers and 4 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Officers were added to the then establishment of 14 Social Workers and 13 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Officers. At that time the average number of enquiries received per month was 2,336. In June 2021 (last full month prior to schools closing for the summer holidays), the number of enquiries received was 3,472.
- 7. Within this context, maintaining sufficient staffing levels in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is a challenge, reflecting:
 - the stress of working in such an intense role where pressure does not often alleviate
 - where there is limited job satisfaction as it can be difficult to see the difference that you
 make

• where it is difficult to prioritise continuing professional development through training and development opportunities due to the operational pressures of the role.

Despite the challenges, staff within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub remain highly committed to their role in safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

Current situation in the Early Help Unit

- 8. The Early Help Unit was also established in 2012, and acts as a 'front door' for Early Help Services at tier 2 and 3 in Nottinghamshire. Early Help Officers have several responsibilities:
 - successfully providing advice and guidance to other agencies, often preventing referrals to early help or statutory services
 - signposting referrers to other services. Advice and guidance is provided to professionals where the needs of a family would be better met by another Nottinghamshire County Council or public sector service, or by a third sector or community organisation
 - managing referrals into The Family Service (early help case management, family and parenting teams and education enforcement services), Youth Justice Service (crime prevention) and Children's Centre Services
 - responding to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub enquiries which have been stepped down to the Early Help Unit where Pathway to Provision Tier 4 threshold is not met
 - operating a duty phone line, taking calls from members of the public (usually parent/carers) in need of Early Help Services. Often issues can be resolved on the phone with the caller receiving advice and signposting to appropriate resources that will help address their enquiry. Where the threshold is met for the Council's early help services then a self-referral will be taken over the phone and passed to the appropriate team.
- 9. There has been a significant, sustained increase in demand on the Early Help Unit since it was established in 2012. The increase has been more marked across 2020/2021 following schools reopening after the first Covid-19 lockdown, with an increase in referrals of above 50% since 2020/2021. Like, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, referrals to the Early Help Unit have exceeded the anticipated levels of need forecasted based on previous performance levels.



10. Several short-term measures have been employed to manage the increase in demand, which was initially considered a temporary spike. This has included the redeployment of staff as per the Covid-19 contingency plans – staff who could not undertake their day job because of Public Health advice were available for redeployment to essential desk-based roles for example. This temporary opportunity is not a long-term solution.

Wider context

- 11. There are a range of factors contributing to the increase in enquiries to both the Early Help Unit and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub including:
 - an increase in need, with the challenges that some families are experiencing exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and
 - a culture amongst some referring agencies of making safeguarding referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub rather than considering the Pathway to Provision and determining which agency is best placed to provide advice, support and guidance.
- 12. In addition, over time the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in particular has developed complex processes in order to manage the volume of enquiries. These processes are no longer fit for purpose, and result in an over bureaucratic system that is inconsistent with the strengths-based approach to practice that the Council aspires to consistently provide. As part of the Council's Improving Residents Access programme there is an intention to explore moving towards a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency needs-led "front door" model which enables families to access the help and support at the right time, enabling the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to move away from being a recipient for all concerns about children and families and allow it to refocus around children at risk of significant harm. This shift in approach will enable more children and young people's needs to be met at the earliest possible opportunity by the most appropriate support service, reducing the need for statutory social work intervention.
Proposal

- 13. It is proposed that in order to enable the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help Unit to manage the increase in demand, the following additional operational capacity is required, initially for a six month period, with a potential need to extend for a further six months:
 - 1 FTE Children's Social Work Team Manager (Hay Band D)
 - 6 FTE Social Workers (Hay Band B)
 - 2 FTE Advanced Practitioners (Hay Band C)
 - 3 FTE Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Officers (NJE 4)
 - 3 FTE Early Help Officers (Hay Band A).

Post	Pay Band	Budget Requirement NCC	Potential Agency top up	FTE	2021/22 Costs (6months)	2022/23 Costs (Possible 6 month extension)
Team Manager	D	£56,417	£13,365	1.00	£34,891	£34,891
Social Worker	В	£46,228	£19,690	6.00	£197,755	£197,755
Advanced Practitioner	С	£52,591	£19,690	2.00	£72,281	£72,281
MASH Officer	4	£28,467	0	3.00	£42,701	£42,701
EHO's	А	£40,212	0	3.00	£60,318	£60,318
Total				15.00	£407,946	£407,946
Running Costs					£10,000	£10,000
TOTAL COSTS					£417,946	£417,946

- 14. In addition, it is recommended that the following developmental capacity is developed, again for an initial period of six months, with a potential need to extend for a further six months, in order to support the service to develop and transform:
 - 1 FTE Children's Services Manager (Front Door Development) (Hay Band E)
 - 1 FTE Team Manager (Front Door Development) (Hay Band D)
 - 1 FTE Project Manager (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Project Officer (Hay Band A)
 - 1 FTE Business Systems Analyst (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Business Intelligence Report Developer (Hay Band B)

Post	Pay Band	Budget Requirement NCC	Potential Agency top up	FTE	2021/22 Costs (6months)	2022/23 Costs (Possible 6 month extension)
Children's Service Manager	Е	£62,802	0	1.00	£31,401	£31,401
Team Manager	D	£56,417	£13,365	1.00	£34,891	£34,891
Project Manager	С	£52,591	0	1.00	£26,296	£26,296

Project Officer	А	£40,212	0	1.00	£20,106	£20,106
Business Systems Analyst	С	£52,591	0	1.00	£26,296	£26,296
BI Report Developer	В	£46,228	0	1.00	£23,114	£23,114
Total				6.00	£162,103	£162,103
Running Costs					£10,000	£10,000
TOTAL COSTS					£172,103	£172,103

- 15. Six of the posts to be established have been filled in advance of Committee approval using the 12 week delegated powers to Chief Officers (two filled by Council staff and four by agency staff). This therefore means that some of the financial implications of this report are already factored into budget forecasts. Additionally, there is a possibility that not all posts will be able to be filled by Council staff due to the short timeframe, therefore some allowance for agency recruitment has been factored into the financial implications.
- 16. The Project Manager and Project Officer posts will be established as part of the corporate Transformation Delivery Team, and the Business Intelligence Report Developer post within the corporate Business Intelligence Unit.
- 17. This operational capacity identified above has been modelled based on actual and anticipated levels of demand. Given the potential impact of the pandemic meaning that a greater number of families may require support, it is likely that some or all of the additional capacity will be required for a greater period of time. The rationale for establishing this capacity on a fixed term basis is to enable development work to take place so that the MASH is able to operate more efficiently and effectively. This will in turn determine the longer-term capacity requirements. As such, a future report will be brought before Committee once the discovery phase of the development work is complete in six months' time. This will determine future resourcing requirements and any longer term investment required through an Improvement Plan.

Other Options Considered

18. The only other option available is to continue to meet increasing demand and effect change from existing resources, which is not considered to be sustainable or achievable.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. For the Committee to understand and agree the investment needed to meet increased demand and develop a more sustainable front door operating model.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

21. The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) require the Council to put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure that data protection principles and individual's information rights are built into everything the Council does. Legal Services and Information Governance colleagues within the Council will provide guidance on how to progress any new initiatives described to ensure Council obligations are met.

Financial Implications

- 22. The total cost of addressing the current demand in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for 2021/22 is £417,946 and this will be fully met through the Covid reserve grant. Of this, £166,728 is already included in period 4 budget monitoring reports, the remaining costs of £251,218 will be included in period 5. The cost of possibly extending this capacity for a further six months into 2022/23 will be £417,946. However, a further update on these costs and their funding will be included in the follow up report to Children and Young People's Committee in six months' time.
- 23. The total cost of developing and transforming the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub will be a maximum of £172,103, assuming all posts are recruited to by October 2021. These costs will be met through Covid grant /contingency. A further update on any additional transformational costs and their funding will be included in the follow up report to Children and Young People's Committee in six months' time.

Human Resources Implications

24. Recruitment to posts will be undertaken in line with the Council's Human Resources procedures and with engagement as appropriate from trade unions. Due to the short time contract duration of some posts to be established there may be a need to recruit agency staff to ensure that all necessary posts are filled.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

25. The proposals contained within this report will further strengthen the Council's ability to safeguard vulnerable children by ensuring that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is able to operate effectively within the context of increasing need.

Implications for Service Users

26. The proposals contained within this report will improve the quality of service received by vulnerable children and families, and referring professionals.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

1) approves the establishment of the following posts in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help Unit on an initial six months, fixed term basis:

- 1 FTE Children's Services Manager (Front Door Development) (Hay Band E)
- 2 FTE Children's Social Work Team Managers (Hay Band D)
- 6 FTE Social Workers (Hay Band B)
- 2 FTE Advanced Practitioners (Hay Band C)
- 3 FTE Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Officers (NJE 4)
- 3 FTE Early Help Officers (Hay Band C)
- 1 FTE Project Manager (Hay Band C)
- 1 FTE Project Officer (Hay Band A)
- 1 FTE Business Systems Analyst (Hay Band C)
- 1 FTE Business Intelligence Report Developer (Hay Band B).
- 2) receives a further report in six months' time, outlining progress made and future resourcing requirements for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help Unit.

Steve Edwards Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Lucy Peel Group Manager, Service Improvement T: 0115 9773139 E: <u>lucy.peel@nottscc.gov.uk</u>

Constitutional Comments (ELP 02/09/21)

27. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (LCD 02/09/21)

28. The financial implications as set out in the report with the additional short term operational and transformation costs to be funded from Covid reserves and/ or contingency. The update report to Committee will set out the improvement plan and any additional short term or permanent resource requirements for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help Unit. Any future financial implications will be taken into account in constructing the budget for 2022/23 and beyond.

HR Comments (BC 31/08/21)

29. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. Recruitment will occur in line with the Council's vacancy control and recruitment procedures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1507



Nottinghamshire County Council

13th September 2021

Agenda Item: 15

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND FORMER UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN CARE LEAVERS - RE-MODELLING SERVICE PROVISION AND PRACTICE

Purpose of the Report

- 1. Nottinghamshire Social Care receives Home Office grant funding for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and those that are now care leavers who are eligible for Home Office grant funding. This report proposes a re-modelling of the current approach for this cohort of children and young people in Nottinghamshire to ensure that support is being met through the Home Office grant and so as not to impact on core provision.
- 2. The need to make the proposed structural changes is needed on an urgent basis. The current situation in Afghanistan has further compounded pressures at UK ports, specifically at the Kent coast. Nottinghamshire Social Care agreed to the transfer of six unaccompanied asylum seeking children from Kent as part of the first 'four cycles' of the National Transfer Scheme Rota (launched 26th July 2021). It was expected that a 'cycle' would be every three months. However, due to these pressures in Kent, Nottinghamshire Social Care completed 50% of committed transfers from the first and second cycles by the fourth week since launch.

Information

- 3. Nottinghamshire Social Care is required legally to support and accommodate children and young people under s20 (Children Act 1989) who present to social care as asylum seeking children as they require support and have no identified person(s) with parental responsibility. As such, they are also entitled to leaving care services from 18 years until their 25th birthday under the guidance of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017 including Nottinghamshire's local offer for care leavers.
- 4. The Council's Looked After and Leaving Care Service continues to support unaccompanied care leavers and this has always been case-managed within the same model as the core provision and then linking any Home Office funding to the individual young people. As Home Office grant funding has increased and is now more readily available to this cohort, it is recognised that the current model is not utilising the grant to its full potential.

- 5. There is current year-on-year funding from the Home Office that the Council is able to claim for our support of these children and young people, but to utilise this to its full potential the costs have to be linked directly to this cohort. Currently, not all costs are linked as some of these are hidden and it is not always possible and practical. To avoid this impacting on core provision, it is proposed that there is a change to the current approach, so that more direct and indirect costs are linked directly to the Home Office grant, which will enable Nottinghamshire Social Care to access the full entitlement and reduce financial pressures on core provision.
- 6. The grant claimable per eligible child and young person is detailed below:

	Grant per l	JASC (Dail	y Rate)		Grant pe	r UASC (Full Yea	ar)
	Former UASC - Care leaver	General UASC - Under 18	Referrals - Under 18		Former UASC - Care leaver	General UASC - Under 18	Referrals - Under 18
2021/2022	£39	£114	£143	_	£14,079	£41,610	£52,195

- 7. The Local Authority can also continue to claim for a former asylum seeking care leaver if they are over 21 years and in education and/or training.
- 8. The table below shows the direct costs in supporting this cohort of young people for 2020/21 (e.g. accommodation, personal allowances, equipment, activities) and the grant received from the Home Office. The balance of the remaining grant can then contribute to Social Care staffing and any other overheads:

Cohort	UASC Direct Costs for 2020/21	Grant Income Received for 2020/21	Balance of the grant to contribute towards Children's Social Care staffing & overheads
	£'000	£'000	£'000
UASC – Under 18	422	(583)	(161)
Former UASC – Care leavers	343	(632)	(289)
TOTAL	765	(1,215)	(450)

- 9. In 2020/21 the Council claimed Home Office grant for 15 looked after Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and 51 former asylum seeking child care leavers.
- 10. The re-modelling would mean the immediate development of a focused mini-Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children team by establishing the following posts: 1 FTE Team Manager (Band D), 2 FTE Social Workers (Band B), 3 FTE Leaving Care Personal Advisors (Grade 5) and 0.5 FTE Business Support Administrator (Grade 3).
- 11. The maximum projected cost of this re-modelling is detailed below, alongside which grant area the costs would be met from. This could be subject to change if numbers of children and young people do not increase as predicted. However, the costs of remodelling show remaining grant funding allowing flexibility within the service to meet demand. Following discussions between the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, the Council's asylum lead and Finance Team, it is identified that it is highly likely that spontaneous arrivals of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Nottinghamshire will increase. Currently

Nottinghamshire has 25 looked after asylum seeking children. This model has accounted for any increase or decrease in numbers so that the Council will still be able to offset the cost of this re-modelling with any fluctuations. There would be enough flexibility for there to be no additional financial pressures to core provision if the number of looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children remained at 18 or even increased to 35.

		_				Grant Allocation		
				Running				
Post	FTE	GRADE	Salary	expenses	TOTAL Cost	UASC	Former UASC	
Team Manager	1	D	56,417	1,500	57,917	23,167	34,750	
Social Worker	2	В	46,228	1,500	95,456	95,456		
Personal Advisor	3	5	33,549	1,500	105,147		105,147	
Business Support	0.5	3	24,633	1,500	13,067	6,533	6,533	
TOTAL	6.5				271,587	125,156	146,430	

- 12. This will then offset the current need and projected budget pressures within the Looked After service due to the current looked after unaccompanied asylum seekers being reallocated from current core provision social workers to the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children specific social workers using the Home Office funding. It is anticipated that this will create capacity within the core provision of around 20 young people without the need for increasing establishment of core provision. The completion of Age Assessments within the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children team will also reduce demand pressures and current capacity within the Assessment Services (North and South) whilst fully utilising Home Office funding.
- 13. Capacity within the Leaving Care team is significantly increasing. Without remodelling there is a projected need for an additional 4 Personal Advisors in Leaving Care, due to the increasing numbers of looked after children meeting eligibility threshold for leaving care services under the guidance of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. The remodelling of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children provision means that funding for the additional Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children specific Personal Advisors can be offset via the Home Office grant. This creates an increase in capacity of around 50 young people within the core provision of leaving care, and reduces future budget pressures for additional Personal Advisors funded via core provision.
- 14. Therefore, this new model will immediately increase much needed capacity within looked after and leaving care of which the funding for this will be offset via the Home Office grant as opposed to incurring additional budget pressures. This new model will also allow applications for additional Home Office grant funding when young people have specific needs (e.g. accommodation and mental health provision linked with their Home Office application).
- 15. The Council's legal responsibility will not change within the re-modelling, but it is expected that the level of provision and service response will improve due to skills being focused within a specialist area. There are no implications on the statutory position, but the re-modelling will require a short review of current policy, procedure and guidance to ensure any changes of transfers/support pathways are clear.

Other Options Considered

- 16. The current model could be continued but it is likely that the Council would not be able to access and implement the full Home Office grant funding for this cohort of young people and would have to continue with some reliance on current core provision.
- 17. As a consequence of continuing with the current model, there would be an increase in budget pressures for further Social Worker capacity within the Looked After Team and Personal Advisor capacity within the Leaving Care Team, due to the increase of Nottinghamshire children entering Local Authority care, specifically 16/17yr olds.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 18. The Looked After and Leaving Care Service is working closely with the Finance Team to ensure that proactive and timely grant claims are being made for all relevant children and young people to ensure that Nottinghamshire is claiming the appropriate maximum funding available. This process will be easier to monitor and manage under the new model which will ensure that there is less reliance on core provision funding, as this can be directed to Nottinghamshire children and young people that require social care intervention.
- 19. By operating under the proposed new model, the service will be able to promote and develop specialisms and expertise in this area, as opposed to being spread across several core provision services. This will enable workers to develop better working relationships and knowledge of Home Office working practice which should result in quicker decision-making by the Home Office, faster response to service need and reduce ongoing additional support costs which is currently impacting on core provision. Furthermore, specialisms will also help to develop better links with specialist legal provision, community groups, and other organisations to ensure that the needs of this cohort of young people are being met appropriately and legally without detracting or impacting on other core provision support.
- 20. This model will also speed up the process of assessments, Home Office applications, pressure on quicker Home Office decision-making and reduce the risk of threats of Judicial Review against the department.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

22. There would be no changes to the current data protection and information governance in respect of information held by Nottinghamshire County Council or the information and data shared with the Home Office in respect of the financial grant claims.

Financial Implications

23. The annual cost of establishing the focused Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children team (as set out in **paragraphs 10 and 11)** is £271,587. If approved, recruitment is anticipated to be completed by December 2021 and the cost for 2021/22 is expected to be £90,529. This will be contained within the Home Office grant funding for both Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children for 2021/22 and the annual cost for the team in each subsequent grant year.

Human Resources Implications

24. The re-modelling would mean a small increase in staffing within the Looked After and Leaving Care establishment which can be incorporated into the current service management establishment without incurring additional costs.

Human Rights Implications

25. Nottinghamshire Social Care is legally required to support and accommodate children and young people who present to social care as asylum seeking children as they require support and have no identified person(s) with parental responsibility. This is linked with the children and young people's article 3 and article 8 rights under the guidance of the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

26. The remodelling of this service provision would not cause a two-tier service to children and young people depending on their citizenship rights in the UK. All children supported under the remodelled asylum specific service will be looked after children (s20, Children Act 1989) as legislated by the Hillingdon Judgment 2003 and entitled to Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 provision. This remodelling is more focused on ensuring that maximum grant funding can be accessed and used for asylum seeking children and young people in the care of Nottinghamshire County Council and to ensure that this is not at a detriment to other children and young people accessing core provision.

Smarter Working Implications

27. The continuation of smarter working across the Looked After and Leaving Care teams remains unchanged.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

28. The Council's duties in safeguarding children and young people living in Nottinghamshire and being in the care of Nottinghamshire County Council will remain unchanged. The remodelling will aim to help improve communication, co-production and specialisms when working with the Home Office, East Midlands Immigration Teams, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, Nottinghamshire Police, National Referral Mechanism, Barnardo's Child Trafficking Advocacy Service and other voluntary organisations (i.e British Red Cross), who specialise in supporting asylum seeking children and young people.

Implications for Service Users

29. The specialisms and expertise that will be developed under the remodelling of the current service will enable workers to develop better working relationships and knowledge of Home Office working practice which should result in quicker decision-making by the Home Office alongside increasing specialisms and better links with organisations and partners to ensure that the needs of this cohort of young people are being met and better outcomes for them as they transition into adulthood and independence.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the current service provision for asylum seeking looked after children and care leavers be re-modelled as detailed in **paragraphs 10 and 11** of the report
- 2) the development of a focused Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children team with immediate establishment of the following posts:
 - 1 FTE Team Manager (Band D)
 - 2 FTE Social Workers (Band B)
 - 3 FTE Leaving Care Personal Advisors (Grade 5)
 - 0.5 FTE Business Support Administrator (Grade 3).

Steve Edwards Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 25/08/21)

30. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (LCD 31/08/21)

31. The annual cost of establishing the UASC team (as set out in **paragraphs 10 and 11)** is £271,587. If approved, recruitment is anticipated to be completed by December 2021 and the cost for 2021/22 is expected to be £90,529. This will be contained within the Home Office grant funding for both Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children for 2021/22 and the annual cost for the team in each subsequent grant year.

HR Comments (BC 31/08/21)

32. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. New posts will be recruited to in line with the Council's vacancy control and recruitment procedures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected All.

C1506



13 September 2021

Agenda Item: 16

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2021.

Information

- 2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
- 3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
- 4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme. It may be that the presentations about activities in the committee's remit will help to inform this.
- 5. The meeting dates and agenda items are subject to review in light of the ongoing COVID-19 period.

Other Options Considered

6. None.

Reason for Recommendation

7. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That the Committee considers whether any amendments are required to the Work Programme.

Marjorie Toward Service Director, Customers, Governance & Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Martin Gately Democratic Services Officer T: 0115 977 2826 E: martin.gately@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (HD)

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

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.

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

• All

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
1 November 2021			
Child Poverty and the impact of Covid-19		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis/ Diane Tinklin
Childhood Obesity Trailblazer – tackling food insecurity		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021	Annual report	Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis/ Mandy Stratford
Best Start Strategy Progress update		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools		Marion Clay	Diane Ward
School Capital Programme progress report: 2022/23 Schools Building Improvement Programme	Six-monthly update	Derek Higton	Phil Berrill/ Mick Allen
Progress on Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan	Quarterly update	Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones
Update on the Remodelling Practice programme	Quarterly report	Steve Edwards	Lucy Peel/ Holly Smitheman
Elective Home Education update	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Sarah Whitby
Conversion of social work hours for Social Work Support Officer post (title tbc)	Moved from July	Steve Edwards	Katie Warner
Local Transformation Plan for children and young people's emotional and mental health - update	Annual refresh	Jonathan Gribbin	Rachel Clark
Early Years & Schools Forum and Education Trust Board officer group report	Annual officer group report	Marion Clay	Marion Clay
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer
Corporate Parenting items:		·	
Adoption East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency update: October 2020 to March 2021		Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report 2020/21	Annual report	Laurence Jones	Steve Baumber
Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers – annual report	Annual report	Marion Clay	Jo Mathieson
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
13 December 2021			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 2 2021/22	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert/ Tom Pointer
Consultation outcomes and proposals to change the use of Retford Central Children's Centre		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Developing Family Hubs in Nottinghamshire		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Corporate Parenting items:			
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
17 January 2022			
Nottinghamshire school admission arrangements 2023-24: determination		Marion Clay	Claire Wilcoxson
Children Missing Education	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Karen Hughman/ Sarah Whitby
Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All – six monthly update		Marion Clay	Koni Rakhit
Supporting Families update	Six-monthly update	Steve Edwards	Rachel Miller
Corporate Parenting items:	· · · ·		· · ·
Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2021-2024		Marion Clay	Jo Mathieson
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
7 March 2022			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 3 2021/22	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert/ Tom Pointer
Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team		Marion Clay	Sarah Lee
Financial support for students in Post-16 education and exceptional payments for school clothing and footwear 2022/2023		Marion Clay	Claire Wilcoxson

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Principal Child and Family Social Worker - annual report 2020/21	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Diana Bentley
Nottinghamshire Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award 2021	Annual update report	Laurence Jones	Pom Bhogal
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer
Corporate Parenting items:	·		· ·
Contact Service annual report	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Devon Allen
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
25 April 2022			
Best Start Strategy Progress six month update		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools		Marion Clay	Diane Ward
Elective Home Education update	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Sarah Whitby
Harmful Sexual Behaviour by children – annual		Laurence Jones	Claire Sampson
report			
Corporate Parenting items:	·		· ·
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
6 June 2022			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 4 2021/22	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert/ Tom Pointer
Local Transformation Plan for children and young people's emotional and mental health - update	Six monthly update	Jonathan Gribbin	Rachel Clark
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer
Corporate Parenting items:	·		· ·
Fostering Service: annual report and National Minimum Fostering Allowances for foster carers 2022/23		Steve Edwards	Sophie Eadsforth/Ty Yousaf
Independent Reviewing Officer Service annual report		Laurence Jones	Izzy Martin
Provision, achievements and progress of the Children in Care Council and participation of		Steve Edwards	Pom Bhogal

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
children and young people looked after 2021/22			
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
18 July 2022			
Children Missing Education	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Karen Hughman/ Sarah Whitby
Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools		Marion Clay	Diane Ward
Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All – six monthly update		Marion Clay	Koni Rakhit
Corporate Parenting items:		•	
Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: annual report 2021/22	Annual update	Laurence Jones	Joe Foley/ Hannah Johnson
Adoption East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency annual report 2021/22	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Virtual School annual report	Annual report	Marion Clay	Sue Denholm
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards