



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Nottinghamshire Children, Young People and Families Plan

2011-2014



This is the joint strategic plan of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust. It is published by Nottinghamshire County Council, as the lead partner with statutory responsibility to make arrangements to promote co-operation to improve children's well-being (Children Act 2004).

Organisations that are relevant partners listed in the Children Act 2004 are:

- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Newark & Sherwood District Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- NHS Nottinghamshire County
- NHS Bassetlaw
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Probation Trust
- Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Jobcentre Plus.

Other partners in the Children's Trust are:

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue
- NAVO (Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations)

The Children's Trust has an active working relationship with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

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1. Working together for children and young people

Our Ambition

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

About the Children's Trust

Nottinghamshire Children's Trust is a partnership of organisations that provide services to children, young people or families in Nottinghamshire. Children's Trust arrangements enable us to plan and deliver joint working and cooperative arrangements, making best use of resources to achieve our ambition.

We know that children, young people and their families are more likely to do well if they are at the centre of our economic, environmental and social ambitions for Nottinghamshire. To promote this, the Children's Trust reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board for Nottinghamshire.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will have a key role in the strategic planning and coordination of NHS, public health, social care and related children's services. By reporting to this board, the Children's Trust ensures that the needs of children, young people and families influence planning for health and wellbeing improvements across all public services.

The Children's Trust has an active working relationship with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). This ensures that safeguarding children is central to our work. The NSCB co-ordinates some safeguarding activities, including training, and scrutinises and challenges the Children's Trust's activities.

Children's Trusts are no longer required to produce a Children and Young People's Plan, but we have opted to continue with a joint strategic plan.

About our Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-2014

Our Children, Young People and Families Plan is the foundation of our shared planning to continue improving how we work together. It summarises our priorities and the main activities that we will undertake to improve the lives of children and young people.

This plan sets out the direction of work of the Children's Trust over the next three years from 2011-14, but it will be reviewed and updated annually. It identifies how we will continue with and build on the partnership working described in Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11.

We have renamed our plan the 'Children, Young People and Families Plan' to reflect our commitment to supporting children and young people by working with them and their families. Our plan identifies how we will offer support to families as soon as they experience difficulties in their lives, through our early intervention and prevention work.

Children's Trust planning is aligned with strategic planning for all of Nottinghamshire, which is identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy, as well as in individual partners' strategies. For example, Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan and its Children, Families and Cultural Services' Business Plan include priorities which are complementary to this plan.

What is included in our Children, Young People and Families Plan

This plan is a high-level summary of the work of the Children's Trust. It focuses on the key areas where we can work together in partnership to have positive impact on the lives of children and young people, by identifying:

- four key themes that will underpin all of our work during the three years of the plan
- seven partnership priorities for action, outlining specific activities that we will undertake. These priorities will be reviewed and updated annually, to reflect changing circumstances and to ensure that the plan remains relevant.

Section 3 provides an overview for each of our priorities for action, summarising what we will do and how this will improve the lives of children, young people and families, as well as how we will measure this impact.

Each priority overview has links to detailed strategies or project plans for the relevant work area. These strategies or plans contain more information about impact measures and milestones.

Section 4 provides a summary of initiatives which are actively supported by the Children's Trust. These are in work areas that have an impact on children, young people or families, but for which the Children's Trust is not accountable.

Section 5 provides more information about our planning and performance management activities, and Section 6 has a list of our key performance measures and targets for 2011-12.

How our Children, Young People and Families Plan promotes equality

We are committed to the promotion of equality and diversity through the work of the Children's Trust, as described in this plan. We promote equality by identifying need and working together to address this, within our available resources. All of our priorities identify how we will work with children or young people who face disadvantages, so that they can be safe, healthy and happy and achieve their potential.

In completing this plan, we undertook an equality impact assessment, considering the plan's impact on those with protected characteristics, as required by the Equality Act 2010. A summary of this is included in Section 7.

Our priorities for action have associated implementation strategies and plans, including Equality Impact Assessments.

We will ensure that we publish this plan in an accessible format, with font size and contrast levels promoting readability. We make use of diagrams to cater for different learning styles, but reproduce key information in the main text, so that it is accessible to those with visual impairments. Our plan will be published on Nottinghamshire County Council's web-site, which allows it to be listened to as well as read.

For more information:

- Children's Trust:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust
- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/nscb
- Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/strategicplan
- Nottinghamshire County Council Children, Families and Cultural Services Business Plan:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cypsperformanceplansandpublications

2. Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Key Themes

We aim to improve the lives of children, young people and families by achieving continual improvements in:

- Child protection
- Education and attainment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Participation



About our themes

All the work of the Children's Trust is underpinned by these key themes, which are inter-linked, as improvements in one theme area will produce improvements in others. We believe that our work will be based around these themes for the foreseeable future, as they define the purpose of the Children's Trust.

We have also developed priorities for action. These are agreed each year, and will change as we review our successes and areas for development. Each year, we will consider if our priorities are still relevant and may decide to add new priorities or remove existing ones.

The importance of early intervention

We know, from research evidence and from listening to the views of families, that it is best to intervene early to provide support as soon as possible to individuals or groups experiencing problems. This improves their lives quickly, and prevents problems getting worse, which reduces the need for more intensive work from specialist services later on.

It is a cost-effective way of working and making best use of resources in challenging economic circumstances.

Early intervention work is therefore at the centre of all that we will do to achieve improvements across all our themes. It is one of our 2011-12 priorities for action and it is an approach adopted in working towards all our priorities.

How we use joint commissioning to develop our themes

The joint commissioning of services and interventions is key to achieving our themes. This includes coordinated strategic planning and identifying where services can be jointly purchased or budgets aligned.

The Children's Trust leads on joint commissioning for children's services, with responsibility for specific work delegated to specialist groups. As the Children's Trust reports to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, its joint commissioning decisions relate to planning for health and wellbeing improvements across all public services.

We have established three joint commissioning groups, responsible for:

- Children and Young People with Disabilities and Special Needs (see 3.3)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (see 3.7)
- Children and Young People's Substance Use.

Nottinghamshire 14-19 Partnership has a role in jointly commissioning post-16 learning provision (see 3.6).

As the County Council moves from being a provider to a commissioner of services, it will work with partners on specific commissioning developments. These include:

- early years provision
- behaviour and educational support provision.

3. Our Priorities for Action: 2011-12

Our priorities for action are to:

- Implement Nottinghamshire’s Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy
- Sustain and build on improvements made in safeguarding
- Improve the effectiveness of services for disabled children through joint planning and commissioning
- Implement the Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Nottinghamshire
- Reduce the achievement gap at all key stages
- Raise achievement at age 16-19 in order to equip young people to enter the workplace, apprenticeships or higher education
- Improve children and young people’s emotional wellbeing

Our priorities for action describe specific activities for 2011-12. They will be reviewed and updated annually, to ensure that they reflect our current situation.

We have identified our priorities after reviewing the needs of children, young people and families in Nottinghamshire, and considering how effectively we work together to meet those needs.

Our priorities are in work areas where:

- there are identifiable improvements that we can make
- coordinated action by our partner services can deliver these improvements.

Figure 1 illustrates how all our priorities are related, with the implementation of Nottinghamshire’s Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy underlying the achievement of all other priorities.

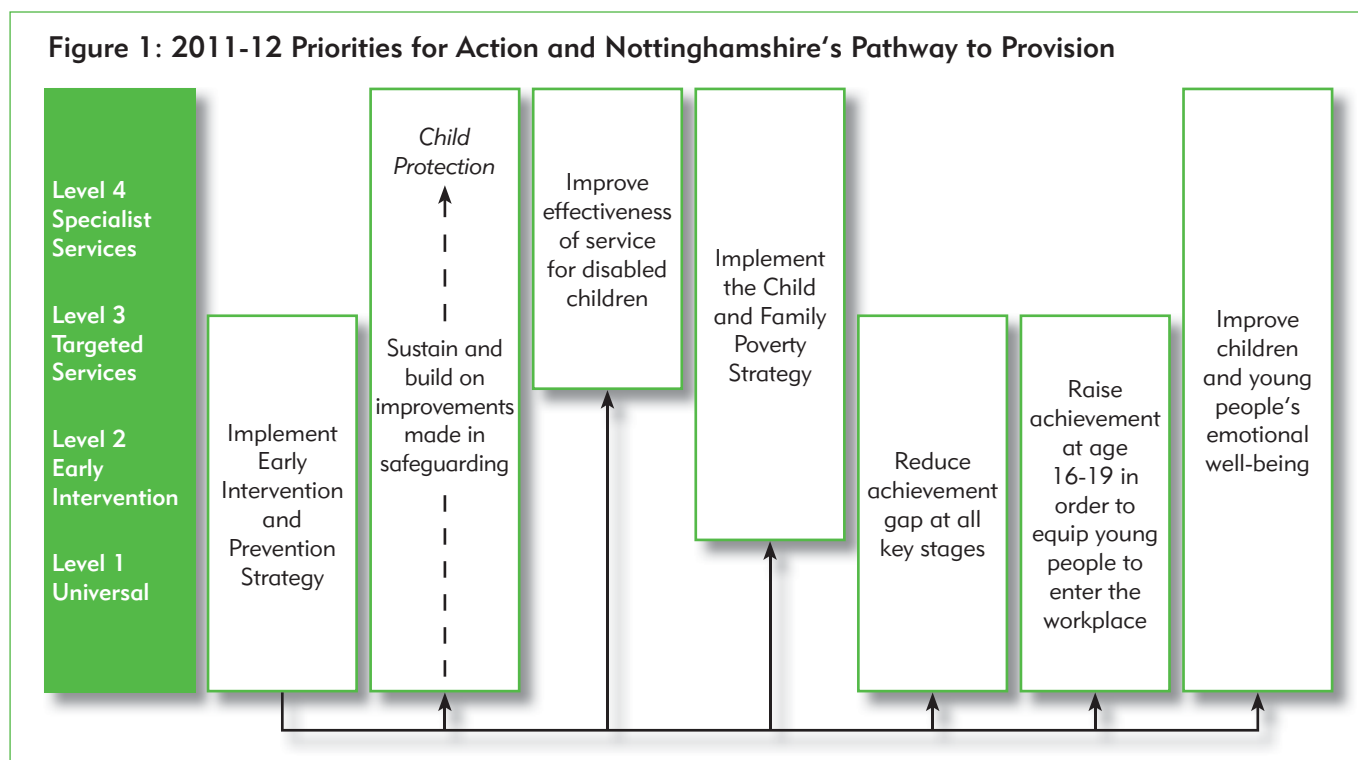
It shows the relationship between our priorities for action and services for children and young people who need different levels of support, as identified in Nottinghamshire’s Pathway to Provision (see 3.1).

The following pages contain overviews for each of our priorities for action. For each priority, we identify:

- Why this matters
- What we will do
- When we will do this
- How this will improve the lives of children, young people and families.

We also provide links to further information sources, usually the detailed strategies or plans related to each priority.

Figure 1: 2011-12 Priorities for Action and Nottinghamshire’s Pathway to Provision



3.1 Implement Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy

Why this matters

The development of effective early intervention and prevention services is critical at a time of reducing resources across the public sector and rising demand for specialist services. More effective early intervention and prevention services will result in fewer inappropriate referrals to specialist services and in children, young people and their families receiving the support they require much earlier and at a reduced cost.

What we will do

Our ambition for early intervention and prevention services in Nottinghamshire is that children, young people and their families will receive the most appropriate support to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity, in order to ensure better outcomes and the cost effective delivery of services.

In 2010, the Pathway to Provision initiative was introduced to support practitioners across the Children's Trust in identifying the most appropriate level of support required by a child, young person or family (see Figure 2).

The Nottinghamshire Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy sets out our Children's Trust's ambition for the further development of early intervention and prevention services.

The strategy has five key work strands:

- the provision of services to ensure the best start in life
- the development of language for life
- the engagement and support of parents and carers
- the development of effective structures and processes
- the use and provision of management information.

For each of these strands there is a detailed implementation plan. The strategy also outlines impact indicators that will be used to measure our success in improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

When we will do this

By September 2011, the strategy will have been published and communicated to practitioners, and activities within each of the five strands will have started.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people or families

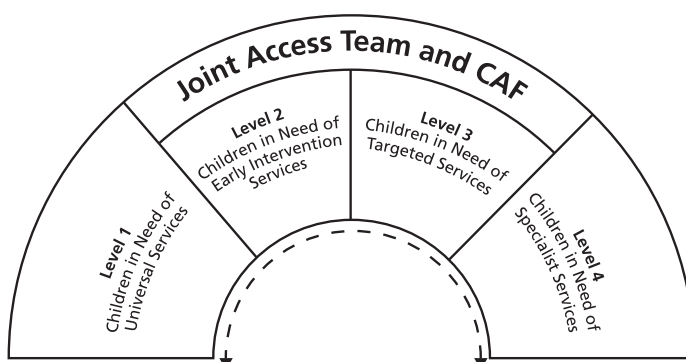
Key impact measures include:

- reducing the numbers of children requiring statutory child protection intervention
- improving educational attendance and attainment, including reducing the achievement gap
- raising 16-18 year olds' participation in education, training or employment
- improving health outcomes for children and young people
- reducing the number of young people involved in crime.

For more information:

- Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwayto provision
- Nottinghamshire Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/earlyintervention andprevention

Figure 2: The Nottinghamshire Continuum of Children and Young People's Needs



3.2 Sustain and build on improvements made in safeguarding

Why this matters

Children and young people need to feel safe so that they can achieve their full potential. All partner organisations have a role in safeguarding children, with children's social care leading on the protection of the most vulnerable children.

The last three years have been difficult, with an unprecedented increase in demand for children's social care services and a resulting dip in some aspects of safeguarding performance. However, over the last year, we have achieved significant improvements in quality and timeliness of services, validated by:

- a successful unannounced inspection by Ofsted
- positive reviews from the Department for Education
- a successful Peer Challenge through Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID).

This has been achieved through the commitment of social care staff and partners, with substantial investment by the county council. To sustain and build on this success, partners will continue to work together, through the Children's Trust and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

The 2011 Munro Review and the national government July 2011 response to this will impact on this work. We may adjust some of our planned actions in response.

What we will do

The NSCB's annual report 2010/11 identifies three key challenges for Children's Trust partners:

- sustaining and building on the improvements delivered during 2010-11
- ensuring that there is sufficient capacity in critical services
- providing the right help at the right time.

The NSCB business plan identifies how it will: continue to coordinate partnership work to safeguard children, effectively deliver its scrutiny role, and improve links with groups and organisations with safeguarding responsibilities, including at district level.

A transformation programme for children's social care is central to work to improve local arrangements for safeguarding children.

This programme is driven from within, by people in the service, together with colleagues across the Children's Trust. It will embed a new,

resource-efficient model for children's social care, creating a high quality service that inspires confidence and pride in the community, partners, county council staff and political leaders. This new model will comprise:

- a single, multi-agency point of entry
- a return to locality teams
- a dedicated team to improve transition into permanent placements
- a dedicated approach to young people over 16
- better transitions for disabled children.

All of this work will be supported by a clearly defined early intervention and prevention strategy.

In addition, Nottinghamshire County Council is developing its Looked After Children Strategy for 2011-13. A key priority is to reduce the length of time children and young people are in local authority care before they get a permanent placement, ideally adoption. The strategy will also identify how the county council, supported by partner organisations, will provide support to children and young people who are in care.

When we will do this

The target for completion of the transformation programme is March 2013. The programme plan includes interim stages and milestones.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people and families

The new children's social care model will be increasingly effective in keeping children safe. It will include manageable workloads for staff and be financially sustainable, so that improvements are maintained. Key progress measures are:

- reduced re-referrals to children's social care
- increased numbers of assessments for individual children carried out within acceptable timescales
- fewer children who have child protection plans that last for more than two years or who need to have a child protection plan more than once
- continuing improvement in the quality of our care, as recognised by our own self-assessments and by children's services inspectors.

For more information:

- Children's Social Care Transformation Programme:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childrensocialcaretransformationprogramme
- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/nscb

3.3 Improve the effectiveness of services for disabled children

Why this matters

Services for disabled children are significant areas of work for partners within the Children's Trust, especially for health services and the county council children, families and cultural services department.

A review of disabled children's services was commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council in 2010. This review recommended the development of a joint approach to strategic planning and commissioning. The Children's Trust has taken action in response to this recommendation.

What we will do

A Joint Commissioning Group for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs has been established. This has delegated responsibility for jointly commissioning services and interventions for children and young people within identified vulnerable groups.

These groups are:

- children defined as having a disability
- children in special schools
- children in mainstream school with a Special Educational Need (SEN) diagnosis
- looked after children with a disability or Special Educational Need
- children with complex health needs.

This joint commissioning group reports to the Children's Trust Executive, which in turn reports to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board. This ensures that the needs of disabled children are included in planning for health and wellbeing improvements across all public services.

Through the work of this group, the Children's Trust will:

- develop and publish a joint needs assessment
- finalise a subsequent joint commissioning strategy for disabled children.

The following specific areas of service delivery are immediate priorities for joint commissioning:

- behaviour management programmes
- an integrated approach to commissioning specialist equipment.
- equitable provision of health services based on clear need in a range of settings
- multi-agency single common assessment of needs.
- post 16 placements
- out of authority residential placements
- transport
- short breaks
- clear multi-agency transition support during key transition stages.

When we will do this

This group has been established and the final joint commissioning and needs assessment will be published by the end of December 2011. A detailed action plan will also be produced to firm up timescales for all other commissioning priorities.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people or families

Joint commissioning will drive improvements in services for children and young people with disabilities and their families, through partnership. It will promote:

- a sharper focus on the needs of those who use our services
- a strategic understanding of how all outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and families can be met locally
- a more commercially-minded approach to procurement, promoting the most effective use of resources to meet identified needs.

For more information:

- Joint Commissioning for Disabled Children: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/improvethetheeffectivenessofservicesfordisabledchildren

3.4 Implement the Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Nottinghamshire

Why this matters

Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction. We understand that tackling child poverty will improve the life chances of children now and in years to come.

Children who grow up in poverty lack many of the experiences and opportunities that others take for granted, and can be exposed to severe hardship and social exclusion.

The Child Poverty Act 2010 introduces new duties on local authorities and their named local partners to cooperate to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty. This includes the duties to prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment and to prepare a joint child poverty strategy.

What we will do

Our ambition is for Nottinghamshire to be a place where children grow up free from deprivation and disadvantage, and birth and social background do not hold people back from achieving their potential.

We will work together to reduce levels of child poverty and to mitigate the effects of child poverty on children, young people and families, as well as on future generations.

Nationally, government aims to reduce child poverty to 10% or less by 2020.

Nottinghamshire aims to establish a downward trend in levels of child poverty and we will monitor our progress comparing with our statistical neighbours.

We have already undertaken a child poverty needs assessment, and published this in March 2011, and are preparing to publish our Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

Over the next year, we will:

- target localities with greater levels of poverty to ensure outcomes in these areas are improved
- increase educational attainment, employment and skills amongst children, young people and parents in Nottinghamshire and reduce dependency on welfare benefits
- raise aspirations and improve the life chances for children and families so that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor experiences and outcomes
- support families to acquire the skills and knowledge to access responsive financial support services, money management and to avoid debt crisis
- support families with complex problems compounded by poverty and disadvantage.

When we will do this

We will publish our strategy in September 2011. We aim to have completed this year's actions by March 2012, and will then review actions for future years.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people and families

Embedding the actions in the Child and Family Poverty Strategy will:

- improve the financial status of children and families in poverty
- reduce the effects of living in poverty through effective service delivery.

These children will have enhanced access to experiences and opportunities. This will result in a better experience of childhood, improve their health and wellbeing and promote their achievement and their participation in society.

The percentage of children living in poverty will be used to illustrate progress.

For more information:

- Child and Family Poverty Strategy and Needs Assessment:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty

3.5 Reduce achievement gap at all key stages

Why this matters

Educational attainment gives young people greater opportunities for employment or further or higher education. It enables them to participate in society, contributing to their community and to the economy. Some vulnerable groups of children and young people may need more support to help them achieve. This may be because of barriers caused by social, environmental or medical reasons.

In Nottinghamshire, overall educational attainment continues to improve each year at a higher rate than the national average. Attainment by those from vulnerable groups is also increasing, but at a slower rate, thus widening the achievement gap between these learners and their peers. We need to work to reduce this gap, while continuing to promote achievement for all.

Needs analysis and performance evidence has identified that our priority is the attainment of children with special education needs and of those who have problems with behaviour or attendance. This work links to Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, as resolving issues early is cost-effective and promotes better outcomes.

What we will do

Nottinghamshire County Council works in partnership with schools and other providers and agencies to raise the standard of achievement for all children and young people. This includes local partnership working through school Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships and Joint Access Teams.

Work to reduce the achievement gap has two main strands:

- review and update behaviour and attendance strategies
- implement the review of inclusion services.

The county council will also continue to develop its relationship with schools, promoting its policy that 'every school should be a good school' and improving educational opportunities for all.

The review and update of behaviour and attendance strategies will:

- develop four types of provision for learners with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties: 1) mainstream schools, 2) support through partnership working, 3) short stay provision, 4) specialist provision
- establish clear pathways to provision
- refocus the county council's behaviour and attendance service.

The review of inclusion services focuses on pupils with special education needs (SEN) and builds on the work of the Achievement for All (AfA) project. It will:

- reshape support services to focus on children with the most complex needs
- develop relationships with partners, such as major providers, and university links to ensure support for schools
- provide core services to schools who are at risk of failing, including data analysis and challenge/support
- enhance SEN and AfA networks enabling schools to support and advise each other.

When we will do this

We will have implemented the first phase of the behaviour and attendance strategy by July 2012 and completed the review of inclusion services by March 2012.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people and families

Our key indicators of progress in reducing the achievement gap are:

- attainment in early years foundation stage
- attainment at Key Stage 4
- the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4.

We will use a range of other measures to monitor progress in improving services, including exclusion rates and numbers of pupils in out-of school provision.

For more information:

- Nottinghamshire County Council Children, Families and Cultural Services Business Plan: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cypsperformanceplansandpublications

3.6 Raise achievement at age 16-19 in order to equip young people to enter the workplace, apprenticeships or higher education.

Why this matters

It is important for all young people to participate in, and benefit from, education and training. This will:

- provide them with greater work opportunities
- enable them to participate in society, contributing to their community and the economy
- ensure that they do not live their lives in poverty.

While full participation till age 18 is planned for 2015, in Nottinghamshire participation amongst 16-18 year olds has increased but remains 6% below national average. Attainment at Level 2 and Level 3 by age 19 has improved but remains below national and regional levels. Our 2009-11 Children and Young People's Plan focused on participation, especially for disadvantaged young people. Further needs analysis shows that attainment is more of an issue, so our priority now is to focus on this. This includes attainment at Key Stage 4 where attainment of GCSEs in English and mathematics at age 16 has a strong correlation with attainment of Level 3 by age 19.

What we will do

Nottinghamshire County Council is a lead partner with the 14-19 Partnership Board, which includes representatives of schools, colleges and training providers. The Board's 14-19 Strategy aims to:

- ensure that an adequate range of opportunities for learning are available to all 16-18 year olds including a planned expanding of Foundation Learning opportunities both pre- and post-16 for those young people who need opportunities at Level 1 and below. (74% of young people who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) do not have a qualification at Level 2 or above)
- work with providers and other stakeholders to promote the three key types of educational opportunity at age 16-18: Further Education, School Sixth Form, Apprenticeships

- work with the Young People's Learning Agency and other strategic partners to ensure that any poor provision is removed and quality provision commissioned.

Specific activities planned for 2011-12 are to:

- redefine the role of the 14-19 Partnership to reflect national policy developments, including work to replace the role of Aim Higher in encouraging access to higher education
- manage the closure of Nottinghamshire Connexions Service, maintaining essential strategies to combat NEET numbers
- manage the effective allocation of young people to Specialist Independent Colleges within budget, preparing for a full commissioning role from April 2012.

When we will do this

By March 2012, we will have completed the specific activities we have planned for 2011-12. We will then identify further specific activities to promote our aims.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people and families

Improvement in participation and attainment in learning up to age 18 will promote:

- higher employment rates for 19-24 year olds
- improved progression to Higher Education, with associated greater opportunities.

Indicators that we have selected to measure achievement are:

- more 16-18 year olds participating in learning and work
- more 19 year olds with Level 3 or equivalent qualifications.

For more information:

- Nottinghamshire County Council Children, Families and Cultural Services Business Plan: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cyps/performanceplansandpublications
- 16-19 Achievement: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/raiseachievementatages16to19

3.7 Improve children and young people's emotional wellbeing

Why this matters

Positive emotional health and well being in infants, children and young people is essential to enable them to do well in later life. Emotionally resilient children and young people are more able to deal with difficulties in their lives and cope with uncertainty. They are likely to do better at school, to have good relationships with family and friends. They are less likely to take unnecessary risks or behave in an anti-social way.

Research shows that relationships, particularly with family, are most important for children and young people's well being, alongside a sense of freedom, choice and autonomy for young people. Life events also impact on emotional health.

Ensuring positive emotional health very early in life can improve health outcomes, life expectancy, educational and economic outcomes and reduce crime and violence. Untreated mental health problems create enormous distress for children, young people, their families and carers. The negative impact continues into later life, affecting future generations.

We know that children, young people and families who experience disadvantage are more likely to have emotional health needs. Vulnerable children or young people include:

- those in local authority care
- those involved in or at risk of offending
- those with learning and/or physical disabilities
- those who are from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, including Roma and Traveller children
- those who live with vulnerable adults.

When children young people and families have mental health needs, we know that they want mental health services that are accessible, provide support when needed and involve them as service users.

What we will do

Under the 2011 Health and Social Care Bill, there are a number of commissioning arrangements for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). These include preventative and targeted emotional well being services commissioned by the Local Authority Public Health function, specialist CAMHS commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups and highly specialist CAMHS commissioned by the East Midlands Regional Commissioning Group.

The Children's Trust has established a Joint Commissioning Group focusing on emotional health and wellbeing, known as the Nottinghamshire County CAMHS Joint Commissioning Group.

This group brings together key partners at a strategic level to plan, agree and monitor the strategic commissioning priorities for CAMHS (including emotional health and wellbeing) across Nottinghamshire. It supports the continued provision of a comprehensive, flexible and responsive CAMHS, building on previous partnership working.

The CAMHS Joint Commissioning Group ensures that:

- there is a range of early intervention services in universal and targeted services for children experiencing mental health problems
- there is a full range of CAMH services for children and young people with learning disabilities
- 16-17 year olds who require mental health services have access to services/accommodation appropriate for their age and level of maturity
- there is 24 hour cover available to meet urgent mental health needs of children and young people and for a specialist mental health assessment to be undertaken within 24 hours or the next working day when indicated.

The CAMHS Joint Commissioning Group reports to the Children's Trust, which in turn reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

When we will do this

The Nottinghamshire CAMHS Joint Commissioning Group was established in April 2011. Its CAMHS Strategy 2011-13 sets out local priorities for CAMHS.

How this will improve the lives of children, young people and families

Joint planning and commissioning will result in services that are: based on an understanding of needs, evidence based, and reflect value for money. This will enhance local outcomes for children, young people and their families. The group will identify specific commissioning activities, service development opportunities and associated quality or performance measures.

For more information:

- Joint commissioning for emotional wellbeing: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/improvechildrenandyoungpeoplesemoionalwellbeing

4. Other work supported by the Children's Trust

Why we support this work

The seven priorities in this plan identify areas of work where the Children's Trust will take a lead role in coordinating partnership working and in monitoring its effectiveness.

There are a number of other initiatives which the Children's Trust has offered to support. These are in areas of work which will have a significant impact for children, young people and families and where:

- the reporting and accountability for this work is through another partnership group, or
- one partner organisation has an identified lead role, including responsibility for action planning and performance monitoring.

For these initiatives, the Children's Trust will not report on or monitor progress as part of this plan, as to do so would duplicate work done elsewhere. However, we will actively support this work.

Support will include:

- receiving information updates
- identifying how individual partner organisations, or any of the Children's Trust working groups, can contribute to these areas of work.

Initiatives that we will support

The Children's Trust has agreed to support three initiatives in 2011-12, which are outlined here.

Nottinghamshire Youth Crime Strategy for 2010-13

This includes targets to reduce the number of young people committing crime, the rate of re-offending and young people in custody. There is a focus on young people's transition to adulthood.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board is accountable for this work, with Nottinghamshire County Council being the lead organisation through its Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service.

Safer Nottinghamshire Board Partnership Plus Areas (15 Priority Wards)

This work aims to align mainstream partnership resources in areas where there is greatest need to reduce crime. It focuses on hotspot areas within 15 priority wards, which have the highest crime rates in Nottinghamshire.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board is accountable for this work, with Nottinghamshire Police taking a lead role. However, the Children's Trust will provide active support as reduced crime and anti-social behaviour (across all ages) should result in improved communities for families.

The Children's Trust will support this initiative through local working in districts, focusing on particular hotspot areas, and linked to its district partnership arrangements for early intervention work with families.

Work is also being undertaken by children and families services aiming to reduce youth crime.

Nottinghamshire Obesity Strategy.

This is a health-led initiative, including targets for all ages, encompassing work on childhood obesity which includes the National Child Measurement Programme for children in school reception year.

The lead responsibility for this work is likely to be with Public Health, but all partners have agreed to support it.

As the National Child Measurement Programme requires the active support of schools, there is a role for the county council in promoting this work through its information and events for schools.

For more information:

- Youth Crime Strategy:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/youthoffending

5. More about our planning and performance management

How we developed our Children, Young People and Families Plan

The Children's Trust Executive Group has managed the production of this plan. This group comprises senior managers from key partner organisations and it coordinates the work of the Children's Trust. This plan is the result of development activities to:

- identify the needs of children, young people and their families in Nottinghamshire, as presented in a revised children's chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- review evidence of how effectively we are meeting these needs (evidence included inspection reports, a final review of performance for the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11, and other performance data reports)
- consult with key partners through the Children's Trust Board and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) about priorities for the Children's Trust.

Throughout all our development and consultation activities, we adopted a value-for-money approach, using existing meetings or networks for consultation.

In revising the children's chapter of the JSNA, we combined data already held by individual partner organisations to build a shared picture of the situation in Nottinghamshire. We used information from consultation activities undertaken with children, families or communities, including a survey of young people's views commissioned in 2010.

How we will review and update our Children, Young People and Families Plan

Our review process is essential to the performance management of our plan. Reviewing our progress enables us to:

- check that we are doing what we planned to do
- assess if this making an impact.

Every year, we undertake two reviews:

- **Six-monthly Review** This assesses if we are making the progress we expected. If not, we may change some activities contributing to our priorities for action, but are unlikely to change the priorities themselves

- **Annual Review** This is a full review of progress and a re-assessment of the information that we have about the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire, which may lead to changes in our Children's Trust priorities for action. Following this review, we will publish an update of this plan.

How we will measure the impact of our Children, Young People and Families Plan

Each of our priorities for action has associated impact measures, including:

- performance indicators, identifying desired outcomes for a group of children or young people, with associated targets defining improvements expected over a period of time
- ways of identifying the quality of our work, for example, feedback from children, young people or families
- milestones to monitor delivery of planned actions.

From these, we have selected key indicators, targets and milestones to provide an overview of performance across all our priorities. These will be reported on every six months to provide information for our review process.

The table in Section 6 summarises our key performance indicators and targets.

For more information:

- Previous Children and Young People's Plans and Reviews:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cypspersformanceplansandpublications
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) children and young people's chapter:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jointstrategicneedsassessment

6. Children, Young People and Families Plan: Summary of Performance Measures

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	CURRENT PERFORMANCE	TARGET FOR 2011/12	Implement Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy	Sustain and build on improvements made in safeguarding	Improve the effectiveness of services for disabled children	Implement child poverty strategy	Reduce achievement gap at all key stages	Raise achievement age 16-19 and equip young people to enter the workplace	Improve children and young people's emotional wellbeing
The number of children requiring statutory child protection interventions (child protection plans rate per 10,000)	48	Review and reduce	✓✓	✓					
The number of contacts made to children's social care	17,790	Review and reduce	✓✓	✓					
The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care going on to initial assessment	77%	Review and reduce	✓✓	✓					
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System	N C	Baseline & targets pending definition revision by Ministry of Justice	✓✓			✓			
Breast-feeding prevalence rates at 6-8 weeks (Nottinghamshire NHS)	39.2%	39.5%	✓✓						
Breast-feeding prevalence rates at 6-8 weeks (Bassetlaw NHS)	Awaiting data	Awaiting target	✓✓						
Percentage of Reception age children (measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme) who have a healthy weight	76.9% (2009/10)	77.2%	✓✓						
Percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools	C	5.8%	✓✓				✓		
Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within timescales	N C	65.5% (p)		✓✓					
Core assessments for children's social care carried out within timescales	N C	64.4% (p)		✓✓					
Percentage of re-referrals to children's social care	N C	35.6% (p)		✓✓					
Children who are subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more	N C	5.7% (p)		✓✓					
Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion	N C	13.8% (p)		✓✓					
Self-assessment of quality of our care (based on audits of partnership practice)	C	Qualitative assessment	Improvement evidenced	✓✓					
Children's Services Assessment (inspection by Ofsted)	N	Inadequate judgement	Adequate judgement	✓✓					
Dependent children who live in households whose income is below 60% of national average	N C	16.8%	Achieve downward trend	✓		✓✓			
Early years foundation stage attainment	C	53%	58%	✓			✓✓		
Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English & maths	N C	51.4%	58.5%				✓✓	✓	
Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at Key Stage 4	C	35.5%	32%	✓		✓	✓✓	✓	
Participation in education and work-based learning in Years 12-14		83% (2009/10)	89% (TBC*)	✓			✓	✓✓	
Percentage of Years 12-14 NEET (Not in education, employment or training)	C	4.5%	4.6% (TBC*)	✓		✓	✓	✓✓	
Percentage of young people who have attained a full Level 3 qualification by 19		45.1%	47%				✓	✓✓	
Milestone monitoring approach will be adopted to track progress		n/a	n/a		✓✓				✓✓

- ✓✓ Priority for which this is a primary performance indicator
- ✓ Priority for which this is an additional performance indicator
- N Indicates that performance indicator is also used in Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan
- C Indicates that performance indicator is also used in Nottinghamshire County Council Children, Families and Cultural Services

* The definitions for these measures have changed in the last year - guidance is awaited from the Department for Education before targets can be confirmed.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

We are fully committed to the promotion of equality and diversity through the implementation of this plan. We will do this by identifying need and working together to address this, within our available resources.

This plan is based on a comprehensive evaluation of the needs of children and young people in the county. In 2010, we undertook a complete refresh of the children's chapter of Nottinghamshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This brings together data from partner services to provide an overview of needs across the county.

The JSNA children's chapter includes analyses based on age, disability, race, religion or belief and social exclusion (we had insufficient data to produce analyses based on gender reassignment or sexual orientation).

We have undertaken an equality impact assessment to consider how this plan impacts on those with protected characteristics, as we are required to do by the Equality Act 2010. Our findings are summarised here.

The table below identifies the key findings from our Equality Impact Assessment

Equality/Diversity Area	Positive Impact	Adverse Impact	Unmet need in relation to equalities	Evidence
Age	Yes	No	No	Services for children and families are by definition aimed at particular age groups and some services have age-related eligibility criteria. Some targeted action in this plan may focus on particular age groups where higher need levels have been identified, e.g. early intervention work with young children and a focus on participation and learning outcomes for 16-19 year olds. This will have a positive impact for these groups.
Disability	Yes	No	No	We have identified areas where our partnership working can improve the provision of services to children with disabilities, and have specific priority areas within this plan to do so. This includes developing joint commissioning for disability and for child and adolescent mental health, and implementing a review of the inclusion service in schools.
Gender/Gender reassignment	Yes	No	No	Our needs analysis considered outcomes for children and young people in relation to gender. Where it is appropriate, targeted or early intervention work will include work to reduce gender-related disadvantage. e.g. some of our early intervention work is aimed at young mothers. We have no direct evidence related to gender reassignment and outcomes, but our partner services have relevant equal opportunities policies.
Race	Yes	No	No	Our needs analysis included demographic analyses by ethnic group, and the strategic plans underlying our priorities consider the impact of race on outcomes for children and young people, and may target resources in response, e.g. in educational attainment work. Our partner services have relevant equal opportunities policies.
Religion or belief	No	No	No	Our needs analysis considered outcomes for children and young people in relation to religion or belief. We have not identified a need for a priority to address this, although it is considered in planning action to deliver our priorities. Our partner services have relevant equal opportunities policies.
Sexual orientation	No	No	No	We have no direct evidence of either particular needs or potential adverse impact. Our partner services have relevant equal opportunities policies.
Other area of social exclusion	Yes	No	No	Partnership working to overcome disadvantage is central to our plan and to the role of the Children's Trust. All of our priorities address disadvantage and promote social inclusion. Our needs analysis has identified where resources should be targeted to improve outcomes.

8. References to related planning or policy information

These are the key information sources referred to in this plan. All of these documents are also referenced within the relevant section.

- Nottinghamshire Child & Family Poverty Strategy
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty
- Nottinghamshire Children's Trust
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust
- Nottinghamshire County Council Children, Families & Cultural Services Business Plan (2011-12)
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cypsperformanceplansandpublications
- Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Social Care Transformation Programme
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childrensocialcaretransformationprogramme
- Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/strategicplan
- Nottinghamshire Early Intervention & Prevention Strategy
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/earlyinterventionandprevention
- Nottinghamshire Joint Commissioning for Disabled Children
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/improvethetheeffectivenessofservicesfordisabledchildren
- Nottinghamshire Joint Commissioning for Emotional Wellbeing
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/improvechildrenandyoungpeoplesemoionalwellbeing
- Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Children & Young People's Chapter)
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jointstrategicneedsassessment
- Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision
- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb
- Nottinghamshire Youth Crime Strategy
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/youthoffending
- Nottinghamshire 16-19 Achievement
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/raiseachievement16to19
- Previous Children & Young People Plans and Reviews
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cypsperformanceplansandpublications



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