

Children and Young People's Committee

Monday, 16 December 2019 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

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|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 18 November 2019 | 5 - 8 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
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Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact 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 - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Date 18 November 2019 (commencing at 10.30am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Philip Owen (Chairman)
Sue Saddington (Vice-Chairman)
Tracey Taylor (Vice-Chairman)

A	Samantha Deakin	Paul Henshaw
	Boyd Elliott	Roger Jackson
	John Handley	John Peck JP
	Yvonne Woodhead	Liz Plant

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

4 Vacancies

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Allen	Group Manager, Place Commissioning
Phil Berrill	Team Manager, Property Commissioning
Steve Edwards	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Karen Hughman	Group Manager, Children and Families Services
Laurence Jones	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Louise Lester	Consultant in Public Health, Public Health
Pip Milbourne	Business Support, Children and Families Services
Martin Gately	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executives
John Wilcox	Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2019 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Deakin.

Changes of Membership – Councillor Woodhead replaced Councillor Henry for this meeting only.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS

RESOLVED 2019/095

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

That:

1) The disestablishment of a 0.2 FTE Social Work (Band B) post and the establishment of a 0.2 FTE Social Work Support Officer (Grade 4) post within the Adoption East Midlands staffing establishment be approved.

5. SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

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

RESOLVED 2019/096

That:

- 1) The progress being made in delivering the Schools Capital Programme be considered and an update be received at a future meeting.
- 2) The approach to identifying projects for the School Building Improvement Programme be approved.
- 3) The forward funding of the feasibility for the Section 106 school projects from the School Places Programme budget be approved.

6. STABILITY INDEX 2019

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

RESOLVED 2019/097

That:

- 1) No actions were required in relation to the performance information on the stability of the Council's services for looked after children contained in the report.

7. TROUBLED FAMILIES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE UPDATE

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

RESOLVED 2019/098

That:

- 1) A follow up report be received in the next six months and that this be included in the work programme.
- 2) A report be brought to this Committee after an announcement from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the funding breakdown for Troubled Families and which provides an update on the impact on the Family Service.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST POST TO SUPPORT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF STRENGTHS BASED PRACTICE

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

RESOLVED 2019/099

That:

- 1) The establishment of 1 FTE Educational Psychologist post within the Educational Psychology Service to further develop and embed the new strengths-based framework for practice across the Children and Families department be approved.

9. CHILDHOOD OBESITY TRAILBLAZER

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

RESOLVED 2019/100

That:

- 1) A further report be received in 12 months.

10. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

RESOLVED 2019/101

That:

- 1) The list of outside bodies that are relevant to the remit of this Committee and the proposed approach for requesting updates in the future be considered.
- 2) An update was required in relation to SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education), and this was to be scheduled for January 2020.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

Further to discussion of the previous item, Members noted that the SACRE update was scheduled for January 2020. In addition, the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer update would be on the agenda 12 months from now.

RESOLVED: 2019/102

That:

- 1) The work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11:07 am.

CHAIRMAN

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – ACTION PLAN****Purpose of the Report**

1. As agreed at Policy Committee on 18th September 2019, this report seeks Committee approval of the Council's detailed action plan formulated in response to the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report "Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils" published on 31st July 2019.
2. The report also seeks approval to establish a cross-party working group of Members and officers to review and develop recommendations regarding the governance arrangement of the Council's Looked After Children care settings.

Information

3. The report of the Leader of the Council to Policy Committee on 18th September 2019 outlined the background of IICSA and in particular its investigation into the institutional response of Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to allegations of sexual abuse made by children who were abused whilst in the care of the Councils and who lived in residential homes or with foster families.
4. That report described how the Council had responded to information requests from IICSA and its participation in the public hearings held in October 2018.
5. The Council's initial response to the IICSA report's findings and its one recommendation for the Council was contained within the report, set out 12 specific actions under five key themes. This subsequent report to Children and Young People's Committee provides further information regarding these 12 actions including progress made to date.
6. The Council has developed action plans for the five key themes, detailed below, those being: **Support for Victims and Survivors, Governance and Scrutiny, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Current Residential and Fostering Services and the Response to the Specific IICSA Recommendation.** Appendix 1 to this report highlights the key themes, lead officers' progress update and timelines for specific actions.

7. The Council has confirmed to IICSA that its identified actions are contained within the published report to Policy Committee in September 2019 and that further detailed information is contained within this published report to the Children and Young People's Committee. This therefore meets the requirement of the Public Hearing Act to publish the Council's response within six months of the publication on the Inquiry report.

Support for Victims and Survivors

Lead Officers: Paul Johnson, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning and Integration, Adult Services; Pam Rosseter, Group Manager, Historical Abuse

Action 1: To engage with victims and survivors in the Council's response to the IICSA report

Action 2: To provide sufficient funds to secure the future of the Historical Abuse Team through the County Council's budget setting process for 2020/21

Action 3: To work with partners on the needs assessment and the review of services for victims and survivors, to inform the future design and recommissioning. Any financial implications will be incorporated into the Councils budget setting process for 2020/21

8. The Council is committed to continuing engagement with victims and survivors and a key element of this is attendance at the ongoing Victim and Survivor Support Group meetings. The Council's actions in response to the IICSA report have been shared with victims and survivors through that forum and the Council will continue to seek victims' and survivors' views to inform development of practice on a regular basis.
9. A continuing robust response to historical / non-recent abuse by maintaining dedicated resources is a key priority for the Council. The Council is committed to this being maintained. The current arrangements have been in place since 2015, funded from contingencies. To ensure a specialised service continues to meet the requirements of both criminal and civil litigation processes and provide support to individual victims and survivors as needed, ongoing funding is going through the formal approval process.
10. The Council will mainstream its response to historical / non-recent abuse by aligning this with revised arrangements for responding to contemporaneous allegations against those who work with children. This will permanently establish such a response within the Council's safeguarding arrangements. The impact of this development will be brought to the Children and Young People's Committee in April 2020.
11. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner together with NHS England have externally commissioned a needs assessment to provide the evidence base for future commissioning of services to support victims and survivors. This work has been informed by consultation with victims and survivors as well as with other key stakeholders including service providers. The Council has contributed to this needs assessment and is supportive of its recommendations which were shared at a meeting of key partners on 8th November 2019. The Council remains committed to continuing to fund specialist posts which provide dedicated support services for victims and survivors and working with partners to strengthen services in order that the needs of victims and survivors can be met in a timely and comprehensive way.

Governance and Scrutiny

Lead Officer: Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families

Action 4 – A reporting process will be developed to provide oversight regarding incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in care, and the response to such incidents

Action 5 – New guidance for Member visits will be issued at the Children's Homes Governance Board in September 2019

Action 6 – The County Council will complete a further comprehensive review of governance arrangements for the Council's Looked After Children care settings

12. A process has been further developed to collate and report incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in care. This will enable senior managers and Members to have an oversight of such incidents and an assurance of the robustness of response. Information will be provided to Children and Young People's Committee in February 2020 and then at six monthly intervals.
13. New guidance for Member visits to Nottinghamshire County Council children's homes was approved at the September meeting of the Children's Homes Governance Board. This Board was established following a report to the Children and Young People's Committee in March 2019 and is a cross-party group led by Members. The guidance established the expectations for the visits, including that Members are encouraged to visit the homes at times where children are present and engage with them. The guidance stated that "visits allow Elected Members to understand more about the experiences of children in care, to hear directly from them and to hear about any concerns or examples of good practice from staff as well as the children themselves". It also established how Members can escalate any concerns. By the end of this calendar year all homes will have been visited by a Member, with the exception of Oakhurst. The Corporate Director also makes unannounced visits to children's homes at times when children are likely to be present. His last visits took place during October half term.
14. Together with the guidance, Members who sit on the Children's Homes Governance Board and undertake the visits to children's homes, are being provided with briefings by Practice Consultants in order that Members have a greater understanding of the organisation of the homes and maximise the effectiveness of these visits. An evaluation of visits undertaken to date will be discussed at the meeting of the Children's Homes Governance Board in January 2020. This will include the views of children and young people.
15. At Policy Committee in September, Members agreed to a review of the governance arrangements for the Council's Looked After Care settings, including consideration of whether the Council should re-establish the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. In order to undertake this review, it is recommended that a cross-party working group, comprising Members and senior officers, should be established to agree the scope, oversee the work and formulate recommendations (**Appendix 2**). It is proposed that the group will meet for the first time in February 2020 and thereafter on a monthly basis. The resulting

recommendations would be contained within a report to the Children and Young People's Committee in July 2020.

16. As part of that review, the Council will ensure there is consistency in practice regarding the submission of serious incident notifications to Ofsted and ensuring senior managers and Members are briefed regarding significant events.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Lead Officer: Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families

Action 7 – A progress report regarding harmful sexual behaviour will be taken to Children and Young People's Committee on 16 December 2019, including an update on the harmful sexual behaviour action plan.

Action 8 – a harmful sexual behaviour multi-agency audit will be completed in 2020.

17. Harmful sexual behaviour refers to abusive behaviour by a child or young person. A full report regarding the development of the Council's strategic and operational response in this area is also on the agenda of this meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee. This work is overseen by a multi-agency Steering Group which includes colleagues from Children's Social Care, Youth Offending Service, police and health.
18. IICSA was positive regarding the Council's actions to further develop its response to harmful sexual behaviour, including undertaking practice audits and implementing recommendations. This included establishing a multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel to oversee the progression of individual cases. The multi-agency Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group, established under the strategic safeguarding arrangements, has responsibility for the oversight and scrutiny of continual improvement in this area.
19. A multi-agency case audit will take place in 2020, with the first planning meeting being held by the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Steering Group in December 2019. At that meeting, the terms of reference and scope for the audit will be detailed. The focus of the audit will be on recognition, procedural compliance and outcomes in regards to individual cases. The findings from this audit and recommendations will be reported to the Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group in June 2020.
20. Additionally, a further organisational audit will be undertaken under the auspices of the strategic safeguarding arrangements. This audit provides a framework for agencies across the partnership to evaluate their strategic and operational response to harmful sexual behaviour and identify any further actions. The audit will allow for improvements in practice to be identified and also highlight any further areas for development across the partnership. The findings from this audit will also be reported to the Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group in June 2020.
21. A further report regarding developments in this area of work, with specific reference to issues and actions arising from the above audits, will be brought to the Children and Young People's Committee in July 2020.

Current residential and fostering services

Lead Officer: Devon Allen, Group Manager, Children's Homes

Action 9 – Review Ofsted inspections of residential children's homes for the past two years and the forthcoming Ofsted inspection of children's services to identify any themes that should be incorporated into the comprehensive action plan arising from the IICSA report

22. Findings from recent Ofsted inspections informed the development of individual action plans for each residential home, complementing issues identified from the Council's own oversight and scrutiny of practice. A comprehensive action plan for residential homes has now been produced to pull together the key themes arising to ensure learning across the residential service.
23. In order to confirm that all relevant actions had been identified, and in response to the above action, a review of all Ofsted inspections since July 2017 has been undertaken by senior managers, covering multiple inspections in that timeframe regarding Minster View, Caudwell House, The Big House, Oakhurst, Lyndene, West View and Clayfields.
24. The residential service action plan has identified key themes relating to staff qualifications, skills and training, including agency staff; governance and scrutiny; understanding of individual children's needs and behaviours; listening to the voice of the child; ensuring a robust response to all concerns and allegations; assessment of suitability of locations of homes; and evidenced based matching processes. A number of actions are identified for each of these key themes, with lead officers identified and updates on progress noted.
25. A number of key actions have been implemented to date, including bespoke training delivered in advance of a new training pathway for residential staff being in place for the 2020/21 training plan; a revised policy to strengthen Regulation 44 visits which are undertaken by three people independent of the Council; residential staff being trained to use the Mind of My Own app with young people; agreement that a part-funded dedicated police officer to liaise with the Council's children's homes will be in place from April 2020; an escalation process with the Virtual School established and the Virtual School Head being part of residential management meetings; and the reinstatement of a Placement Matching Panel.
26. The report following the full Ofsted inspection of children's services which took place during October 2019 is awaited. However, as Ofsted do not publish their Inspection of Local Authority Children Services inspection reports during the pre-General Election period, the report will not be available until the latter part of December. Following receipt of the report, consideration will be given to any further themes which need to be included within the action plan regarding children's homes or fostering services.
27. The detailed residential service action plan will be taken to the January 2020 meeting of the Children's Homes Governance Board.

IICSA Recommendation

28. The IICSA report had one recommendation for Nottinghamshire County Council. This was to assess the risk posed by current and former residential care staff and foster carers. The recommendation also stated that the County Council should ensure that residential care staff and foster carers provided by external agencies should be assessed by those agencies. Work has commenced in response to this recommendation as detailed below.

Staffing Review

Lead Officer: Marjorie Toward, Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees, (directly employed and agency staff)

Lead Officer: Pam Rosseter, Group Manager, Historical Abuse (independent children's homes)

Action 10 – Complete review of existing residential staff and take any necessary actions by January 2020

Action 11 – Review information available in relation to former members of staff and determine any necessary actions using a risk-based approach by January 2020

29. Prior to the publication of the IICSA report, a process had begun to review the existing children's residential workforce in order to be assured of the suitability of the workforce. A letter was sent by the Corporate Director for Children and Families Services to residential staff to confirm that this work was underway in line with the publication of the report to Policy Committee in September. This letter clarified for staff that the review would be considering current information held on personal files, employment procedure files such as discipline or capability, as well as seeking the views of line managers where concerns have previously been raised.
30. Discussions have taken place with relevant Trade Unions to keep them fully informed of the review being undertaken and the rationale for this.
31. Following completion of the above reviews, it is planned for a panel of senior managers, chaired by the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services, to be held to consider any issues which have been identified during the review processes. The panel will then decide if there is any action required in individual cases. Individual members of staff will be informed if any action is being considered in their case. Any identified actions will follow the Council's existing employment policies and procedures and include consideration of notification to external bodies accordingly.
32. Work is also underway to review former employees on a risk assessed basis and identify any necessary actions using the information collated for the Public Inquiry. It is intended to complete this review by the end of January 2020.
33. The second phase relates to residential staff provided externally and those employed within independent children's homes where Nottinghamshire children have been placed. In response to the first part, the Council is engaging the cooperation of the provider who supplies agency staff for the Council's children's homes, since 2015, to undertake a review

of their current and former staff and take any necessary actions in a similar way to the process outlined above for the Council's own staff. Additionally, a letter has been sent to all independent children's homes on the East Midlands Framework to also engage their cooperation in completing a similar review. Support has been offered to these providers in this respect, including the opportunity to attend a briefing session. A timeline has been set for reviews to be completed by the end of April 2020.

Foster Carer Review

Lead Officer: Pam Rosseter, Group Manager, Historical Abuse

Action 12 – Senior managers will scope the approach to the assessment of the potential risks posed by current and former foster carers, for incorporation into the comprehensive action plan

34. The response to allegations of sexual abuse made against a foster carer follow a robust process, being referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer and following agreed child protection procedures. This is followed by a review undertaken by a Fostering Independent Reviewing Officer, consideration at a Fostering Panel and ultimately a decision made by a senior manager as to whether the carer is suitable to continue to foster.
35. Similar to the actions in relation to residential staff, the response to this action will incorporate consideration of both current and former foster carers registered by the Council and those provided by independent fostering agencies. In terms of the Council's current and former carers, a meeting of senior managers was held in September 2019 to consider the best approach to take to respond to this recommendation and the conclusion was reached to commission an external consultant to lead on this review in order to fully demonstrate independent scrutiny of the process. The Council's preferred agency provider has been approached in order to identify appropriately qualified and experienced potential consultants. The decision as to who will be appointed to this role will rest with the Corporate Director, Children and Families Services. The intention is for the review to commence in January 2020 and be completed by the end of April 2020. Funding for this approach has been secured. The review will include consideration of all appropriate documentation, such as initial checks, annual reviews and responses to any previously identified concerns.
36. A risk-based methodology has been developed to review the foster carer cases and this is currently being trialled on a small number of cases to ensure fitness for purpose prior to the independent review commencing.
37. In respect of Independent Fostering Agencies, a meeting was held between senior managers from the Council and Nottingham City Council, who had the same recommendation in the IICSA report, where it was agreed that a joint approach would be undertaken to avoid any duplication of process. In order to engage with Independent Fostering Agencies and gain their co-operation to undertake a review, a joint letter was sent in October 2019 to the 69 Independent Fostering Agencies that are either on the East Midlands Framework or have had a child placed with their foster carers from either Council in recent years. Support has been offered to the independent agencies, primarily by providing a briefing session on 30th October 2019 to explain the recommendation and provide examples of the approach being taken by the Councils. It is the responsibility of each Independent Fostering Agency to quality assure their own review process, but each

agency contacted has been asked to confirm their agreement to conducting a review. To date, 44 of the 69 agencies contacted have returned a signed form stating their intention to undertake a review in line with the IICSA recommendation. Further contact is being made with the remaining agencies to clarify their response. The Councils have requested that the agency reviews are completed by the end of April 2020 and for confirmation of completion to be sent to the Council.

38. All children looked after who are not placed with internal foster carers are placed with carers from agencies on the East Midlands Framework. If this is not possible and a placement is sourced from an agency which is not a member of the Framework, then the placement will be under the same individual placement agreement as the Framework. The future D2N2 Framework, which will be active from February 2020, will strengthen arrangements to ensure that agencies undertake safeguarding checks, DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and report any allegations.

Other Options Considered

39. No other options were considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

40. The County Council is supportive of the report by IICSA and will fulfil the recommendation in order to produce assurance that any risks posed by current and former residential staff and foster carers have been addressed in order to keep children in the Council's care safe. The Council will also go beyond the recommendation to respond to other issues arising from the report findings and identify further work to improve practice and outcomes for victims and survivors and current children in care.

Statutory and Policy Implications

41. 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

42. To ensure a specialised service continues to meet the requirements of both criminal and civil litigation processes and provide support to individual victims and survivors as needed, ongoing funding of £248,000 will be required. This will be taken into account when constructing the budget for 2020/21.
43. The commissioning of an external consultant to review potential risks posed by current and former foster carers, referred to at **paragraph 35**, is approximately £30,000 and will be met from the IICSA reserve.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

44. The proposed assessment of potential risks posed by current and former residential staff and foster carers should strengthen arrangements for the safeguarding of children and adults.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the action plan formulated in response to the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse report 'Children in Care of Nottinghamshire Councils' is approved (**Appendix 1**), and a progress report is brought back to the Children and Young People's Committee in July 2020
- 2) a cross-party working group of Members and officers is established to review the governance of Looked After Children care settings and provide recommendations to the Children and Young People's Committee in July 2020.

Colin Pettigrew
Corporate Director, Children and Families

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Pam Rosseter
Group Manager, Historical Abuse
T: 0115 977 3921
E: pam.rosseter@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (GR 04/12/19)

45. Pursuant to the County Council's constitution this committee has the delegated authority to receive this report and make the recommendations contained therein.

Financial Comments (SAS 03/12/19)

46. To ensure a specialised service continues to meet the requirements of both criminal and civil litigation processes and provide support to individual victims and survivors as needed, ongoing funding of £248,000 will be required. This will be taken into account when constructing the budget for 2020/21.
47. The commissioning of an external consultant to review potential risks posed by current and former foster carers, referred to at **paragraph 35**, is approximately £30,000 and will be met from the IICSA reserve.

HR Comments (BC 03/12/2019)

48. As detailed in the IICSA action plan, existing residential staff and the recognised trade unions have been informed of the staffing review. Individual members of staff will be

informed if any action is being considered in their case and any identified actions will follow the Council's existing employment policies and procedures and include consideration of notification to appropriate external bodies.

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.

[Staffing Resources for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - report to Policy Committee on 15 June 2016](#)

[Responses to Historical Child Abuse – Resources - report to Policy Committee on 20 December 2017](#)

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - report to Full Council on 18 January 2018](#)

[Response to Historical Child Abuse – Resources - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 March 2019](#)

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1327

IICSA – Action Plan

Theme	Action	Lead Officers	Update
Support for Victims and Survivors	Action 1 – To engage with victims and survivors in the Council's response to the IICSA Report	Paul Johnson, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning, Safeguarding and Access, Adult Services;	Policy Committee Report shared with Victims and Survivor Support Group. Completed - September 2019 Continue to inform and seek feedback from Victims and Survivors of developments. Ongoing
	Action 2 – To confirm the future of the Historical Abuse Team through the County Council's budget setting process for 2020/21	Pam Rosseter, Group Manager, Historical Abuse	Ongoing funding for dedicated resources for historical/non-recent abuse is going through the formal approval process. Completed The development of a new service model which will permanently embed historical/non-recent abuse within the Councils safeguarding arrangements. April 2020 To continue to work with victims and survivors to ensure they have access to support services. Ongoing
	Action 3 – To work with partners on the needs assessment and the review of services for victims and survivors, to inform future design and recommissioning. Any financial implications will be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2020/21.	Paul Johnson, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning, Safeguarding and Access, Adult Services;	The Council is supportive of the recommendations of the needs assessment regarding support services for victims and survivors. Completed - November 2019 Continued funding for the Survivor Support Service and the Sexual Violence Engagement Manager. Completed - November 2019.

Appendix 1

Theme	Action	Lead Officers	Update
Governance and Scrutiny	Action 4 – A reporting process will be developed to provide oversight regarding incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in care, and the response to such incidents	Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families	<p>A system to collate incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in the care of the Council has been developed. Completed – November 2019</p> <p>A report providing oversight of incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in care of the Council will be brought to Children and Young People's Committee at 6 monthly intervals. February 2020 (and ongoing)</p>
	Action 5 – New guidance for Member visits will be issued at the Children's Homes Governance Board in September 2019	Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families	<p>New guidance for Member visits was approved at the Children's Homes Governance Board. Completed – September 2019.</p> <p>All Council children's homes visited by a Member under the new guidance. December 2019</p> <p>Briefings held for Members of the Children's Homes Governance Board regarding undertaking visits to children's homes. Ongoing – Completion in December 2019</p> <p>Evaluation of Member visits since new guidance has been in place will be considered at the Children's Homes Governance Board along with the views of children and young people. January 2020</p>
	Action 6 – The County Council will complete a further comprehensive review of governance arrangements for the Council's Looked After Children care settings	Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families	<p>Cross-party working group to review the governance arrangements for the Council's looked after children care settings. February – May 2020</p> <p>Report to Children and Young People's Committee providing recommendations on the governance arrangements for the Council's looked after children care settings. July 2020</p>

Appendix 1

Theme	Action	Lead Officers	Update
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	Action 7 – A progress report regarding harmful sexual behaviour will be taken to Children and Young People's Committee on 16 December 2019, including an update on the harmful sexual behaviour action plan.	Lead Officer: Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families	Full progress report regarding harmful sexual behaviour has been taken to Children and Young People Committee. Including an updated harmful sexual behaviour action plan. Completed – December 2019
	Action 8 – a harmful sexual behaviour multi-agency audit will be completed in 2020.	Lead Officer: Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families	Scope and plan of the harmful sexual behaviour audits to be agreed by the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Steering Group. December 2019 Harmful sexual behaviour case audit to provide feedback and a paper to the Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group. June 2020 Harmful sexual behaviour organisational audit to provide feedback and a paper to the Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group. June 2020 Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group to provide a report to Children and Young People's Committee on the outcomes of both the case and organisational harmful sexual behaviour audits. July 2020
Current Residential and Fostering Services	Action 9 – Review Ofsted inspections of residential children's homes for the past two years and the forthcoming Ofsted inspection of children's services to identify any themes that should be	Lead Officer: Devon Allen, Group Manager, Children's Homes	Review of OFSTED inspections of residential children's homes for the past two years. Completed – October 2019 A residential action plan has been developed and actions are being undertaken. The action plan will be taken to the Children's Homes Governance Board. January 2020

Appendix 1

Theme	Action	Lead Officers	Update
	incorporated into the comprehensive action plan arising from the IICSA report		OFSTED inspection of the Council under the Local Authority Children Services inspection framework took place in October 2019. Publication will be in December 2019. On publication a review of whether any additional actions are required will be undertaken. January 2020
IICSA Recommendation – Staffing Review	Action 10 – Complete review of existing residential staff and take any necessary actions by January 2020	Lead Officer: Marjorie Toward, Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees (directly employed and agency staff)	<p>Existing staff informed of the review. Completed – September 2019</p> <p>Meeting with Trade Unions to consider the IICSA report, recommendations and actions being taken. Completed – September 2019</p> <p>Review of existing residential staff files will be completed. January 2020</p> <p>Panels to be held, chaired by the Corporate Director of Children’s Service, to decide any actions arising from the reviews. December 2019 - January 2020</p> <p>Meeting held with current agency provider to determine their actions to undertake the review of their agency staff. December 2019</p> <p>The Council preferred agency provider confirms that they have undertaken their review and taken any necessary actions required. April 2020</p> <p>Letter sent to independent residential children’s homes on the East Midlands Framework, engaging their cooperation to take part in the review of their residential care staff. Completed – November 2019</p>

Appendix 1

Theme	Action	Lead Officers	Update
		Group Manager, Historical Abuse (independent)	Briefing held by the Council for providers of independent children's homes. January 2020 Independent residential children's homes confirming that they have undertaken the review and taken any necessary actions required. End of April 2020
	Action 11 – Review information available in relation to former members of staff and determine any necessary actions.	Lead Officer: Marjorie Toward, Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees, and Monitoring Officer	Review of former members of staff using a risk based methodology will be completed. January 2020
IICSA Recommendation – Foster Carer Review	Action 12 – Senior managers will scope the approach to the assessment of the potential risks posed by current and former foster carers, for incorporation into the comprehensive action plan	Lead Officer: Pam Rosseter, Group Manager, Historical Abuse	Scoping the approach of the review. Agreed that an independent reviewer is required to provide appropriate scrutiny. Completed - September 2019 A risk based methodology developed to review the foster carer cases. Completed - November 2019 Funding secured for the Independent Reviewer. Completed - November 2019 Candidate for Independent Reviewer selected. December 2019 Independent Reviewer starting. January 2020

Appendix 1

Theme	Action	Lead Officers	Update
			<p>Review of both current and former fosters carers using the risk based methodology by the Independent Reviewer. January – April 2020</p> <p>A report with recommendations received from Independent Reviewer and action agreed. May 2020</p> <p>Agreement with Nottingham City Council to complete Independent Fostering Agency recommendation jointly. Completed - September 2019</p> <p>Letter sent to all Independent Fostering Agencies who are either on the East Midlands Framework or have had a child placed by the Council, to gain their cooperation to undertake the review of their foster carers. Completed - October 2019</p> <p>Briefing held by the County and City Council for Independent Fostering Agencies to provide information regarding undertaking the review of their foster carers. Completed - October 2019</p>
Children and Young People's Committee is provided with an update regarding all aspects of the action plan. July 2020			



Terms of Reference

Cross-Party Working Group - Review of the Governance Arrangements of the Council's Looked After Care Settings

Purpose

To review the current governance arrangements for all children in the care of Nottinghamshire County Council, i.e. those placed within internal and external residential and foster care settings. This will include undertaking an evaluation of the current Children's Homes Governance Board.

To present proposals to the Children's and Young People's Committee recommending arrangements which would provide the most effective and robust governance and scrutiny.

Background

In the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's (IICSA) 'Children in the care of the Nottinghamshire Councils' (July 2019) report, the inquiry made reference to the Council's governance and scrutiny arrangements in regard to children in the Council's care, stating that in the 1980s and 1990s there was a "serious failure of scrutiny and governance".

In order to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council's ongoing governance arrangements are effective in regards to children in the care of the Council, the Council's Policy Committee on the 18th September 2019 agreed to there being a review of the governance arrangements of its looked after care settings.

Membership

The Chair and Party leads of the Children and Young People's Committee will select members to sit on the working group. The membership will include the following roles:

2 Conservative Councillors (1 would Chair)

2 Labour Councillors

1 Mansfield Independents Councillor

1 Ashfield Independents Councillor

Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families Services

Head of the Virtual School

Group Manager, Looked After Children, Leaving Care and Fostering

Group Manager, Residential Care

Group Manager, Historical Abuse / IICSA

Chair of the Children in Care Council



Timelines and Outcomes

First meeting of the group will be in February 2020, meeting over three months, in order to produce a set of recommendations for the Children and Young People's Committee in July 2020.

Administration

Administration will be provided by Philippa Milbourne.

The agenda and papers will be sent to the membership one week before the meeting is held. All enquiries should be sent to philippa.milbourne@nottscc.gov.uk.

16th December 2019**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME AND
CARE: SIX MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. Further to the annual report to Committee in June 2019, the purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a six monthly update on the work currently in place to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home and care.

Information**Strategic Partnerships, Governance and Service Provision**

2. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and children missing from home and care continue to be high priority areas of work by partner agencies in Nottinghamshire and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) provides the primary governance for this multi-agency activity with the partnership receiving regular data and an annual report. Immediate governance for CSE work is provided by the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross-Authority Group (CSECAG) and a Nottinghamshire multi-agency strategic group for missing children.
3. As previously reported to Committee, following the publication of the revised statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018), a focus has been on considering a wide range of 'contextual safeguarding' issues in recognition of the complexities of assessing children who may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. This includes CSE but also other forms of exploitation including criminal exploitation, radicalisation and trafficking by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines. Pathways to address these concerns have now been established and training is being planned. However it is recognised that there is potentially a significant overlap between different forms of exploitation and children missing can be both a symptom and /or increase vulnerability to all forms of exploitation. Consideration is currently being given to how strategic arrangements can be combined whilst not weakening what has been in place to date. It is anticipated that decisions will have been made and will be able to be reported by the time of the next annual report to Committee.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

4. Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 CSE data is as follows:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Q1	Q2
Total children identified as potentially at risk of CSE*	433	525	560	136	166
New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referrals re CSE	263	324	361	78	99
CSE Risk Assessments completed	335	439	378	69	88
Children considered at CSE Strategy Meetings	82	108	64	10	13
Peak age range (yrs)	14-15	15-16	15-17	14-16	14-15
Female:Male ratio	80:20	79:21	74:26	77:23	71:29
Children monitored at Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel	N/A	65	54	10	13

* (new and open cases)

5. Caution should be taken when looking at individual quarter figures or half year figures as there are often variations that balance out at the end of the year. There is also a natural lag in some of the figures as cases work their way through the system. However, at this point it appears we are roughly in line with last year for new CSE referrals into the MASH and slightly up on the total when including CSE identified within existing open cases. Within the annual report presented to Committee in June 2019 it was explained that investigations had shown some incorrect flagging of CSE in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Training was provided to address this but given the numbers not having reduced further consideration of these figures is required.
6. On current projections the number of CSE risk assessments carried out will be below that of last year. As this is a measure of completed assessments it could be subject to lag if there is any delay in beginning the assessment. Again, this will require investigation over the next quarter. Additionally the number of cases being considered at CSE strategy meetings is projected to fall. As previously postulated, this may be a function of an increased number of CSE cases being taken through standard child protection processes (i.e. to a child protection conference) or to the new Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Panel. As stated in the previous annual report, work is planned to explore this and will be covered within the next report to Committee.
7. The age range and gender split of children being considered remains consistent with previous reports.
8. The numbers of cases coming through for consideration by the Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE) appear in line with last year though as numbers are low conclusions are best drawn later in the year.

9. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner funded post working specifically with boys subject to exploitation across Nottinghamshire and the City is now up and running. This is a part time post hosted by the Children's Society alongside our current Children's Society commissioned services. It is early days but a small cohort is currently receiving a service and is said to be very positively engaged.
10. Very positive work with Nottinghamshire police continues in relation to the investigation, prosecution and disruption of CSE activity in the County. A revised confidential 'problem profile' is due to be distributed by the police before the end of the calendar year and this will allow priorities and tactical approaches to be reviewed.
11. Revised cross-authority, multi-agency CSE procedures have been developed to include learning from a recent serious case review. Further internal briefings for staff including foster carers are currently being delivered and further multi-agency training is planned before the year end.
12. Audit work looking at the impact of CSE interventions has been carried out in the last two quarters and a report of the outcome of this work will be taken to the NSCP Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement meeting in December 2019. A summary of the findings will be included in the CSE/Children Missing annual report to Committee.

Children Missing from Home and Care

13. Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 children missing from home and care data is as follows:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Q1	Q2
Total notifications of children 'missing' and 'missing – no apparent risk'*	2,662	2,461	2,764	721	609
*relating to individuals	994	951	967	337	318
*ratio males to females	52:48	54:45	53:47	60:40	55:45
*age range (yrs)	14-17	13-17	14-17	13-17	14-17
	Validated post year end 2016/17				
Children missing from home (relating to individuals)	705	695 (1,269 episodes)	686 (1,230 episodes)	217 (293 episodes)	206 (296 episodes)
NCC Children missing from care (relating to individuals)	163	140 (764 episodes)	173 (973 episodes)	79 (262 episodes)	61 (161 episodes)

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Q1	Q2
<i>NB includes NCC looked after children missing from out of area</i>					
Other Local Authority Children missing from care in Notts	145	119	147	47	58
(relating to individuals)		(427 episodes)	(582 episodes)	(166 episodes)	(152 episodes)
Return Interviews (RIs)					
% RIs completed by Children's Social Care			70% (977)	70% (238)	64% (168)
% RIs completed by Family Service			94% (354)	97% (131)	88% (105)
% RIs completed by Adoption Service			100% (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
% RIs completed by other Local Authorities			36% (173)	31% (43)	34% (44)
% Multi-agency meetings completed	74	67	78% (284)	69% (66)	81% (48)

14. Total notifications (episodes) of children missing from home and care are currently on track to remain largely consistent with previous years. The numbers of individuals this relates to cannot be accurately predicted to year end as it would be expected that this measure will not increase uniformly (i.e. some individuals going missing will be represented all year with an uneven number of missing episodes per individual). Likewise there is a limited amount to be drawn from the profile information at this stage. The split between missing from home/care looks roughly in line with last year's figures with 'Other Local Authority' children at the moment projected to be slightly down.
15. As detailed in the annual report, return interviews (RIs) represent a key tool to enable workers to understand the reasons for missing and so intervene with an aim of reducing numbers of missing episodes. The RI is also important in understanding the level of risk a young person may be at whilst missing, informing work to mitigate that risk.
16. Increasing the number and quality of completed RIs was a priority this year and, notwithstanding quarterly variations, it is disappointing to see no improvement to date. Some of this is due to recording issues rather than actions not being completed. Very recently a new notification and recording process in the electronic file system, Mosaic, has been launched. This will make the system much more straightforward and it is expected that the second two quarters of the year will see an improvement. This will be an area for continued focus for the next six months.

17. There also remains attention to children from other local authorities who go missing in Nottinghamshire. Numbers of completed return interviews remains stubbornly low. Within the region the agreed protocol appears to be working but does not apply to those from further afield. In these circumstances a local chargeable service is offered but regularly not taken up. Cases will be addressed on an individual basis with the relevant authority and staff urged to use escalation procedures where appropriate.
18. Work will continue against all key priorities identified in the 2018/19 annual report and a full progress report included at year end.

Other Options Considered

19. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. Agree future arrangements for the Committee to receive performance data and information on this work.

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.

Financial Implications

22. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee agrees to receive annual reports with a six monthly update to provide an overview of the work to address the threat of Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care in Nottinghamshire.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (EP 25/11/19)

23. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report.

Financial Comments (SAS 25/11/19)

24. 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.

[Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: annual report 2018/19 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17th June 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1321

16th December 2019**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****CHILDREN'S HOMES GOVERNANCE BOARD UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Committee in relation to the Children's Homes Governance Board and seeks approval for a review of the revised governance arrangements for the Council's children's homes to be incorporated into the wider review of the Council's Looked After Children care settings.
2. The report also seeks approval for all Members of the Children and Young People's Committee to be involved in announced and unannounced visits to children's homes on at least an annual basis in accordance with the guidance.

Information

3. On 18th March 2019 Children and Young People's Committee received a report on Rota Visits by Elected Members. Committee agreed recommendations within the report for the withdrawal of the guidance on Rota Visits by Elected Members and that visits under that guidance would cease. They also agreed to the establishment of a new Children's Homes Governance Board to oversee the Council's children's homes, including Clayfields House Secure Unit, led by Elected Members and with cross-party representation alongside senior professionals from multi-disciplinary backgrounds. Terms of Reference were produced and agreed by the Committee on 20th May 2019 .
4. It was further agreed that a report from the Governance Board on its work would be presented to Committee and that a review of the revised governance arrangements would be present in March 2020. It has subsequently been agreed by Policy Committee on 18 September 2019 in respect of a report on the Initial Response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse that the County Council will complete a further review of governance arrangements for the Council's Looked After Children care settings. It is therefore proposed that the review of the Children Homes Governance Board arrangements should be incorporated into this wider review.
5. The Governance Board has met on three occasions in June, September and November and has received Ofsted and Regulation 44 reports in respect of the children's homes under the direct control of the Local Authority. Regulation 44 reports are produced monthly by an independent person who visits the home. There have been no significant issues raised in

respect of progress on actions recommended within these reports. Clayfields House received an 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgement in June 2019 but action taken has meant that all compliance notices have been lifted and a further inspection has resulted in a 'Requires Improvement' judgement with confidence that this will improve again at the next inspection. The home continues to work with NHS England, as commissioners of health services to Clayfields House, to strengthen the performance of this area which has been of concern due to issues with health staffing. Work is also underway to improve recruitment and retention more generally within the home and to establish a financial plan, funded by the income received directly by the unit, to ensure ongoing investment to improve resources.

6. New guidance has been agreed by the Board for Elected Member visits to children's homes and this is attached as **Appendix 1**. The two Elected Members on the Governance Board have been undertaking a programme of unannounced visits to children's homes and all homes will have been visited at least once by the end of the calendar year. To promote the corporate parenting responsibilities of Elected Members it is proposed that all members of the Children and Young People's Committee should become involved in an announced or unannounced visit, alongside Member representatives on the Board, to these homes and to selected commissioned homes in the private market on at least an annual basis in accordance with the guidance. The Principal Social Worker has agreed to provide training and advice for Elected Members to assist them in preparing for these visits.
7. Oakhurst children's home has not been operational in recent months. The home has now been refurbished and a new Registered Manager, with considerable experience, has been appointed and approved by Ofsted. The home will be operational early in December 2019.
8. The Board has identified a piece of work to be completed regarding the future arrangements for programmes on management of aggression within the homes. This is due to changes to the scheme that has been used for some years within the Local Authority. Further details of this work will be presented to the Committee in the next update report.

Other Options Considered

9. Alternative options for the governance of children's homes directly run by the Local Authority will be considered should Committee approve the recommendation for this to be incorporated into the wider review of the Council's Looked After Children care settings.

Reason for Recommendations

10. The recommendations support the delivery of corporate parenting and the Local Authority's initial response to the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) a review of the revised governance arrangements for the Council's children's homes be incorporated into the wider review of the Council's Looked After Children care settings
- 2) all members of the Children and Young People's Committee be involved in announced or unannounced visits to children's homes on at least an annual basis in accordance with the guidance.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LW 21/11/19)

13. Children & Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/11/19)

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.

[Rota visits by Elected Members – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18th March 2019](#)

[Terms of Reference for the Children's Homes Governance Board – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 20th May 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1324

Purpose of the Visit

Elected Members are all Corporate Parents to children in the care of the Local Authority and as such showing an interest in the wellbeing and progress of these children and young people is encouraged, including visits to residential settings. These visits allow Elected Members to understand more about the experiences of children in care, to hear directly from them and to hear about any concerns or examples of good practice from staff as well as the children themselves.

Elected Members are not expected to "inspect" or form judgements on the performance or safe operation of the homes. The Children's Home Governance Board is responsible for oversight of performance based on regulation 44/45 reports, Ofsted reports, management reports and subsequent action plans.

Planning and Undertaking Visits

Visits should be formed of a mixture of pre-announced and unannounced visits.

Visits to homes should where possible be organised outside of school hours.

For pre-announced visits Elected Members should be accompanied on their visit by the Home Manager or their nominee. For unannounced visits Elected Members should be accompanied by a Manager or senior practitioner from outside of the home.

Direct Contact with Children and Young People

Elected Members are encouraged to visit at times when young people are more likely to be present in the home and to engage with them. If a young person requests to speak to an Elected Member alone then this is permissible but should always be conducted in a situation which is observable by residential staff.

Suggested Questions for Elected Members to consider

- Whether the children/young people in the setting are happy, and if not why and what is being done about it
- Where young people say is the place that they can get help and support
- Whether the children in the setting are engaging with and making progress in education or training
- Whether there have been any issues in the health needs of the children being met and, if so, what action is being taken
- Whether there are any issues with children's behaviour and that the staff team feel confident in addressing these
- What leisure activities the children are involved in.

Members may also be interested in the home environment and making sure that it is appropriate and that any routine cleaning and maintenance tasks are being undertaken.



Escalation of Concerns

Any immediate concerns should be addressed to the Home Manager escorting the visit.

Elected Members should also feel free to raise these concerns with the Responsible Individual overseeing the Children's Homes (currently Devon Allen) or any of the Directors in the Children and Families Senior Leadership Team.

Reporting any Routine Findings from Visits

Following the visit members are asked to send an email outlining their observations to Philippa.Milbourne@nottscc.gov.uk along with any recommendations. This will then be placed on the agenda for the Children's Homes Governance Board. Feedback on any subsequent action will be relayed to the relevant Elected Member by the Chair of that Board.

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE & IMPROVEMENT

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET - PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE FOR QUARTER 2

Purpose of the Report

1. 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 2 of 2019/20 (1st July to 30th September 2019).

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 2019/20

5. This report provides a summary of the quarter 2 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. Performance in this area remains consistent and within timescales with 97.4% of assessments completed within timescale this quarter. The Assessment Service continue to complete timely and proportionate Child and Family Assessments with this quarters figure in line with what we have achieved over the previous year.

Child protection

8. A further increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan has been noted. However, operational and strategic managers remain confident that child protection plans are only being made where appropriate, and as previously reported QA work to date has supported this view. There have been previous concerns about the time children were remaining on plans which would inflate this figure. However, this quarter has seen a reduction in that measure. If that progress is maintained (and entries remain stable) we would expect to see this measure reduce.
9. A very marked improvement in CPPs lasting 2 years or more has been noted this quarter, which is welcomed. This can be subject to monthly fluctuation, so we will need to see this improvement maintained before being confident that progress is sustained. Close management attention is given to all plans over 15mths in duration.
10. The percentage of children becoming the subject of a CPP for a second or subsequent time has shown an increase on the last quarter which is of concern (though the current live figure remains in line with the last quarter). If one looks at the repeat plan figure for a previous plan in the last two years, the figure drops to 11.2%. None the less, as previously reported this is an area receiving ongoing management attention. Given the lack of improvement a piece of work will be commissioned through the NSCP to explore this in more detail.
11. Although below our locally set target, the percentage of CPPs reviewed within timescale has seen an increase on the last quarter. This positive figure remains above both national and statistical neighbour performance.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing

12. Reports to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) of CSE concerns have risen closer to expected levels; this is positive and shows a continued vigilance by partners and the public. Consequent activity has also risen. This area of work continues to receive close management attention and a more detailed analysis of this work will be provided in specific committee reports in December 2019.

13. It is positive to see that the number of individual missing children is down this quarter with a marked decline in overall missing occurrences. Likewise the percentage of LAC missing has had a marked decline this quarter and is well below available figures for England and stat neighbour levels. The level of completed return interviews has shown a further decrease. As reported last quarter, we are targeting work in this area so hope to report an improvement later in the year as a result.

Looked After Children

14. This measure considers children in care (CiC) who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all CiC, and the data show an improvement in performance from the previous two quarters. Additionally, whilst the general rule of fewer placement moves resulting in better outcomes prevails for the majority of cases, the computation of this specific performance indicator works against the otherwise excellent work done within children's social care to transition 16/17 year old LAC into a number of discrete supported placements that provide this group of elder young people with the necessary life skills to equip them for independence into adulthood. Almost 40% of the young people who experience multiple placement moves are over 16 years of age.
15. Please note, some level of caution should be exercised when benchmarking against national data because there is a difference between how the current Nottinghamshire figure is calculated and the way in which the national average data was computed in 2017/18. It effectively over-inflates the Nottinghamshire figure, which is accounted for in how the target of 12% has been derived.
16. The Council continues to show strong performance in relation to this performance indicator, indicating that the majority of children in care (CiC) experience very stable placements over the longer term. The recent marginal decrease in absolute performance may be attributable in part to the planned placement moves into semi-independent accommodation for older young people, though the data serves to confirm that these do not compromise the overall objective of achieving placement stability over the longer term. Equally, it is worth noting that the national data against which Nottinghamshire's current performance is benchmarked is over 2 years old (albeit it remains the most recently published national data on this matter). Given the national challenges around sufficiency of care placements, it is anticipated that the like-for-like current national figure will be lower than Nottinghamshire's.

Adoption

17. The average length of time between a child's admission into care and placement has increased this quarter to 323 days. This is an increase from 304 in Q1 but is still below the Council's target of 426 days; this is the second quarter to be performing better than the set target.
18. The average number of days between placement order and deciding on an appropriate family for a child or children has decreased for the third quarter in a row, now standing at 118 days. This measure is now performing better than the Council's target of 121 days and is below the averages for England and our statistical neighbours.

Care leavers

19. The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years currently classed as in education, employment and training, has dropped to 49.1% this quarter, and remains above the target of 49%. Nottinghamshire remains above statistical neighbours but below the national average.
20. The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 years living in suitable accommodation has increased from 85.6% to 86.9% in quarter 2. This measure remains above the Councils target, the national average, and our statistical neighbour average.

Educational standards

Ofsted inspections

21. The following paragraphs on Ofsted inspections are based on the current inspections of schools and do not take into account the former judgement of schools which have closed and re-opened as a sponsored academy (current Ofsted reporting arrangements include former judgements of closed schools until they are re-inspected). Numbers on roll are as at May 2019 (last academic year).
22. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate) remains unchanged at two schools from last quarter. These are Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school; 332 pupils on roll) which was re-inspected in May and remains Inadequate. It is proposed to close at the end of 2019 for academy conversion. Also Haggonfields Primary (Bassetlaw district, LA maintained school with 107 pupils on roll) which became Inadequate in January (previously judged as Good).
23. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category also remains unchanged at two schools from last quarter. Sutton Community Academy (Ashfield district, a sponsor led academy which converted January 2013 under the leadership of Academy Transformation Trust; 692 pupils on roll) became Inadequate in March (previously judged as Good). Kirkby College (Ashfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2012 with 434 pupils on roll) became Inadequate in January 2018 (previously judged as Good).

Two-year-old take up

24. The number of 2-year olds taking up their free entitlement in the summer 2019 term shows an increase from the same period last year. 74.3% of eligible 2 year olds are attending providers, a 1.5 percentage point increase (from 72.8%) from the same term last year. Rushcliffe district continues to have the highest proportion of eligible 2 year olds accessing their entitlement whereas Ashfield district has the lowest at 64.4%. Comparisons with the same term last year show Broxtowe district witnessed a fall (down 6.0 percentage points from summer 2018 to 75.6%) followed by Ashfield district with a fall of 5.0 percentage points to 64.4%. All other districts witnessed increases in take up. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019 identified that there are areas in Bassetlaw with poor take up linked to reduced access to provision across large geographical areas, as well as insufficient childcare places for eligible 2 year olds.

Youth Offending & Early Help Support

25. The rate (per 100,000 population) of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System (YJS) saw a 22% drop for the full year to March 2019 (251 Vs 322). This downward trend has continued with Q1 coming in at 35, Vs 65 for the same quarter last year. The focus on reducing FTE's within the YJS is believed to be significant and it seems we are now seeing the impact of changes with frontline Police and YJS staff.

Summary Financial Position

26. The Children and Families Department Revenue Budget is forecast to overspend by £8.905m (6.98%) at Period 6 as summarised in the Table below.

Summary Revenue Position

Previous Variance £000	Change in Variance £000	Division	Annual Budget £000	Actual to Period 6 £000	Year-End Forecast £000	Latest Forecast Variance £000	Variance as % of Budget %
		Children & Young People's Committee					
934	(17)	Youth, Families & Social Work	58,854	27,329	59,771	917	1.56
0	118	Education Learning & Skills	6,000	3,245	6,118	118	1.97
7,396	474	Commissioning & Resources	48,712	21,222	56,582	7,870	16.16
0	0	Capital & Central Charges	13,973	14,011	13,973	0	0.00
8,330	575	Net Committee Overspend	127,539	65,807	136,444	8,905	6.98

27. The Youth, Families and Social Work Division is forecasting an overspend of £0.9m. The major contributing factor is a £1.2m overspend on social work staffing with £1.0m relating to the Hard to Retain teams. This has been offset by net underspends in other areas. The overspend has arisen due to a combination of staffing changes including permanent recruitment to vacancies, additional capacity staff to respond to continuing increased workload and maintain manageable caseloads; and agency workers. All agency posts continue to require the explicit approval of the Service Director Youth, Families and Social Work and are subject to scrutiny by the quarterly Agency Challenge Panel.
28. The forecast agency spend for the Hard to Retain teams is £5.1m (2018-19 £5.0m) and at the end of September there were 74 fte (72 period 5) agency Social Workers and Team Managers in these and the LAC team. The assumptions in the forecast are for agency numbers to reduce to 69 fte (68 Period 5) by March 2020 which takes into account a number of newly qualified social workers, the continuation of additional capacity to maintain sustainable caseloads and to cover vacancies etc. It also includes a reduction to reflect the annual leave, sickness and bank holidays to be taken by agency workers.
29. The Commissioning and Resources Division is forecasting an overspend of £7.9m. The major contributing factor is an £8.0m overspend on external residential placements for LAC of which £1.8m is attributable to growth in number of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements, £3.9m residential and £2.3m on semi-independent placements. External placements increased by a net of 19 during September, which is 6 more than predicted

(although overall numbers to date are still tracking the trend that is built into the forecasts). Residential placements alone increased by 4 more than expected in the month. Complex requirements also resulted in these individual placement costs ranging from £4,500 to £10,700 per week (compared with an average cost of £3,400). Similarly, there was also a £3,500 increase in the weekly cost of one existing semi-independent spot placement due to increased staffing requirements. These costlier placements account for the increased forecast overspend of £0.5m compared to period 5 and demonstrate how sensitive the forecast is to changes in numbers, weekly costs and placement mix due to the high cost of placements.

The assumptions within the forecast are:

- the actual number of children in placement at 30 September 2019 which is 426 (398 March 2019)
 - projected net growth for October 2019 to March 2020 of 10 children
 - projected number of external placements at March 2020 436 (398 March 2019) based on past trend data from January 2017 and current and planned initiatives to reduce spend
 - 421 average number of external placements at March 2020 (371 March 2019).
30. 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.
31. Clayfields is currently forecasting a shortfall against its income target of £0.9m. This is due to a decision by the Children & Families senior leadership team to limit the number of beds available for occupancy because of staffing issues. These issues are currently being addressed and the income forecast assumes that all beds will be fully occupied by February 2020 dependent on recruitment to vacancies. The shortfall will be met from Clayfields trading reserve which is £1.056m.

Other Options Considered

32. 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 24 January 2018 and the format and frequency of performance reporting were agreed by the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee on 12 March 2018. Due to the nature of the report no other options were considered appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

33. 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

34. 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

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

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

36. 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 July to 30th September 2019.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LW 21/11/19)

37. Children & Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/11/19)

38. 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.

Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2018/19) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 17th June 2019.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1322

Appendix 1 - Indicators updated from previous report

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data		
	Current Value	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	97.5%	-	High	2019/20 Q2	97.7%	96.1% (P) (2018/19)	82.7% (2017/18)	81.3% (2017/18)
Percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescale	96.1%	+	High	2019/20 Q2	94.8%	91.5% (P) (2018/19)	90.5% (2017/18)	93.3% (2017/18)
Children subject to a Child Protection Plan – Rate per 10,000	54.0	N/A	N/A	2019/20 Q2	52.1	51.8 (P) (2018/19)	45.3 (2017/18)	44.3 (2017/18)
Children who are subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more	2.7%	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	6.2%	3.2% (P) (2018/19)	3.4% (2017/18)	3.6% (2017/18)
Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion	32.0%	-	Low	2019/20 Q2	28.7%	24.2% (P) (2018/19)	20.2% (2017/18)	20.4% (2017/18)
Total number of individual children reported missing this quarter	318	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	337	967 (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Of the children reported missing, % missing from home (206/318)	64.8%			2019/20 Q2	64.4%	71% (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Of the children reported missing, % missing from care placement (119/318)	37.4%			2019/20 Q2	37.4%	33% (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Of the children reported missing, % missing from NCC LAC care placement (61/318)	19.2%			2019/20 Q2	23.4%	18% (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Total number of missing occurrences* this quarter generated by these children	609	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	721	2785 (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC missing from placement by individual child (L) (61/899)	6.8%	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	9.1%	18% (2017/18)	11% (2017/18)	10.1% (2017/18)
Percentage of Return Interviews completed within timescale (L) (115/177)	65.0%	-	High	2019/20 Q2	70.7%	73% (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Percentage of children reported missing this qtr who have gone missing 5+ times in last 12 mths (75/318)	23.6%	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	25.5%	14% (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Number of children reported to MASH as at risk of CSE	104	-	Low	2019/20 Q2	79	381 (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Number of LAC children subject to CSE strategy meeting	0	=	Low	2019/20 Q2	0	5 (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Number of non LAC children subject to CSE strategy meeting	13	-	Low	2019/20 Q2	10	59 (P) (2018/19)	–	–
Percentage of looked after children placed 20 miles or more from home (L) (124/831)	14.9%	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	15.3%	16.1% (P) (2018/19)	15.0% (2017/18)	15.5% (2017/18)
Looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year (L)	11.9%	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	12.4%	12.2% (P) (2018/19)	10.0% (2017/18)	10.1% (2017/18)
Percentage of looked after children remaining in long-term placements (L)	69.5%	-	High	2019/20 Q2	71.0%	72.9% (P) (2018/19)	70% (2017/18)	70.5% (2017/18)
Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training aged 19-21 (L) (109/222)	49.1%	-	High	2019/20 Q2	49.8%	49.8% (P) (2018/19)	51% (2017/18)	47.8% (2017/18)
Percentage of care leavers in higher education aged 19-21 (L) (11/222)	5.0%	-	High	2019/20 Q2	5.1%	3.0% (2017/18)	6.0% (2017/18)	5.5% (2017/18)
Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (L) (193/222)	86.9%	+	High	2019/20 Q2	85.6%	87.4% (P) (2018/19)	84% (2017/18)	84.3% (2017/18)

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2019/20 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

Appendix 1 - Indicators updated from previous report (contd)



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire						Comparator Data	
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period		Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbourhood
Percentage of school-age LAC with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (L) (336/631)	53.2%	-	High	2019/20 Q2	61.5%	68.7% (P) (2018/19)	—	—
Percentage of LAC who took up the opportunity to be consulted by their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to the LAC Review Meeting (L) (162/495)	32.7%	+	High	2019/20 Q2	28.5%	30.8% (P) (2018/19)	—	—
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for those adopted children (days)	323	-	Low	2019/20 Q2	304	395 days (2016-19)	486 days (2015-18)	481 days (2015-18)
Average time between a LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	118	+	Low	2019/20 Q2	168	146 days (2016-19)	201 days (2015-18)	189 days (2015-18)
Number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	2	=	Low	2019/20 Q2	2	n/a	—	—
Number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	2	=	Low	2019/20 Q2	2	n/a	—	—
Percentage of two year olds taking up their free entitlement	74.3%	+	High	Summer Term 2019	72.8%	72.8% (Summer 2018)	—	—
Numbers of individual children and young people engaged in positive activities delivered by the Young People's Service (cumulative)	8,880	+	High	2019/20 Q2	6,604	16,338 (2018/19)	—	—
Numbers of children and young people accessing Outdoor and Environmental Education (cumulative)	17,235	+	High	2019/20 Q2	8,928	29,056 (2018/19)	—	—
Numbers exiting substance misuse treatment in a planned manner	97%	=	High	2019/20 Q1	97%	97% (2018/19)	80% (2018/19)	—
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000) (cumulative)	36	+	Low	2019/20 Q1	251	251 (2018/19)	276 (2017/18)	—

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2019/20 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**

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data		
	Current Value	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) <i>(Maximum possible score 40)</i>	15.9	-	Low	2017/18	14.9	14.9 (2016/17)	14.2 (2017/18)	14.1 (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) with up to date immunisations (L) (551 /557)	98.9%	+	High	2017/18	87%	87% (2016/17)	85% (2017/18)	85.1% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) who have had their teeth checked by a dentist (L) (457/557)	82.0%	-	High	2017/18	83%	83% (2016/17)	84% (2017/18)	77.5% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) who have had their annual health assessment (L) (523/557)	93.9%	-	High	2017/18	95%	95% (2016/17)	88% (2017/18)	84.6% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months & under 5) whose development assessments are up to date (33/33)	100.0%	+	High	2017/18	98%	98% (2016/17)	85% (2017/18)	76.8% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) identified as having a substance misuse problem (L) (/)	5.0%	-	Low	2017/18	4%	4.0% (2016/17)	4% (2017/18)	1.5% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand (L) (0/572)	0.0%	=	Low	2017/18	0.0%	0.0% (2016/17)	4% (2017/18)	3.4% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Reading (L)	31.3%	-	High	2017/18 academic	47.6%	47.6% (2016/17)	51.0% (2017/18)	–
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Writing (L)	25.0%	-	High	2017/18 academic	38.1%	38.1% (2016/17)	42.0% (2017/18)	–
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Maths (L)	37.5%	+	High	2017/18 academic	33.3%	33.3% (2016/17)	49.0% (2017/18)	–
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Reading (L)	46.9%	+	High	2017/18 academic	42.5%	42.5% (2016/17)	51.0% (2017/18)	53.4% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Writing (L)	37.5%	-	High	2017/18 academic	50.0%	50.0% (2016/17)	49.0% (2017/18)	49.2% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Maths (L)	37.5%	-	High	2017/18 academic	45.0%	45.0% (2016/17)	47.0% (2017/18)	47.1% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC achieving 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths at KS4 (L)	6.8%	-	High	2017/18 academic	11.5%	11.5% (2016/17)	7.8% (2017/18)	9.8% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC achieving 9-4 grades in GCSE English & maths at KS4 (L)	22.7%	+	High	2017/18 academic	21.3%	21.3% (2016/17)	17.8% (2017/18)	18.6% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC classed as persistent absentees (L) (32/360)	8.9%	-	Low	2017/18 academic	7.9%	7.9% (2016/17)	10.6% (2017/18)	10.8% (2017/18)
Percentage of LAC permanently excluded (L) (0/387)	0.0%	=	Low	2016/17 academic	0.0%	0.0% (2015/16)	0.10% (2016/17)	–
Percentage of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion (L) (41/387)	10.6%	-	Low	2016/17 academic	9.8%	9.8% (2015/16)	11.8% (2016/17)	11.5% (2016/17)
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)	69.7%	+	High	2017/18 academic	68.2%	68.2%	71.5% (2017/18)	72.1% (2017/18)
Attainment gap for a good level of development in EYFSP between pupils taking free school meals and the rest	22.7%	+	Low	2017/18 academic	23.0%	23.0%	17% (2017/18)	–
Pupils achieving at least the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics at age 11	64.7%	+	High	2017/18 academic	61.8%	61.8%	65% (2017/18)	64.5% (2017/18)
Attainment gap at age 11 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest <i>(FSM during past six years)</i>	22.6%	+	Low	2017/18 academic	24.0%	24.0%	21.0% (2017/18)	–
Achievement of 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths	45.6%	=	High	2017/18 academic	45.6%	45.6%	43.5% (2017/18)	42.7% (2017/18)
Achievement of 9-4 grades in GCSE English & maths	66.6%	+	High	2017/18 academic	65.9%	65.9%	64.4% (2017/18)	64.5% (2017/18)

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2019/20 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 (contd)



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Core Data Set for CYP Committee Performance for Quarter One

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data	
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
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	28.2%	+	Low	2017/18 academic	30.2%	30.2%	24.7% (2017/18) –
Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (<i>FSM during past six years</i>) 9-4 grades in GCSE English & maths	28.0%	+	Low	2017/18 academic	31.4%	31.4%	26.2% (2017/18) –
Percentage of A level entries at A*-E grades	98.5%	-	High	2017/18 academic	99.0%	99.0%	97.7% (2017/18) –
Percentage of A level entries at A*-B grades	49.3%	-	High	2017/18 academic	50.2%	50.2%	50.0% (2017/18) –
Percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 passes at A-Level or equivalent) by age 19	51.8%	=	High	2017/18 academic	51.8%	51.8% (2016/17)	57.2% (2017/18) 56.2% (2017/18)
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	23.4%	+	High	2017/18 academic	22.9%	22.9% (2016/17)	27.2% (2017/18) 26.4% (2017/18)
Percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools	4.5%	-	Low	2017/18 academic	4.4%	4.4% (2016/17)	4.8% (2017/18) 4.8% (2017/18)
Rate of permanent exclusions from school (primary, secondary and special schools)	0.04%	=	Low	2017/18 academic	0.04%	0.04% (2016/17)	0.10% (2017/18) 0.10% (2017/18)
Participation in education, employment and training (EET) aged 16-17	94.0%	-	High	2019/20 Q1	94.9%	94.9% (2018/19 Q4)	–
Percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16-17	1.9%	-	Low	2019/20 Q1	1.7%	1.7% (2018/19 Q4)	–
Percentage whose destination is not known aged 16-17	4.1%	-	Low	2019/20 Q1	3.4%	3.4% (2018/19 Q4)	–
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, incl. mixed feeding methods (Nottinghamshire NHS)	43.0%	+	High	2018/19 Q4	41.4%	38.8% (2017/18)	42.7% (2017/18) 42.3% (2017/18)
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)	–
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)
For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 1 2019/20 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							

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 9

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

REMODELLING PRACTICE WITHIN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides a quarterly progress update of the Remodelling Practice programme within the Children and Families Department and seeks approval for external promotion of the Department's strengths-based practice model.

Information

2. On 18th June 2018, the Committee approved funding to support improvements in the quality of social work practice.
3. On 17th December 2018, an update was provided to the Committee on the establishment of a programme of work entitled 'Remodelling Practice'. The purpose of the Remodelling Practice programme is to create a sustainable delivery model for services for vulnerable children and families which is high quality and financially sustainable. The programme aims to develop a positive working environment and provide teams with the tools and support to do their jobs in the most effective and efficient way, enabling the improvement of outcomes for children and families.
4. On 18th March 2019, the Committee approved a proposal to embed strengths-based practice as a consistent practice model within Youth, Families and Social Work. Subsequently, this has been adopted as the practice model across the Children and Families Department.

Embedding strengths-based practice

5. Strengths-based practice is centred on working with colleagues, partners and children, rather than 'doing to', to assess, plan and manage cases.
6. Through strengths-based practice, workers will:
 - identify the strengths as well as needs and difficulties

- build relationships
- hear the voice of the child and let that voice have an influence
- focus on the whole family
- embrace principles of restorative practice of high challenge and high support, moving away from a deficit and compliance culture towards a restorative model where there is:
 - a shared vision
 - collaboration
 - respect
 - power is shared (discussed and challenged)
 - clarity of process/ expectations.

7. Across the Children and Families Department there are many examples of the workforce already using a strengths-based approach in their daily practice. Therefore, the ambition of the programme is to build on this through creating consistency and ensuring that processes, workforce development and the way we work with each other reflects this approach.

8. In order to align daily processes with a strengths-based approach to practice, priority work areas have been identified by a task and finish group. Frontline staff and managers are supported by the Principal Social Worker, Social Work Practice Consultants and the Programmes and Projects team to review existing processes, develop new ways of working which align with restorative and relationship-based strengths-based approaches and embed changes. As a result, the following have been undertaken:

- group reflective supervision has been implemented across frontline teams within Youth, Families and Social Work, the Fostering teams, Residential Children's Services and within the Independent Chair Service. This allows teams to spend time together reflecting on a case through the eyes of a child, using an informed strengths-based approach. The sessions also support the building of relationships and peer support within teams.
- the Mansfield district is now using a strengths-based approach to plan assessments. This approach will be implemented across other teams on a phased basis.
- work is underway to align Personal Education Plans for children who are Looked After with a strengths-based approach.
- the Independent Chair Service is reviewing its approach to Child Protection Conferences by exploring ways of holding conferences used by other local authorities such as Leeds City Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
- new intranet pages are being developed which will be a hub for information and tools relating to strengths-based practice, latest policies and guidance.
- a comprehensive training plan is being developed which incorporates learning for all staff around strengths-based approaches and how these will be embedded across the service, as well as ensuring that there are learning and development opportunities to gain practice knowledge and skills.

9. As part of the training plan to embed a strengths-based approach to practice, the Social Work Practice Consultant Team held briefing sessions with all teams across the Children and Families Department. The sessions provided an introduction to strengths-based approaches and provided time for the team to reflect on ways in which they were using strengths-based practice, and ways in which they could do things even better.
10. To mark the Department's commitment to embedding a strengths-based practice model, a full-service strengths-based practice development event was held on 9th October 2019. The event featured key note speakers who are experts in restorative and relationship-based practice and allowed the workforce time to reflect on how they will commit to a strengths-based way of working. The event was attended by 550 colleagues, including Councillor Tracey Taylor, Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, who introduced the event and pledged her support to this way of working. As of 6th November 2019, 94% of attendees said that strengths-based approaches will be beneficial when working with children and families.
11. Colleagues who attended the practice development day were asked to identify key learning from the event and what further training and development they needed. The feedback from staff will be used to inform the development of the next stages of the plan to embed a strengths-based practice model.
12. Branding has been developed which provides a visual identity and commitment to strengths-based practice, under the name of 'Nottinghamshire's Children, Nottinghamshire's Future' with the accompanying statement of 'From Strength to Strength'. The branding can be found at **Appendix 1** to this report.
13. A short film has been produced which showcases the strengths-based work already happening within teams in order to model the approach to practice. This film is currently in use internally within the Children and Families Department. It has been identified that the film, alongside the 'Nottinghamshire's Children, Nottinghamshire's Future' branding and photographs from the strengths-based practice development event, have potential to be used externally as a way of promoting careers within Nottinghamshire County Council's Children and Families Department.

Further developments within the Remodelling Practice Programme

14. The Remodelling Practice programme also incorporates projects in relation to:
 - the staffing model
 - the career pathway
 - business intelligence
 - conditions for practice.

Staffing Model

15. A number of initiatives are underway to identify the optimum skill mix within teams to ensure timely support to children and families, alongside boosting morale within teams. These include:

- a pilot to employ Social Work Assistants within District Child Protection Teams. So far, this has been found to improve morale and reduce drift of Child In Need cases.
- co-working between the District Child Protection Teams and the Court Team to provide a more efficient and joined-up response to Court cases.
- planning the implementation of support in relation to domestic abuse into the Assessment Service to provide more timely support to families.
- working with the community Social Workers within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to more closely align with Youth, Families and Social Work.
- working with Clayfields secure unit to further develop roles in the staffing model with the view to improving recruitment and retention.
- increasing capacity within the Leaving Care Service to respond to an enhanced offer for Care Leavers.

Career Pathway

16. Progress in relation to the career pathway includes:

- new internet and intranet content providing information regarding routes into Social Work, career development opportunities and job vacancies.
- a comprehensive training plan is being developed which incorporates learning for all staff around strengths-based approaches and how these will be embedded across the service, as well as ensuring that there are learning and development opportunities to gain practice knowledge and skills.
- opportunities for Social Work qualified practitioners and practice supervisors to undertake the National Assessment and Accreditation if they wish to do so.
- aligning the career progression process to the Department for Education Post Qualifying Standards (Knowledge and Skills Statement) for social workers.
- aligning social work recruitment to the Department for Education Post Qualifying Standards (Knowledge and Skills Statement) for social workers, by rewriting job descriptions and interview questions.

Business Intelligence

17. Work is underway to develop new easy to use dashboards which will provide managers with up to date information about their workforce, capacity and performance.

Conditions for Practice

18. The Department is currently working with the Point of Care Foundation and Cardiff University on a What Works for Children's Social Care national pilot project exploring the

potential use of Schwartz Rounds within Children's Services. Schwartz Rounds is a multi-disciplinary forum which provides a monthly opportunity for all staff to reflect upon and discuss the emotional impact of the work they do. Nottinghamshire County Council is among the first seven local authorities to pilot Schwartz Rounds. So far, 119 colleagues have attended the sessions with 97% of those saying that the round was 'good, excellent or exceptional'. Attendees have commented that the rounds are a "safe space", providing "time for reflection" and help to develop a better understanding of the "challenges and emotions" of colleagues.

19. In relation to Conditions for Practice, there are also a number of interdependent projects which the programme connects with. These include Investing in Nottinghamshire and IT Projects, such as the roll-out of smart phones. These are enablers to providing good conditions for practice for the workforce.
20. Progress in relation to the programme is detailed in a monthly Remodelling Practice newsletter which is shared with the Children and Families workforce. This highlights progress, celebrates achievements and promotes strengths-based practice.

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.

Financial Implications

22. Costs associated with the implementation of strengths-based practice are met from the Youth, Families and Social Care budget.

Implications for Service Users

23. Implementation of strengths-based practice will improve the quality of service to children, young people and families who have contact with the Children and Families Department.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) considers whether any further action is required in relation to the progress update of the Remodelling Practice Programme within the Children and Families Department.
- 2) approves external promotion of the Department's strengths-based practice model.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LW 21/11/19)

24. Children & Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 25/11/19)

25. 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.

[Supporting improvement in Children's Social Care – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 June 2018](#)

[Update on supporting improvements in Children's Social Care – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17 December 2018](#)

[Youth, Families and Social Work Framework for Practice – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 March 2019.](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1313

Appendix 1: Nottinghamshire's Children, Nottinghamshire's Future Branding



From Strength to Strength

16th December 2019**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION SIX MONTHLY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update to the Committee in relation to Children Missing Education (CME) in Nottinghamshire. The report also provides a six monthly update of the CME Dashboard following Committee approval on 14th January 2019 to report the Dashboard six monthly.

Information

2. This report is presented to Committee within a context that almost all Nottinghamshire children and young people are educated in good and outstanding schools. 98,087 pupils aged 5 –15 years at the start of the 2017 - 2018 academic year were educated in Nottinghamshire's publicly funded schools. July 2019 Ofsted data suggests that 86% of pupils are educated in good and outstanding schools. It should be noted that the CME Dashboard report focusses on the 1,534 children and young people who were supported by a range of Local Authority service areas to ensure they had access to an appropriate full time education. This figure does not include students with a reported Fixed Term Exclusion as these are reported by the number of episodes, not by numbers of students.
3. Local authorities have a duty under section 436A of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise. This duty only relates to children of compulsory school age (5 – 16 years). Local authorities are expected to have robust policies and procedures in place to enable them to meet their duty in relation to these children, including ensuring that there are effective tracking and enquiry systems in place, and a named person to whom schools and other agencies can make referrals about children who are missing education. Nottinghamshire County Council's Children Missing Officer supports in cases where children and young people's whereabouts are unknown; the Fair Access process and Pupil Missing Education Officer focusses on children and young people whose whereabouts are known and who are known to be missing education.
4. The CME process focuses on known children and young people who are not accessing their full educational entitlement as a result of failing to secure a school place, facing

permanent exclusion from school, refusing or being prevented from attending their school place, on a school roll but accessing less than their full educational entitlement, those unable to access full time education due to their mental or physical health needs, those who are in unsuitable elective home education, as well as any child or young person known to other local authority services without a school place or refusing to attend school.

5. The CME Dashboard, attached as **Appendix 1**, reports on the data collated from the 2017-18 academic year regarding children and young people who are known to the Local Authority to be CME or at risk of becoming CME. The data analysis is intended to report on the effectiveness of current systems to identify, track and support CME back to education and to inform future policy and practice. Data sets will need to continue to be collated and analysed over future years to allow year on year comparison in order for more complete conclusions to be drawn.
6. The data shows that the risk of children and young people being or becoming CME increases into secondary education and peaks around Key Stage 4. This correlates with a peak in referrals for both the Fair Access and Health Related Education Teams and the highest spend from the Local Authority on Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS). A revised Fair Access Protocol (FAP) was agreed by the Committee in February 2019. This Protocol aims to ensure that children and young people facing challenges in securing a school place are identified and supported into an appropriate publicly funded school or alternative setting. Any children and young people who cannot be placed through the FAP process are provided for via the Council's EOTAS arrangements and funding agreed by the Council through the Vulnerable Children Education Commissioning forum.
7. An area that the Council is required to monitor is in relation to publicly funded schools providing less than full-time education or school-commissioned Alternative Provision to children and young people. The Council currently requires schools to report instances where children and young people are in receipt of less than 25 hours of education during the week or who spend all or part of their week accessing school commissioned Alternative Provision. During the reporting period 2015-2018, there is an increasing number of children and young people year on year who schools are recording as being on a reduced timetable or accessing Alternative Provision. More robust processes have been developed within the Local Authority to support and challenge schools. This includes escalating letters of concern sent by the CME Team, the relevant Group Managers, and ultimately the Service Director for Education, Learning and Skills if no suitable response is received. As a result of the Summer 2018 data collection, on 12 October 2018 the Local Authority sent 59 letters to 32 schools.
8. A particular area of focus is in relation to vulnerable children on Child Protection (CP) Plans, Child in Need (CIN) Plans, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those who are Looked After Children (LAC). Any child who falls into these categories is closely monitored. In the case of CP and CIN children, a formal letter is sent to the headteacher, chair of governors and copied to the relevant social worker seeking assurances around the provision being commissioned. The Co-ordinator of the Virtual School reviews the provision of every LAC on part time or Alternative Provision with the Group Manager, Integrated Children's Disability Service, reviewing every child with an EHCP identified by schools as accessing part time or Alternative Provision.

9. Following initial collation of data, additional analysis was undertaken in relation to Fixed Term Exclusions for children under 5 years, Year 1 and Year 2 in order to assure the Committee that appropriate actions were being taken in relation to this group of students. Comparison with national data shows that Nottinghamshire schools are excluding fewer children in this age range than the national average. Additional work has been undertaken to ensure that individual children who are issued with a Fixed Term Exclusion in this age bracket are identified and their progress tracked to ensure that appropriate support services are engaged. As the reporting of Fixed Term Exclusion data moves to a new system, as outlined at **paragraph 10**, this area of work will become more current.
10. Nottinghamshire County Council continues to work in partnership with both Primary and Secondary School Behaviour Attendance Partnerships across the County to ensure that pupils, wherever possible, remain in publicly funded schools rather than excluded. The Information and Systems Team is currently finalising a reporting system to enable schools to record data in relation to Fixed Term Exclusions and Reduced Timetables directly onto Capita One Education. This will be rolled out to schools in September 2019 and when this development is complete the data set available to Members will be more comprehensive and up to date.
11. Future CME Dashboards will take a standardised format to allow for comparison of yearly data.
12. Following approval by Children and Young People's Committee in September 2019 to consult on a revised CME strategy, a public consultation is now in progress and the proposed strategy will be presented to Committee in January.

Other Options Considered

13. The County Council remains statutorily responsible for ensuring that all children and young people in Nottinghamshire of statutory school age access full-time education. Pending public consultation and agreement of an updated strategy the CME Strategy initially endorsed by the Children and Young People's Committee on 23 April 2014 and approved by Policy Committee on 7 May 2014 continues to be implemented to ensure that every school aged child is placed on a school roll, with the exception of those who are electively home educated. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. Members will wish to be assured that the Council's statutory duty to provide full-time education for all children and young people of statutory school age is being fulfilled.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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

16. It should be noted that although there are no financial implications arising directly from the CME Dashboard, the increasing numbers of pupils whose education is mediated by Local Authority teams to prevent them from becoming or continuing to be CME is contributing to the financial strain within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) agrees to receive an update on Children Missing Education in six months and that this be included in the work programme.
- 2) considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the issues contained within the report.

Marion Clay
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Constitutional Comments (AK 21/11/19)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 25/11/19)

18. 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.

[Children Missing Education: Report to Children and Young People's Committee 14 January 2019](#)

[Revised Nottinghamshire Fair Access Protocol – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11th February 2019](#)

[Children Missing Education Strategy – report to Policy Committee on 7th May 2014](#)

[Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities September 2016](#)

[The Timpson Review of School Exclusion May 2019](#)

[DFE Alternative Provision Market Analysis Research Report October 2018](#)

[Elective home education; Departmental guidance for local authorities, April 2019](#)

[Elective home education: Departmental guidance for parents, April 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C1315

Children Missing Education: Dashboard

2018/19 Academic Year

1. In Year Admissions

Figures for known In Year Admissions in the 2017/18 Academic Year are as follows:

	Primary Aged Children	Secondary Aged Children	Total
Number of in year admissions 2017/18 Academic Year	4,649	1,383	6,032
Number in year admissions 2018/19 Academic Year (as @ 31 March 19)	3,539	1,404	4,943

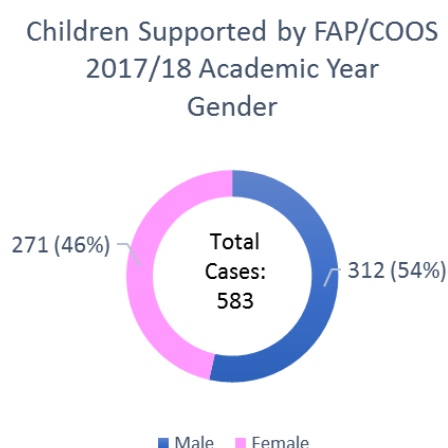
Source: Office of the Schools Adjudicator – June 2019 Nottinghamshire Return

2. Fair Access and Children Out of School

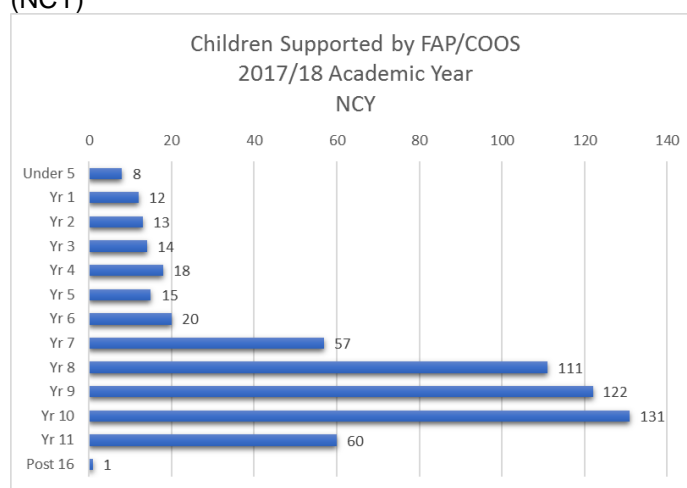
A total of 583 (10% of the total In Year Admissions for the 2017/18 Academic Year) were supported by Fair Access and/ or Children Out of School (FAP/ COOS) in the 2017/18 Academic Year. Of these 442 (76% of total FAP/ COOS cases) were Fair Access qualifying and 328 (56% of total FAP/ COOS cases) were out of school at the time of referral.

NOTE: Cases may be being supported by FAP/COOS at the same time and therefore cases may be duplicated in the above figure

2a. FAP/ COOS 2017/18 by gender



2b. FAP/ COOS 2017/18 by National Curriculum Year (NCY)



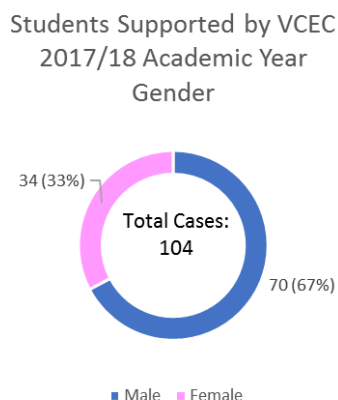
Notes: The above illustrates that more secondary aged children are referred through to FAP/ COOS than primary aged children. Referrals peak towards the end of secondary and there are several possible explanations for this that will need exploring in further detail in subsequent analyses. The data for the preceding 3 academic years shows an increase year on year in the number of cases referred to FAP/ COOS; the figures being 2016/17 527 referrals, 2015/16 380 referrals and 2014/15 348 referrals. Whilst this could be interpreted as an increase in need across these areas it could also be attributed to improved monitoring and tracking systems within the local authority to identify and support Children and Young People (CYP) who otherwise may have remained unknown to services.

3. Vulnerable Children Education Commissioning

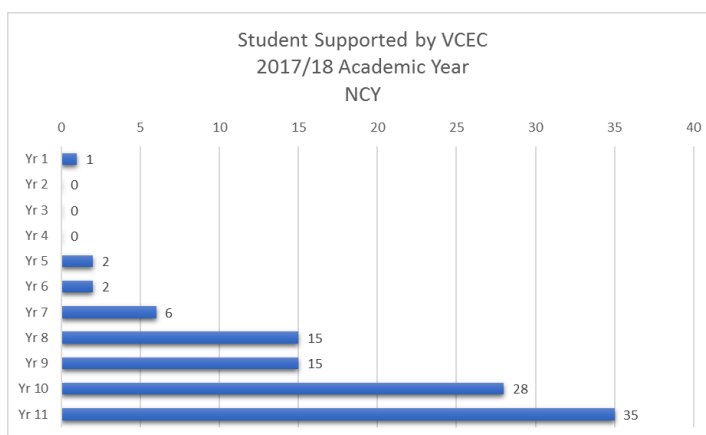
A total of 104 students were referred to the Vulnerable Children Education Commissioning (VCEC) board in the 2017/18 Academic Year. Of these cases 46 (44% of total) were referred to VCEC as part of the Fair Access process.

The total Educated Otherwise Than At School spend in 2017-18 as a result of referrals through this board was £1,444,353.

3a. VCEC students 2017/18 by gender



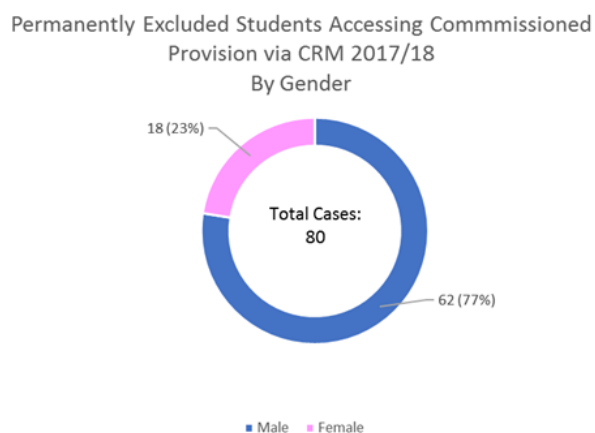
3b. VCEC students 2017/18 by NCY



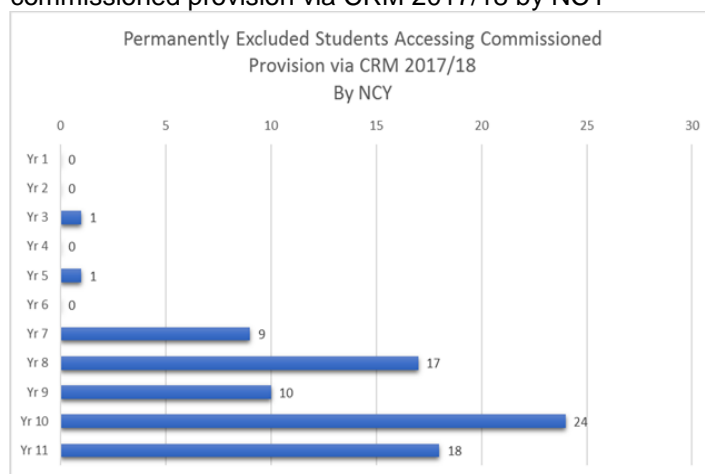
Notes: The data above shows the majority of cases heard at VCEC are secondary age with a sharp rise at Key Stage 4. It is possible this could be linked to increased trends seen in other service areas, notably higher numbers of CYP being registered as Electively Home Educated and a proportion of these needing a return to education at Key Stage 4. Further analysis of the reasons for referral to VCEC will be required to determine any definite trends.

80 permanently excluded students received funded alternative provision through the cost recovery method (CRM). These students may have been excluded in previous academic years but live in Nottinghamshire and therefore are our responsibility.

3c. Permanently Excluded Students accessing commissioned provision via CRM 2017/18 by gender



3d. Permanently Excluded Students accessing commissioned provision via CRM 2017/18 by NCY



Notes: The majority of CRM funded provision for Permanently Excluded students is made for secondary students, in line with the trend for Permanent Exclusions reported below for the 2017/18 Academic Year.

4. Fixed and Permanent Exclusions

In 2017/18 there were a total of 6,721 Fixed Term Exclusions and 61 Permanent Exclusions in Nottinghamshire schools.¹ The data is compared below to the previous academic year.

Academic Year	Total Fixed Term ²	Days Lost from Fixed Exclusion	Students with +1 Fixed Exclusion ³	Permanent
2016/17	6,535	13,556	2,638	58
2017/18	6,721	13,347	2,605	61

Notes:

1. Based on all recorded exclusions in Nottinghamshire schools. Does not include withdrawn, reinstated or lunchtime exclusions

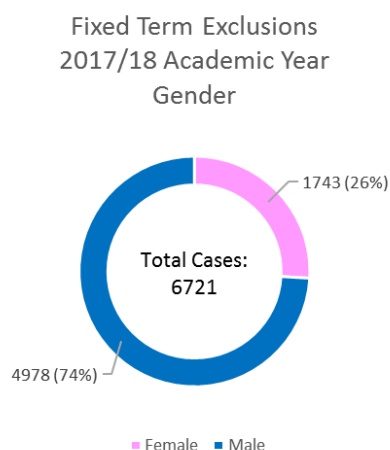
2. A count of the number of exclusions by category

3. A count of unique individuals with 1 or more fixed period exclusion within the relevant period

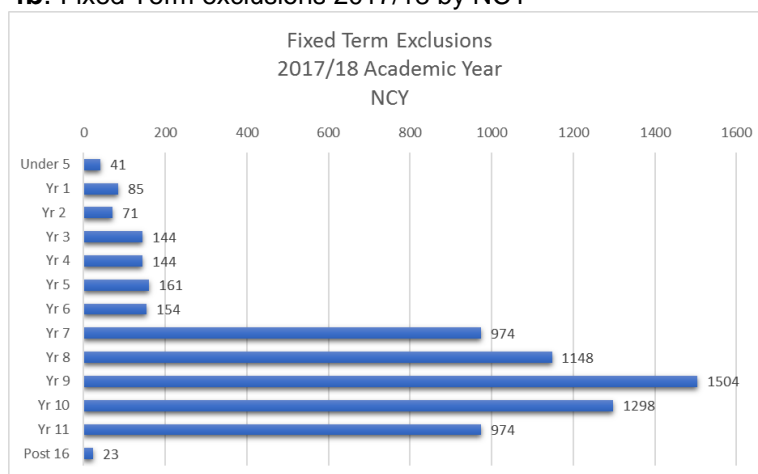
4(i) Fixed Term Exclusion

Of the 6,721 exclusions there were 2,605 individual students excluded, with 1,113 students having more than 1 exclusion. Charts below give data on the number of episodes of exclusion.

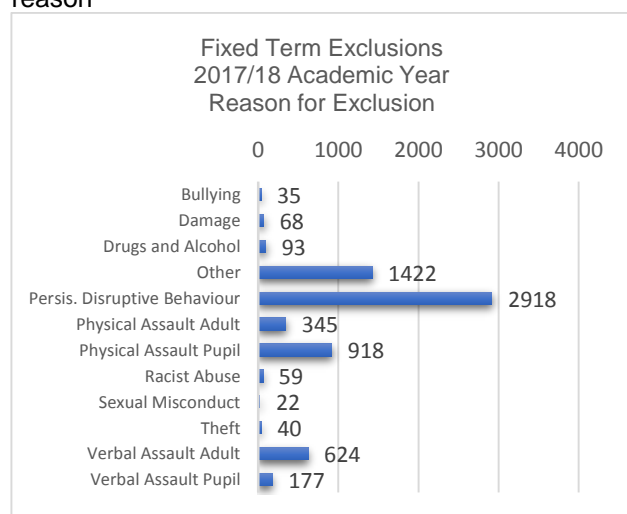
4a. Fixed Term exclusions 2017/18 by gender



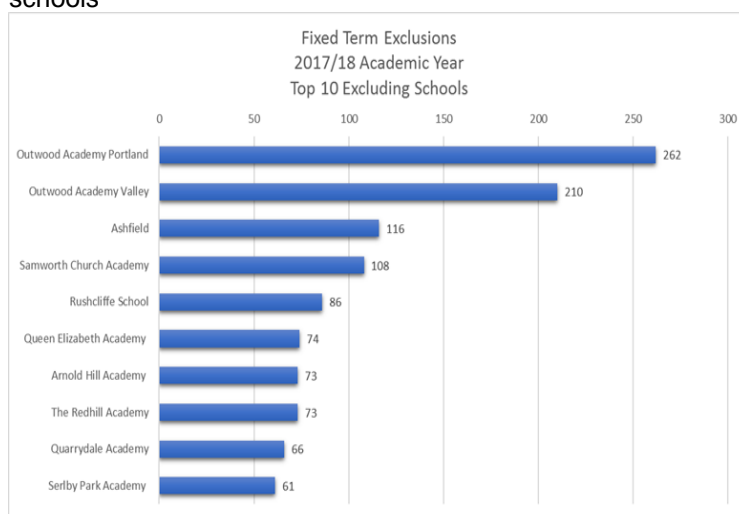
4b. Fixed Term exclusions 2017/18 by NCY



4c. Fixed Term Exclusions 2017/18 breakdown by reason



4d. Fixed Term Exclusions 2017/18 10 highest excluding schools



Notes: The trends seen in the data for Fixed Period Exclusions broadly reflect those seen nationally (DFE National Statistics), with a greater percentage of males being Fixed Term Excluded than females and a peak in numbers from NCY 8-10. Future analysis of data is required to build a picture year on year of trends and identify schools where students are losing the most days to learning as a result of use of Fixed Period Exclusions.

4(ii) Additional Analysis of FTE data for Children Under 5 and in Years 1 and 2

In the 2017/18 Academic Year there were 197 exclusions for children who were Under 5 or in Years 1 or 2 at the time of exclusion. This equated to 3% of the total Fixed Term Exclusions in 2017/18 (6,721). A breakdown by year group is:

Under 5	41
Year 1	85
Year 2	71

Fewer than 10% of exclusions in this age range were for female students.

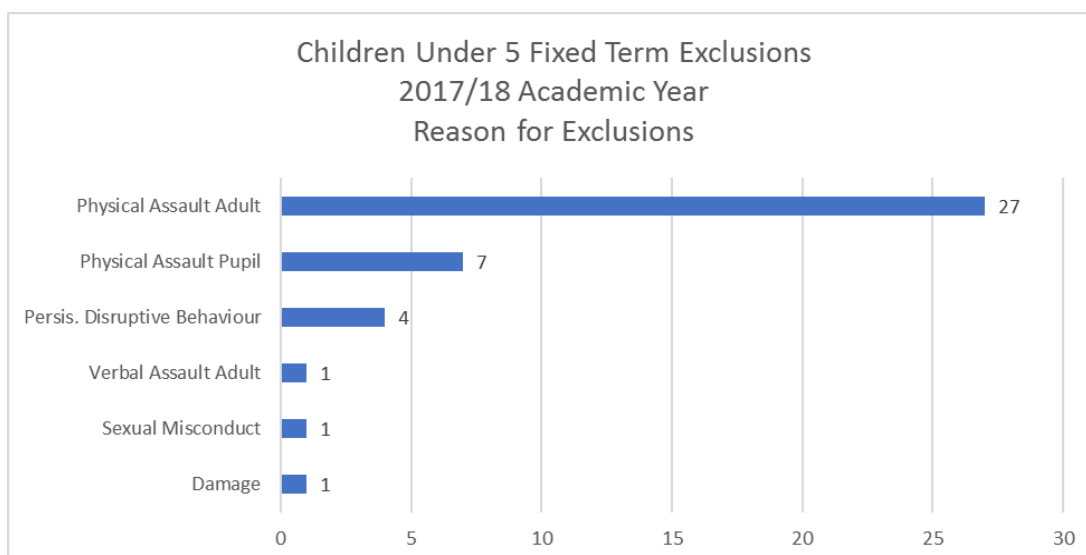
85% of exclusions in this age range were for children whose ethnicity was recorded as White British.

Children Under 5

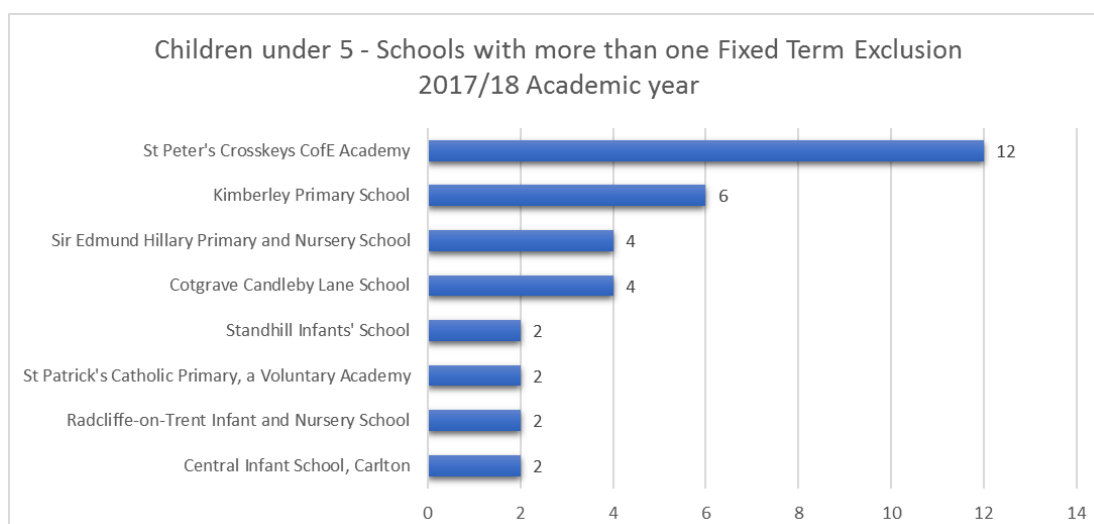
Of the 41 exclusions for this year group there were 16 individual children excluded, with 9 of these children having more than 1 fixed term exclusion.

This equated to 65 days lost from exclusion for Under 5 children.

4e. FTE Under 5 2017/18 by reason



4f. Schools with more than one Fixed Term Exclusion for Under 5's



Destinations for the 16 excluded children in the 2017/18 Academic Year:

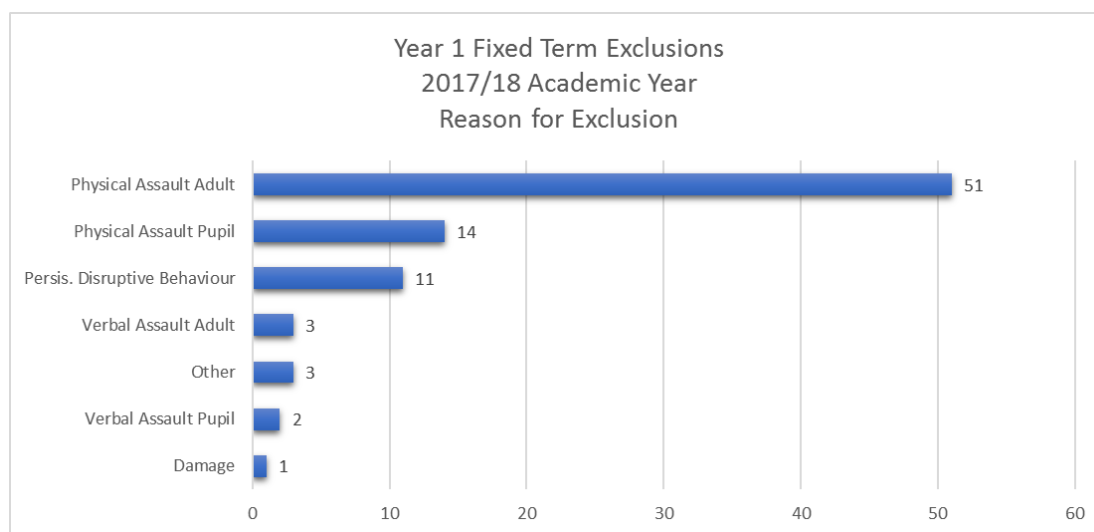
- 12 students remain on roll of the excluding school;
- 3 have moved to another school in the county as part of the In-Year admissions routine;
- 1 child has moved to a school in Nottingham City.

Year 1 Children

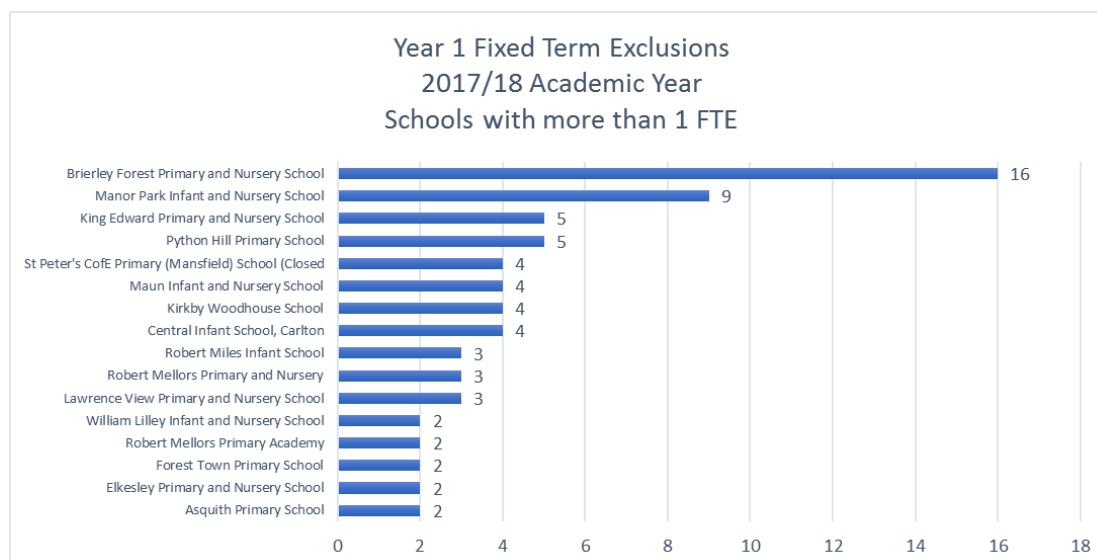
Of the 85 exclusions for this year group there were 39 individual children excluded, with 19 of these children having more than 1 Fixed Term Exclusion.

This equated to 155 days lost from exclusion for children in Year 1.

4g. FTE Year 1 2017/18 by reason



4h. Schools with more than one Fixed Term Exclusion for Year 1



The destinations of the 39 children excluded whilst in Year 1 in the 2017/18 Academic Year are:

- 21 children remain on roll at their excluding school;
- 10 children have moved to other schools within Nottinghamshire as part of normal admissions procedures;

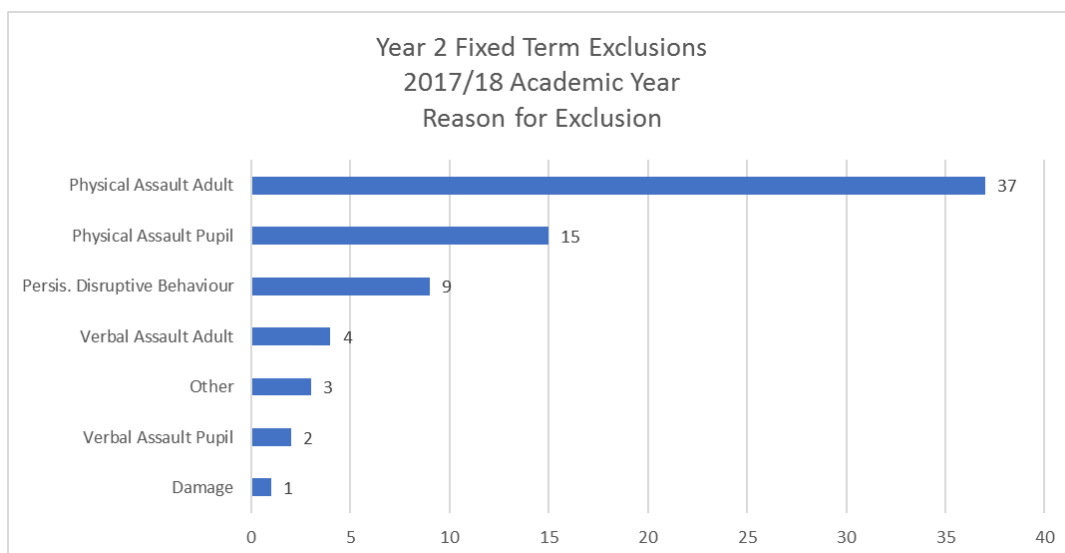
- 2 children were either Looked After at the time of exclusion or Looked After by Nottinghamshire since exclusion and have since moved to mainstream schools outside of Nottinghamshire;
- 4 children have been issued with Education, Health and Care plans, of these 3 children have left their excluding school to attend Special Schools in Nottinghamshire and 1 child remains on roll of the excluding school;
- 2 children from Year 1 were eventually Permanently excluded either within the same academic year or the 2018/19 year, both children were supported by Education Other Than at School;

Year 2 Children

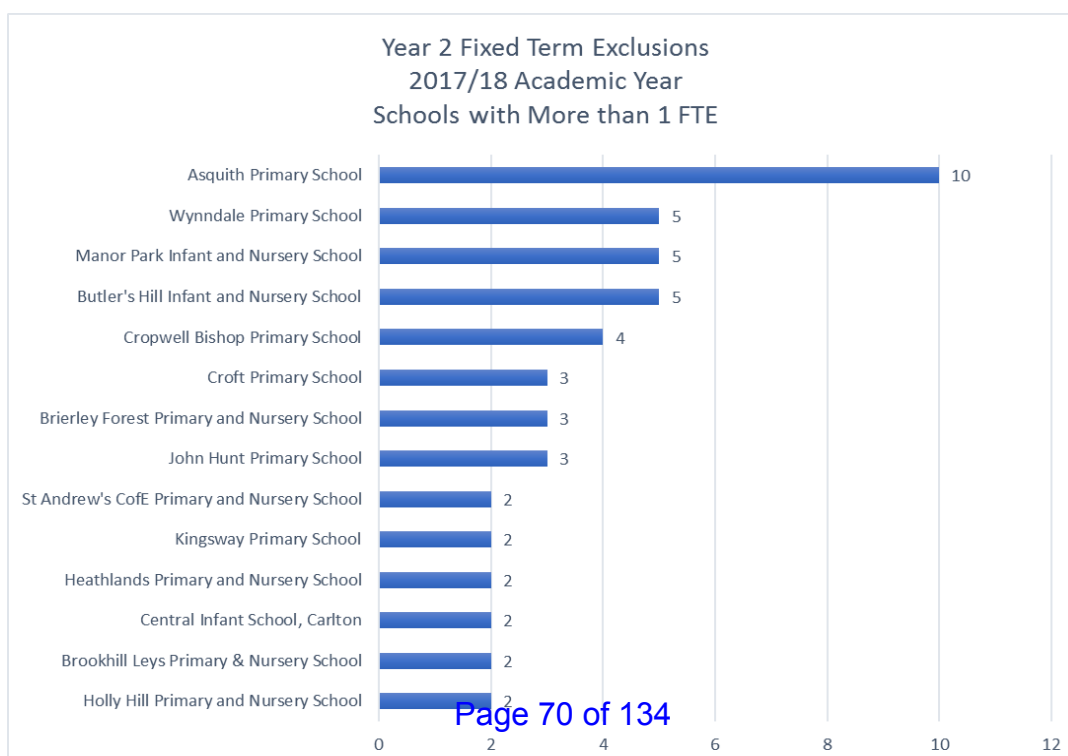
Of the 71 exclusions for this year group there were 41 individual children excluded, with 15 of these children having greater than 1 fixed term exclusion.

This equated to 140 days lost to learning from exclusion for children in Year 2.

4i. FTE Year 2 2017/18 by reason



4j. Schools with more than one Fixed Term Exclusion for Year 2



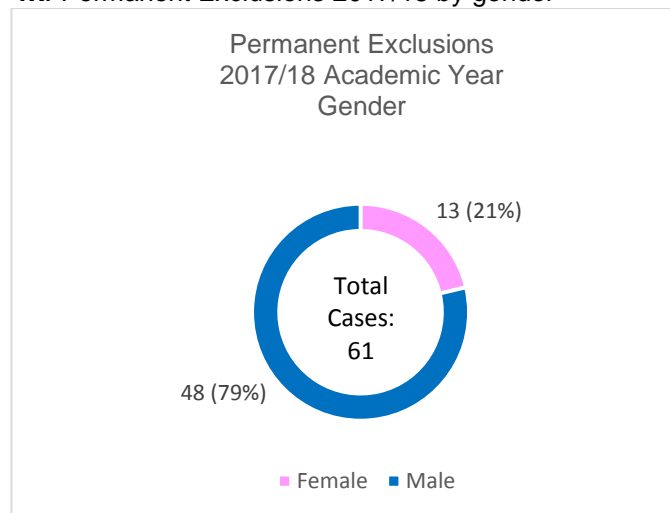
The destinations of the 41 children excluded whilst in Year 2 in the 2017/18 Academic Year are:

- 26 children remain on roll at their excluding school;
- 9 children have moved to other schools within Nottinghamshire as part of normal admissions procedures;
- 2 children were either Looked After at the time of exclusion or Looked After by Nottinghamshire since exclusion and have since moved to mainstream schools outside of Nottinghamshire;
- 2 children have been issued with Education, Health and Care plans, 1 of these children has left their excluding school to attend Special School in Nottinghamshire. The other child that now has an EHCP had a permanent exclusion withdrawn and are still roll of the excluding school, but following support from EOTAS are now also on roll at a Nottinghamshire Special School;
- 1 child from Year 2 was eventually Permanently excluded either within the same academic year or the 2018/19 year, this child is now supported by Education Other Than at School;
- Of the children detailed above 3 children have subsequently moved to schools outside Nottinghamshire or have left the county.

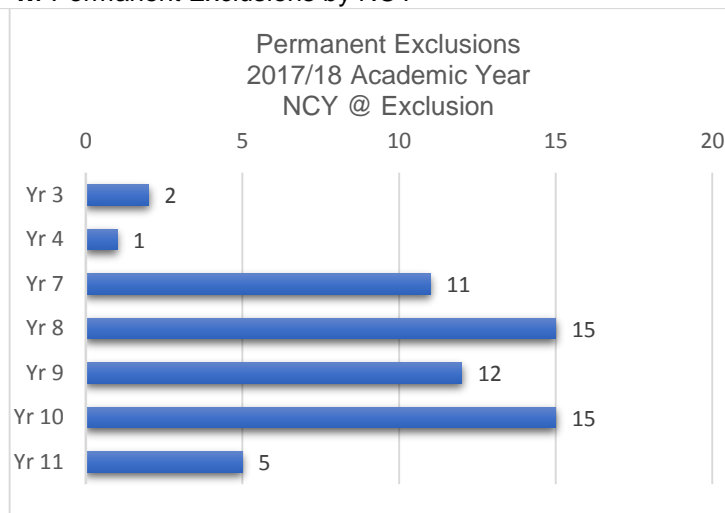
Additional analysis was carried out for Children Under 5, Year 1 and Year 2 due to concern regarding the Fixed Term Exclusions reported for this age group. Data trends were reflected consistently within this age group with the majority of exclusions being issued for male students. When compared to National data the data recorded in Nottinghamshire shows a lower rate of FTE for this cohort, with Nottinghamshire schools reporting between 0.10-0.75 fewer exclusions than the National figure.

4(iii) Permanent Exclusions

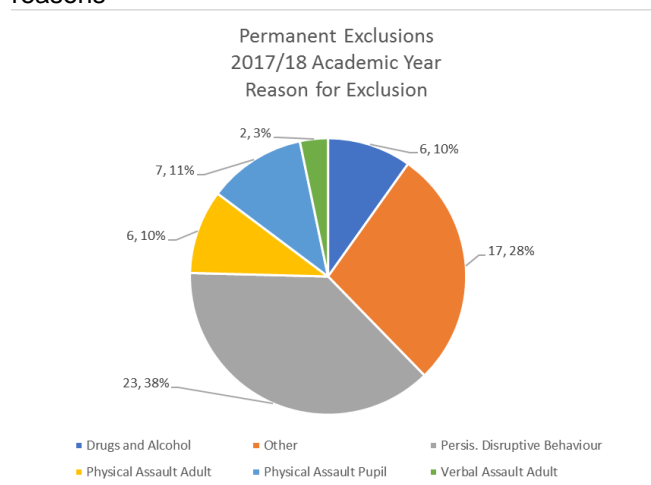
4k. Permanent Exclusions 2017/18 by gender



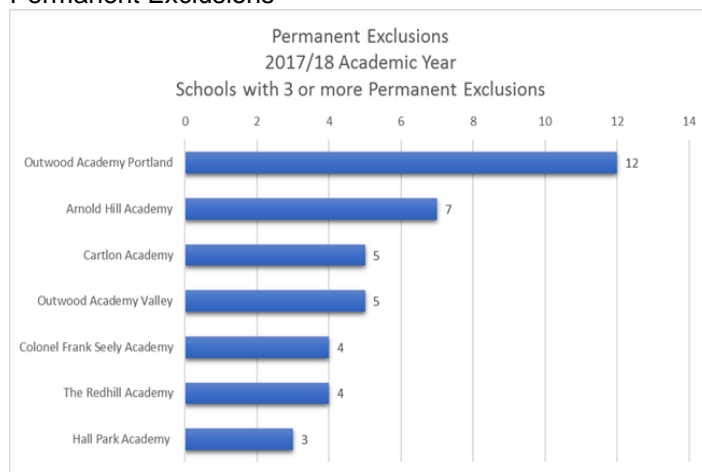
4l. Permanent Exclusions by NCY



4m. Permanent Exclusions 2017/18 breakdown of reasons



4n. Academic Year 2017/18 schools with more than 3 Permanent Exclusions

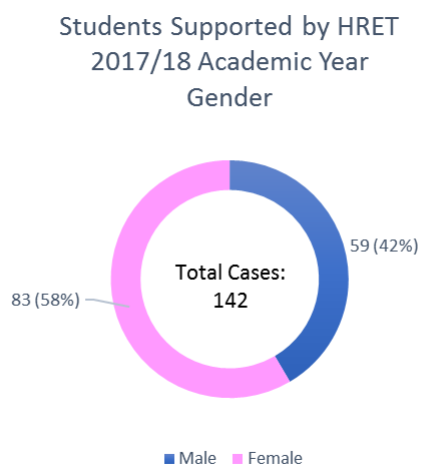


Notes: Again, data broadly reflects National trends with a higher percentage of males Permanently Excluded and a peak in exclusions mid secondary. Less Permanent Exclusions were issued in year 11 than any other NCY in Secondary and this may correlate with the increase in use of reduced timetables at this point. This will require further analysis in future years when a broader data set is collated.

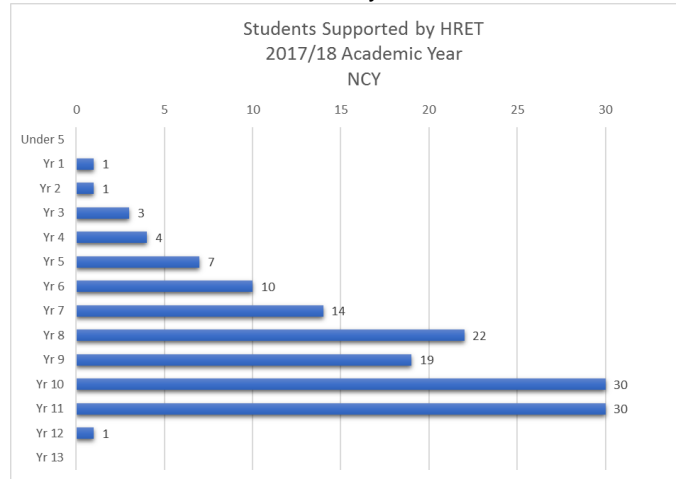
5. Students Supported by HRET

In the 2017/18 Academic Year 142 students were supported by the Health-Related Education Team (HRET).

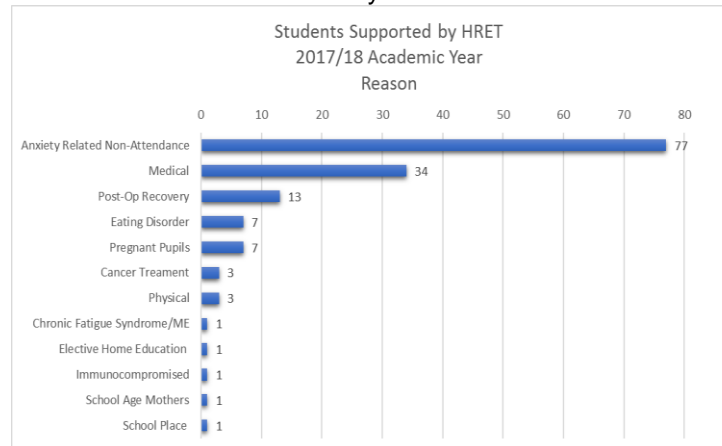
5a. HRET students 2017/18 by gender



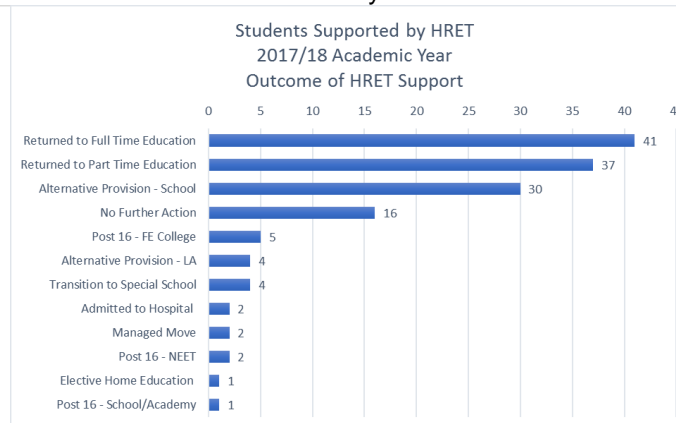
5b. HRET students 2017/18 by NCY



5c. HRET students 2017/18 by reason



5d. HRET students 2017/18 by outcome



Notes: HRET data again shows a greater number of Secondary cases are supported, with the same trend as FAP/ COOS and VCEC of an increase towards and into Key Stage 4. As with the FAP/ COOS data analysis of trends across future years will be required to try and identify trends and reasons for this. Most cases (86%) successfully returned to school, Alternative Provision made by a school, or a post 16 destination with only 3% requiring Alternative Provision to be made by the local authority. By far the largest number of students referred for support (54%) were due to Anxiety Related Non-Attendance with 77 referrals, with medical cases totalling less than half this number.

6. Students on Reduced Timetables or Alternative Provision

In the 2017/18 Academic Year there were 671 students reported by Nottinghamshire Schools to be accessing school arranged Reduced Timetables or Alternative Provision.

Academic Year	Number of Responses			Total Students
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	
2015/16	396	518	566	676
2016/17	356	424	495	633
2017/18	342	451	509	671

NOTE: Data is currently captured from schools on a termly basis, an involvement is added per term per student. Termly data does not therefore reflect the total number of students.

6a. Schools Data

The response rate from schools to the collection is as follows:

	Autumn Term 17	Spring Term 18	Summer Term 18
Total Responses	328 (97.7%)	328 (97.6%)	331 (98.5%)

Number of schools who confirmed that they had children on roll who were not accessing their full education entitlement, or had been placed in alternative provision by the school:

	Autumn Term 17	Spring Term 18	Summer Term 18
Total with a Positive Return	96 (28.6%)	106 (31.5%)	105 (31.3%)

The number of schools who did not supply a response to the collection:

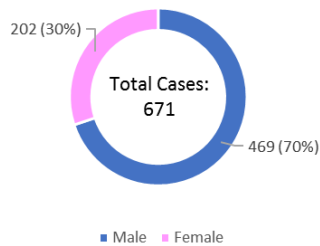
	Autumn Term 17	Spring Term 18	Summer Term 18
Total Non-Returners	10 (3%)	8 (2.4%)	5 (1.5%)

The number of non-returners in the summer 2018 term was at its lowest (5) since the collection commenced. However, it should be noted, that almost half of the schools returned their data after the deadline, resulting in the analysis being delayed.

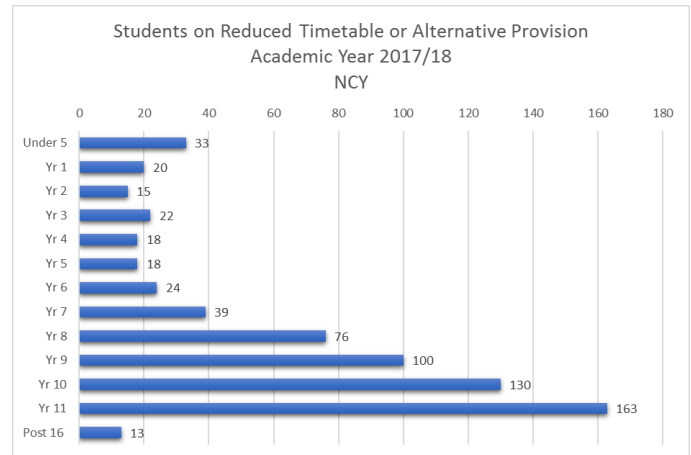
Notes: The above charts those CYP returned by schools in the termly part-time timetable collection which asks schools to send details of CYP who are not accessing the recommended 25 hours of education. The very small number of schools not returning the data has reduced and the increase in numbers can be partly explained by the schools understanding more clearly what is required. Children who are not seeing an increase in hours term on term are now reviewed by an appropriate lead officer and contact made with the school to discuss a way forward. Any CYP not showing improvement are discussed at the CME Monitoring Board. The data shows a trend over the 3 academic years for numbers of CYP accessing reduced hours or alternative provision to increase as the school year progresses. This could be interpreted as reflecting experience of teams in the local authority of school placements being under pressure in the latter stages of the academic year.

6b. Reduced timetables or Alternative Provision by gender

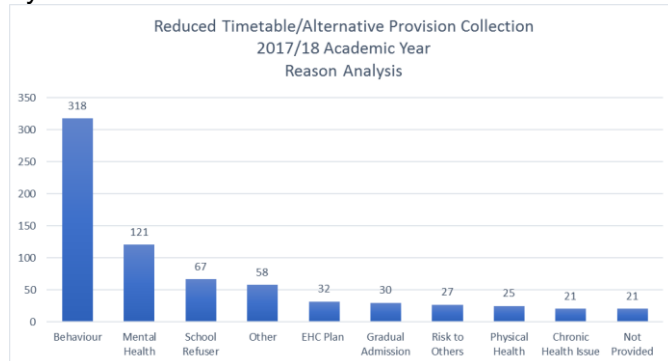
Students on Reduced Timetable or Alternative Provision
Academic Year 2017/18
Gender



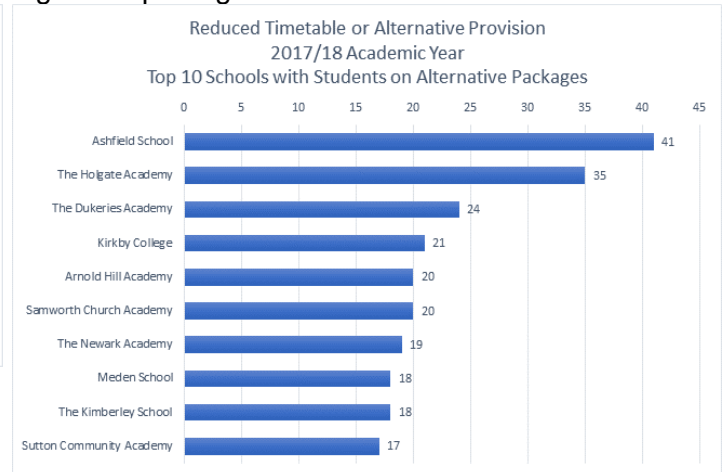
6c. Reduced timetables or Alternative Provision by NCY



6d. Reduced timetables or Alternative Provision by reason



6e. Reduced timetables or Alternative Provision 10 highest reporting schools



Notes: The data above shows a higher percentage of males than females being offered a reduced timetable or Alternative Provision from school, the same trend as the VCEC and exclusions data. Use of reduced timetables and Alternative Provision increases steadily throughout secondary, peaking in year 11. The main reason reported (44%) for use of a reduced timetable or Alternative Provision is 'behaviour' and it could be therefore inferred that schools are seeing more challenging behaviour as students progress through school and are increasingly using these interventions because of this. The highest reporting schools will need to be monitored term by term and a strategic approach agreed if the same schools are consistently identified.

16th December 2019**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION - UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides the fourth six-monthly report on electively home educated (EHE) pupils to enable Committee to monitor trends in numbers and reasons for elective home education.
2. The report seeks approval to continue to report to the Committee on a six-monthly basis.

Information

3. Parents' legal rights and duties are set out in the Education Act 1996. The parent of every child of compulsory school age must ensure that he/she receives an efficient, full-time education, suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs that he/she may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
4. A parent/carer has the legal right to withdraw a child from school by delivering written notification of that fact to the school. The school then has a duty to notify the local authority (LA) and to remove the child's name from the school register. The local authority registers the child as EHE. Once registered, parents/carers can choose whether or not to engage with the LA.
5. On 6th November 2019, 666 (of the 817 children in Nottinghamshire registered as EHE) were receiving EHE adviser visits, while parents/carers of 151 children refused Local Authority involvement.
6. From that point, a child acquires elective home educated status and the parents/carers are elective home educators. The parent/carer then becomes completely responsible for the costs, provision and management and delivery of the education of that child, while the LA ceases involvement. There are no curricular or other requirements incumbent on elective home educators, who are free from any educational regulation.
7. All parents registered as elective home educators in Nottinghamshire are offered regular EHE adviser visits and are able to be reconnected to the LA and other services should they wish to cease elective home education, or where there is evidence of a safeguarding

concern or education is deemed to be unsuitable. If no engagement is chosen, parents/carers are under no legal obligation to see an EHE adviser, to allow their educational provision to be monitored or to provide written reports of their provision. They are free from any regulation.

8. The LA fulfils its duty to ensure that all children of compulsory school age in its area are being suitably educated and to act if it appears that any child is not receiving such an education through these well-established working practices. These are generally very well received because they have been influenced by the views of electively home educating families in Nottinghamshire.
9. It should be noted that there is an unknown number of parents who have always electively home educated and never enrolled their child/ren on a school roll. These children are not registered with the LA.
10. The Council's EHE associate adviser team meets termly with the EHE Programme Manager. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that all EHE advisers access relevant training to fulfil their role effectively, in line with the Council's policies and procedures, and current legislation and guidance. Support and supervision is also available to all advisers.
11. The EHE team of associate advisers now stands at 17 advisers. The Council's procurement process enables new applicants to be approved which ensures that the team's capacity is sustainable.
12. The dashboard for EHE (attached to this report as **Appendix 1**) identifies groups of electively home educated children and the reasons behind the parental decision to become EHE as at 6th November 2019. The EHE Programme Manager uses the dashboard to inform discussions and decisions taken by a Local Authority multi-agency panel, the Vulnerable Children in Education Commissioning Panel (VCEC). This group ensures rapid action is taken by appropriate services to return these vulnerable children to a suitable education as quickly as possible.
13. In Nottinghamshire, 817 children were registered as EHE on 6th November 2019, an increase of 134 since 2nd October 2018. It is now expected that by June 2020, before Year 11 students leave the cohort, the EHE population may reach 1,000, based on previous patterns of registration.
14. Of the 817 children registered EHE in Nottinghamshire on 6th November 2019, slightly more were female than male. 248 were of primary school age and 569 were of secondary school age. Of the secondary age pupils, 303 were in Years 10 & 11.
15. The increase in number of EHE pupils from October 2018 to November 2019 is overwhelmingly derived from a rise in secondary school withdrawals, particularly in Year 11:

Registered EHE pupils: Oct. 2019 – Nov 2019				
Secondary school		Oct 2018	Nov 2019	difference
Key Stage 4	Y11	106	183	+77
KS4	Y10	119	120	+1

Registered EHE pupils: Oct. 2019 – Nov 2019				
Total KS4		225	301	+78
KS3	Y9	89	120	+31
KS3	Y8	89	82	-7
KS3	Y7	61	64	+3
Total KS3		239	266	+27
Total secondary		464	567	+105
Primary school				
KS2	Y6	49	51	+2
KS2	Y5	39	45	+6
KS2	Y4	35	50	+15
KS2	Y3	38	44	+6
Total KS2		161	192	+29
KS1	Y2	34	39	+5
KS1	Y1	23	16	-7
FS2	YR	1	3	+2
Total KS1/FS2		58	58	0
Total primary		219	250	+29
Total primary + secondary		683	817	+134

[Total numbers adjusted to reflect LA involvement]

16. The patterns of age at which children become EHE display sustained features. There is a spike at age 5/6, and numbers then rise gradually through the primary phase. Higher spikes occur from age 11, as children enter secondary phase, with 64 children registered as EHE in the Year 7 cohort of 2019/20. These peaks tend to increase with age, with 120 students in Year 9, 120 students in Year 10 and 183 students in Year 11 electively home educated on 6th November 2019. These numbers are likely to increase over the course of the academic year.
17. On 6th November 2019, 588 EHE children were White British and 57 were of Gypsy, Roma or Traveller ethnicity, with the remainder being either from other ethnic groups or unknown. 2 children were on a Child Protection Plan and 18 had Children In Need status. 20 children had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) indicating a significant level of identified Special Educational Need (SEN).
18. Reasons for withdrawal from school to home educate as stated by the parent or the school at the time of withdrawal were:
 - 13 - school phobic or refuser
 - 18 - response to legal attendance proceedings or prosecution
 - 39 - bullying at or around school
 - 57 - dissatisfaction or conflict with school
 - 293 - unknown reasons
 - 87 - emotional reasons, e.g. anxiety and mental health issues
 - 310 - preferred method – i.e. parental choice.
19. The number of children recorded as withdrawn from school by the beginning Year 7, i.e. the first year of secondary school, continues to exceed those registered as EHE for each of Years 1, 2 and 3. The secondary school number rises considerably during Years 7 and

8 with a very significant increase this year in Year 9. Parents or carers of children withdrawn in Years 7, 8 and 9 often report 'lack of understanding' of a school in meeting their child's Special Educational Needs as the reason for EHE. Many of these children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Anxiety and mental health issues are increasingly described as factors in the decision to EHE, and 'bullying' and associated low attendance and behavioural issues are often mentioned. Safeguarding concerns, often within a family or social context of domestic violence, addiction, adult mental health needs and sexualised behaviour, are prominent as children advance through their early and mid-teens. Young people displaying symptoms of disengagement from an academic, as opposed to a vocational, education sometimes refuse to attend school. A large proportion of secondary aged EHE children will not return to school if they are withdrawn after the age of 12. There is evidence that some secondary academies encourage or persuade parents/carers, unlawfully, to remove a child to home educate. This is challenged by the EHE team, whenever the team becomes aware. In such circumstances, senior officers intervene directly with academies to ensure that such children are not unlawfully removed from roll.

20. A final impetus towards EHE appears in the final years of secondary education. Here, as well as the causal factors above, an academic, GCSE-based curriculum is often described by parents/carers and young people themselves as too 'hard', 'rigorous' and 'demanding' as the final intensity of the exam year is reached. Anxiety and other mental health issues also appear to be key factors here. Elective home education is sometimes chosen as a solution and some parents then take up the offer from FE colleges in Nottingham, Mansfield and Worksop of part-time, pre-16 courses for home educated students.
21. Most EHE students go on to further education, training and/or employment and those students who have no post-16 destination are referred to the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Team within the Family Service.
22. In response to the concerning rise in EHE withdrawals, from secondary schools in particular, headteachers are now required to provide more detailed information on children leaving a school roll, with the expectation that a meeting with parents and the student will have taken place, at which reasons for the choice of EHE are thoroughly discussed.
23. Nationally, EHE is a high-profile issue and there are widespread concerns about the rapid rise in the numbers of children being home educated, schools off rolling children unlawfully, the potential and actual safeguarding risks to these children and young people and the quality of the education being provided. The DfE published updated non-statutory guidance for local authorities and for parents (April 2019) as detailed in the previous report to Committee dated 17th June 2019. As a result of this, the EHE Team has revised some of its processes to ensure a more rapid follow up where concerns exist about the suitability of EHE, and to require a more detailed response from parents who refuse adviser visits regarding the programmes of education they are providing. A new EHE Policy is currently out for consultation which will reflect some of these changes.
24. The Ofsted research study: 'Moving to home education from secondary school' was published in October 2019 and is available as a background paper. The report examined the transition from a secondary school roll to home education by sampling pupils', parents'/carers' and secondary school leaders' experiences of and opinions on this process across the East Midlands. The programme also sought the views of officers

responsible for EHE. Nottinghamshire was selected to take part in this project and HMIs met with the Council's EHE Programme Manager and senior leaders from four Nottinghamshire secondary schools and conducted telephone interviews with a number of home educating parents/carers.

25. The study's main findings were as follows:

- special educational needs and/or medical, behavioural or other wellbeing needs were the main reasons for moves to home education at secondary school level, according to children and parents. In many cases there is a perceived lack of appropriate support for these children
- the length of time for considering a move to home education was sometimes very short – as little as one day in some instances. Schools and LAs were rarely informed in advance so there is little opportunity to work together to help parents and children to make a fully informed and positive choice about home education
- home education can be a last resort for some families when relationships have broken down between schools and children or parents
- parents can move children to home education to avoid pressures at school such as the threat of permanent exclusion or prosecution for non-attendance. This is a complex issue sometimes involving schools “off-rolling” or applying pressure on parents to remove their child. In some cases, it involves “neglectful parenting”.

26. There is a recommendation that schools and LAs should develop clear processes for working together once a parent's intention to home educate is known. Encouragingly, Ofsted have committed, where evidence of off-rolling is found, to report on this, which is “likely to lead to judging leadership and management as ‘inadequate’”. Ofsted also plan to “explore a methodology that, where movement into home schooling is high, enables inspectors to take the views of parents who have moved into home education into their inspection evidence.”

27. Nottinghamshire's EHE Team recently approached the Education Department of Nottingham University with a view to commissioning a piece of quantitative research into academic and employment outcomes for young people who have been electively home educated. The University is interested in developing this and in submitting a funding bid to the Economic and Social Research Council. The total cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £500,000 to £600,000. The University is now in the process of developing a draft research project proposal. The research team is expected to involve 1 or 2 EHE advisers and other key Council and partner agencies alongside University researchers and will study a representative cohort of Key Stage 4 EHE students over 1 or 2 years. It will also involve previous cohorts of ex- EHE learners aged 18 to 19 years to identify the outcomes and impact of decisions made whilst being home educated.

28. EHE Adviser reports in the financial year 2019/2020 to date (1st April 2019 to 6th November 2019) show that there have been 422 adviser visits to children registered as EHE. 386 of these visits had a satisfactory outcome with EHE being deemed suitable. In 37 cases, the education was deemed to be unsuitable, requiring LA action and a return to school through the Fair Access Protocol. A further 24 visits were made to clarify reasons for withdrawal from school prior to EHE registration. Some of these intervention visits resulted in a return to school. In addition, associate advisers attended a total of 86 meetings. These include Child Protection and Children in Need meetings, meetings with the Integrated Children's

Disability Service for young people being assessed for an EHCP and meetings to facilitate a return to school for vulnerable children.

29. At the start of November 2019, there were 498 Nottinghamshire students, aged between 5 and 16 years, on roll at a school who had at some point previously been registered as electively home educated. (This figure does not account for those pupils who made multiple movements between EHE and school status).

Other Options Considered

30. The Council remains statutorily responsible for ensuring that all children and young people of statutory school age access full time education. Therefore, the Children Missing Education Strategy endorsed by the Children and Young People's Committee on 23 April 2014 and Policy Committee on 7 May 2014 continues to be implemented to ensure that every school aged child should be on a school roll, with the exception of those who are electively home educated. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

31. Members will wish to be assured that the Council's statutory duty to provide full-time education for all children and young people of statutory school age is being fulfilled.

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. It should be noted that the increasing number of electively home educated children means that the budget required to monitor the suitability of the education and to enable the LA to fulfil its statutory safeguarding duty is increasing. The £77,000 LA budget will be subsidised from the School Improvement grant in 2019/20. It is forecast that the requirement from the School Improvement grant for 2019/20 will be £173,000.
34. A budget pressure of £175,000 has been requested as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process. If agreed, the LA budget for 2020/21 will be sufficient to cover the cost of the service.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee requests a further six-monthly report on Elective Home Education.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Group Manager, Support to Schools Service
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E: karen.hughman@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SS 04/12/19)

35. The Children and Young People's Committee is the correct committee to consider this report.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/12/19)

36. The increasing number of electively home educated children means that the budget to monitor the suitability of the education and to enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory safeguarding duty is under considerable pressure. The budget for 2019-20 is £77,000 and this will be subsidised from the School Improvement grant by £173,000.
37. A budget pressure of £175,000 has been requested as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process.

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.

Ofsted research study: 'Moving to home education from secondary school' published October 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exploring-moving-to-home-education-in-secondary-schools>

[Children Missing Education Strategy – report to Policy Committee on 7th May 2014](#)

[Elective Home Education update – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17th June 2019.](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1323

Children with Current Active Elective Home Education Involvements

Data Quality Checks:

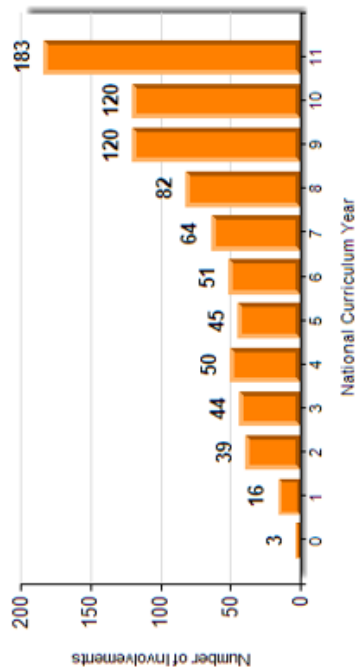
Current Number of Active EHE Involvements 817

Number of EHE Children who are Looked After 0

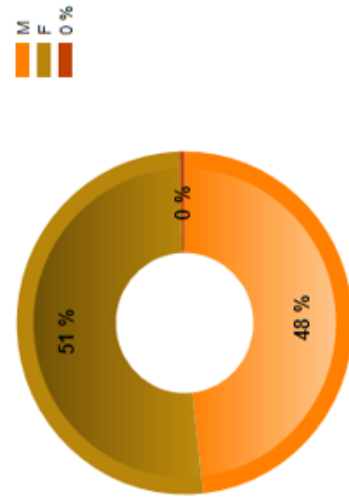
Number of EHE Children who are on a Child Protection Plan 2

Number of EHE Children who are on a Child in Need Plan 19

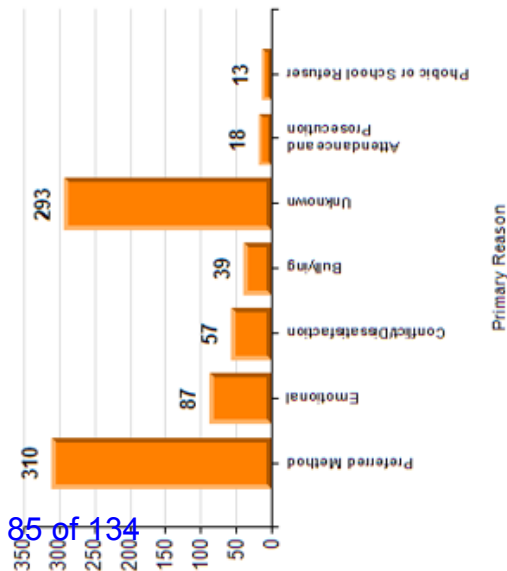
Number of EHE Children by National Curriculum Year (NCY)



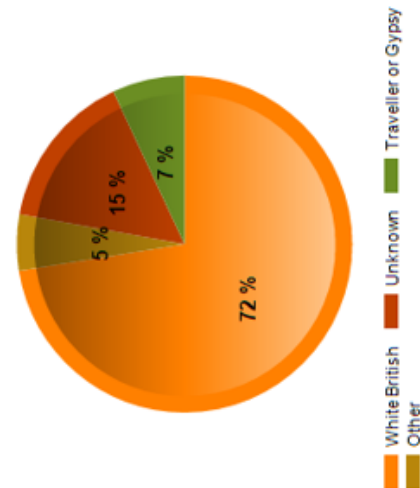
Percentage of EHE Children by Gender



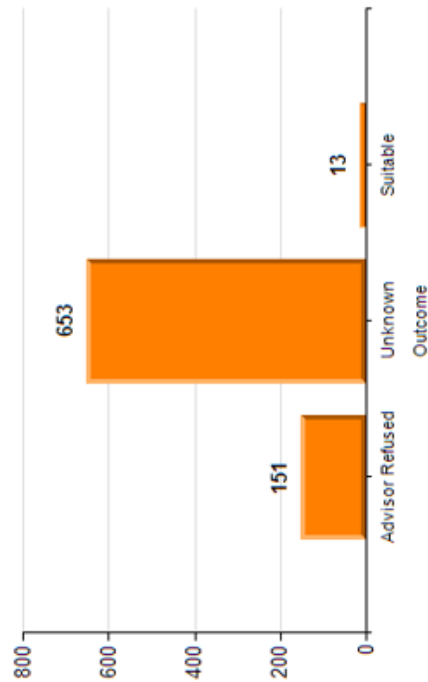
Number of EHE Children by Reason for Involvement



Percentage of EHE Children by Ethnicity

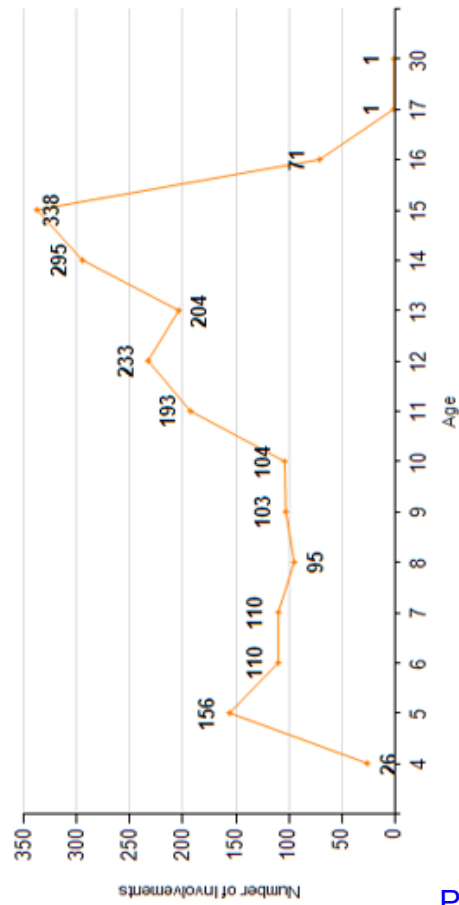


Number of EHE Children by Outcome of Involvement

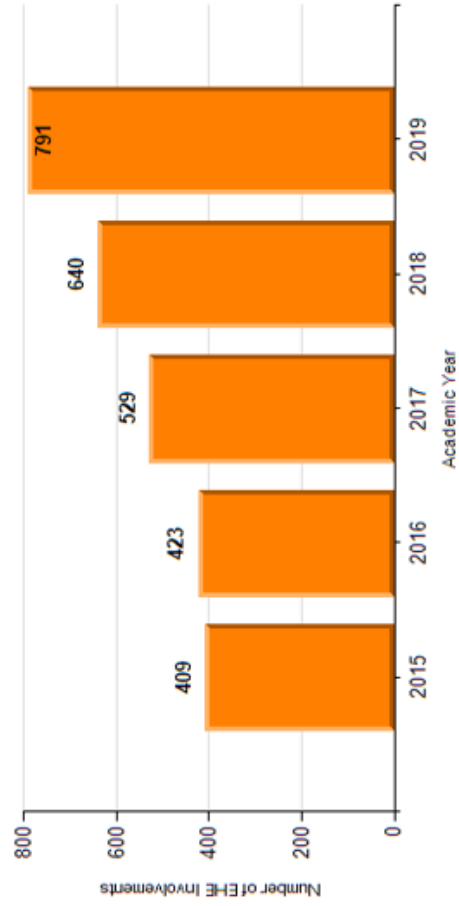


Number of Elective Home Education Involvements Over the Last Five Academic Years

Child's Age at which EHE Involvement Commenced



Number of EHE Involvements in the last 5 years on the 1st September



16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR BY CHILDREN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Committee with information regarding the work being undertaken by the Local Authority and relevant partner organisations regarding sexually harmful behaviour by children.

Information

2. On 18th September 2019 Policy Committee received a report of the findings of and the Council's initial response to the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report "Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils". Responses to Harmful Sexual Behaviour was one of the areas considered by IICSA. Policy Committee agreed a recommendation that a report on Nottinghamshire's response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour be taken to the Children and Young People's Committee on 16th December 2019. The IICSA report noted that "More recently the County has taken steps to evaluate and improve its response to harmful sexual behaviour". This report seeks to provide assurance to Elected Members as to Nottinghamshire's response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and sets out a programme for future action and explains the existing governance structures.

3. Nottinghamshire has adopted the NSPCC's definition of HSB by children:

'One or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words and phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults.'

4. In 2017 a multi-agency organisational audit was carried out using a tool provided by the NSPCC and this was followed by an audit of case work in 2018. These audits identified a number of areas for improvement which led to recommendations and actions overseen by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board and the successor Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP).
5. Included within the actions was a programme of awareness training for a wide group of staff working with children, training for social work and youth justice staff carrying out specialist "AIM" (Assessment, Intervention and Moving on) assessments of children who have displayed sexually harmful behaviour and the introduction of a new model for intervention,

Good Lives. Both AIM and Good Lives have established evidence bases to show their effectiveness. A small number of staff have also received training on working with young people with complex needs who sexually harm and on technology assisted harmful sexual behaviour.

6. At the time of writing 68 social workers have been trained to complete AIM assessments with an additional 10 youth justice case workers AIM trained. Staff across children's services have also been trained to deliver Good Lives interventions. This is sufficient to meet currently identified need.
7. Procedures for staff within the Local Authority have been revised and guidance for schools, who regularly need to make sensitive judgements about children's behaviour, has been developed by the Council's Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team. The 'Brook Traffic Light Tool' has been adopted by the NSCP for use by all partners to help make judgements about presenting sexualised behaviours and appropriate actions to be taken including whether a safeguarding referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) should be made.
8. A new process within the 'Mosaic' electronic case recording system has been developed and recently introduced. Once embedded this should enable robust and automated reporting of data on sexual harm and this will allow an ongoing assessment of prevalence and the effectiveness of the response by agencies.
9. One of the issues highlighted in the audits was that of ensuring the consistency of response. A key change in this regard has been the establishment of a new Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel in June 2018. This multi-agency panel considers all cases where a child has been the subject of an AIM assessment. The panels are held monthly and are independently chaired. They have a standing panel which includes representatives from children's social care, youth offending service, educational psychology, police and health. Operational staff attend panels to present cases and assessments are carefully considered and recommendations for further action agreed where required.
10. Between June 2018, when the HSB panel was established, and May 2019, 50 cases have been assessed and presented to the panel. The profile of children within this cohort fits with national research on the subject, that being predominantly primarily boys in the 14-16 years age group.
11. Two case audit exercises have been completed since the establishment of the panel, reporting into the NSCP in November 2018 and June 2019. The audits showed positive progress in terms of timeliness and consistency of practice, evidence of use of recommended assessment tools in the majority of cases and the HSB panel rigorously examining cases and making appropriate recommendations for action that in the vast majority of cases were completed.
12. A specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provision has been recommissioned for intervention in cases where there are higher levels of concern or complexity. In addition, a regionally based 'Forensic CAMHS' was established in the second half of 2018. This is primarily consultative but provides an additional layer of expertise to local practitioners in understanding risk and planning interventions in the most concerning cases.

13. The multi-agency arrangements for assessment and intervention are overseen by the NSCP. A HSB steering group with senior representatives from the involved organisations has been established. The steering group is responsible for providing the direct oversight of the HSB Panel, procedures, tools and training. The panel ensures that there are sufficient trained staff to complete both specialist assessments and interventions as well as commissioned services where required. Progress is regularly monitored by reporting to the NSCP Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG).
14. A further multi-agency case audit under the auspices of the NSCP is to be carried out in 2020. This will focus on both procedural compliance and the effectiveness of interventions. Initial planning for the audit will take place in December 2019 where the detailed scope and plan will be determined. The findings of the audit will be reported into the NSCP in June 2020. The multi-agency 'organisational' audit (carried out in 2017) will also be re completed and reported into the NSCP in the same timescale.
15. The training needs of professionals will be reviewed over the coming months. A revised version of the AIM assessment tool has been developed by GMAP (the specialist independent organisation who developed the tool) and this may necessitate additional input for staff.
16. In the next six months the steering group will explore how work in this area can be better informed by the views of children and young people. This will be both those alleged to have perpetrated harmful behaviours and importantly the victims, ensuring the needs of both groups are met.
17. The steering group will work with colleagues to develop a data set to provide a clear on-going picture of the scale, nature and response to harmful sexual behaviour by children and young people.

Other Options Considered

18. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. Harmful sexual behaviour by children is a significant concern to the public and Elected Members and has been considered by the Independent inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The recommendation is made to ensure that the Committee has an opportunity to be informed about current practice and direct further work in any areas of ongoing concern.

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.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee agrees to receive an annual report on Nottinghamshire's response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour by children and that this be included in the work programme.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (AK 21/11/19)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 20/11/19)

23. 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.

<https://legacy.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – initial response: report to Policy Committee on 18th September 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1320

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 13

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PROGRESS AGAINST THE IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress against the Improving the Effectiveness & Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan presented to Committee on 16th September 2019.
2. To consider whether there are any further actions Committee requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Information

3. On 16th September 2019 the Children and Young People's Committee received a report entitled '2019/2020 Children and Families Budget Update'. This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the challenges facing the departmental budget, the factors behind the volatility of spending on children's services and the actions proposed in mitigation. Committee agreed to receive an update every three months.
4. An update on the departmental budget position is provided to Committee in the paper entitled 'Children and Young People Core Data Set – performance for quarter 2 2019/20'. As the information is available to Committee through that source the analysis is not repeated within this report.
5. An updated version of the 'Effectiveness and Efficiency Plan' is attached as **Appendix 1**. Of note is that the deployment of agency social care staff is forecast to have dropped from 83.9 full time equivalents, the actual figure as at April 2019, to 69 fte at March 2020. All but four of these deployments are in teams specified as being "hard to recruit" to. Recruitment and retention issues have led to caseloads in the majority of the District Child Protection Teams being too high. Additional capacity agency staff have been recruited to those teams and as a consequence caseloads are now reducing towards the target of 20, although this remains an ongoing challenge. Caseloads in the Looked After Children service remain at 18 to 24 children per social worker depending on the complexity of the children's needs.
6. A recent independent audit concluded that the threshold for children coming into care is correct. A variety of measures are being taken forward to make sure that children are in high quality placements that also provide value for money. A marketing campaign aimed

at recruiting foster carers by the Local Authority, thus reducing the number of placements with independent fostering agencies, commenced in November. The Local Authority has also increased the number of 'block contract' residential placements with external providers. The total number of new homes under this arrangement will be four with three now open. A fourth home is being sourced by the provider to become a specialist unit to accommodate a Nottinghamshire child in care who is deaf and presents with a range of special needs. Joint work is taking place with Nottingham City, Derby City and Derbyshire County Councils to establish a Commissioning Framework for residential and independent fostering agencies. The tender process is nearing completion and a wide selection of providers have applied and will be eligible for the framework, and contract management arrangements are in place. These arrangements will commence in February 2020.

7. The department has made significant progress in establishing a new strengths-based model, branded as 'Nottinghamshire's Children, Nottinghamshire's Future'. A practice development day to promote this approach was held in October 2019 and attended by 550 members of staff from Children and Families department. A working group is overseeing the plan to implement and embed this way of working. This will include revising the approach to child protection conferences and having a comprehensive training offer. Group reflective supervision has been rolled out across safeguarding teams. An evaluation will be completed in May 2020.

Other Options Considered

8. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. These recommendations provide the range of measures being taken by the Children and Families department via the Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan, to address the financial and service challenges currently being faced.

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. The 'Effectiveness and Efficiency Plan' aims to address the financial challenges that the Children and Families department is facing due to increased demand.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee considers whether there are any further actions required in relation to the information contained in the report on progress against the Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan.

Colin Pettigrew
Corporate Director, Children and Families

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Constitutional Comments (AK 21/11/19)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 04/12/19)

13. 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.

[2019-2020 Children and Families budget update – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th September 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1325

The overarching objective of this improvement plan is to ensure that the Children and Families Department is taking the necessary steps to provide safe, effective, efficient and cost-effective services to vulnerable children, young people and their families in Nottinghamshire, with enabling support and challenge from the Chief Executives, Adult Social Care and Health and Place Departments.

The plan should be read in conjunction with the existing highlight reporting against the Department's major change programmes: Remodelling Care and Remodelling Practice. These programmes detail the specific benefits to be delivered in respect of financial savings/cost avoidance and efficiency.

1. Addressing the in-year financial challenges

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
1.1	Regularly review the need for agency staffing through Agency Challenge Panel.	Colin Pettigrew	Steve Edwards	Reduce agency spend. Ensure that any agency deployment is absolutely necessary and is targeted at our highest priority areas.	Quarterly. Next meeting 24 September 2019	All social work caseloads are within the set manageable number when measured each month. The forecast on agency staffing spend for 2019-20 is carefully monitored and does not exceed the number of agency staff required to ensure that Social Workers have manageable workloads.	The deployment of agency social care staff is forecast to have dropped from 83.9 full time equivalents, the actual figure as at April 2019, to 69 fte at March 2020. All but four of these deployments are in teams specified as being "hard to recruit" to. Recruitment and retention issues have led to caseloads in the majority of the District Child Protection teams being too high. Additional capacity agency staff have been recruited to those teams and as a consequence we are seeing caseloads reduce towards our aim of 20, although this remains an ongoing challenge. Caseloads in the LAC service remain at 18-24 children depending on complexity.	Ongoing
1.2	Quarterly reviews of non-essential spend.	Colin Pettigrew / Nigel Stevenson	Laurence Jones / Sue Summerscales	Identify and eliminate unnecessary spend.	Completed every quarter.	Completion of review and advice issued to staff on changes needed to expenditure approvals.	Quarterly reviews are in place. Where there have been delayed returns these are being followed up. No significant areas on non-essential spend have been identified.	Ongoing
1.3	Audit of financial management processes and culture within the department.	Colin Pettigrew / Nigel Stevenson	Simon Lacey	To understand if any changes are required to deliver the optimum oversight of value for money within the department.	November 2019	An action plan is approved and implemented to take forward any recommendations within the report.	Fieldwork has is well underway and a report should be available prior to the next quarterly report.	Ongoing
1.4	Benchmark current service outcomes and financial performance against statistical neighbours who are rated good or outstanding in an OFSTED ILACS.	Colin Pettigrew / Nigel Stevenson	Laurence Jones	This will help understand how the department is performing relative to others and prompt a deeper challenge of balancing children care need and staying within budget.	November 2019	An action plan is approved and implemented to take forward any recommendations as a result of the benchmarking.	Nottinghamshire spends £757 per head of 0-17 population compared to a statistical neighbour average of £703. There are discrepancies within the way that budgets are reported and so further analysis will be required in order to establish if this is a like-for-like comparison and produce a meaningful action plan. We will review this once we have the updated LAC Benchmarking Club report from CIPFA, which is due in the new year.	On track

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
1.5	Independent review of 20 most recently accommodated children.	Colin Pettigrew	Steve Edwards	Assurance that only those children who need to come into care do so.	Report completed July 2019	Only children that need to come into care do so.	The Independent audit concluded that thresholds for admission into care are appropriate. It is expected that the recent Ofsted inspection will also comment on the appropriateness of thresholds.	Complete
1.6	Senior managers to regularly review the most expensive care placements.	Colin Pettigrew	Laurence Jones	Effective use of budget and appropriate investment in long term outcomes for children.	Monthly	The top 20 most expensive placements are reviewed monthly.	Reviews are underway. In one case a successful negotiation with health has decreased local authority contributions to a care package by £50,000.	Ongoing

2. Effective delivery of change programmes, accelerating pace where possible, and improving ability to track benefits realisation

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
2.1	<p>Increased number of internal fostering placements available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing prioritised support of marketing and communications colleagues with comprehensive campaign through to July 2020 Corporate and partnership approach to improve offer to foster carers (leisure facilities, council tax discount, parking etc). 	<p>Marje Toward</p> <p>Anthony May/ Adrian Smith</p>	<p>Luke Barrett/ Catherine Kelly</p> <p>Derek Higton/ Pete Mathieson/ Chris Ward/ Andy Dawson</p>	<p>Safe, caring and loving placements for children.</p> <p>Higher percentage of foster placements are made internally</p> <p>Any unnecessary expenditure is avoided</p>	<p>Rolling marketing campaign to July 2020</p> <p>Revised offer for foster carers by April 2020</p>	<p>Savings target achieved</p> <p>A net increase of 50 fostering placements by March 2021</p> <p>Increase in fostering enquiries of 20%</p> <p>Increase in conversion from enquiry to approved foster carer of 10%</p>	<p>The new marketing plan was signed off at the start of November and is now underway.</p> <p>Foster carers were asked if discounted transport, car parking and access to leisure facilities would be welcomed, and the response was overwhelmingly positive, so this is progressing.</p> <p>Recently the fostering recruitment team managed to secure free child's cycle hire from the National Trust at Clumber Park for foster families, a potential saving of £16.80 for a days' cycling</p> <p>Work is still underway to establish a baseline of available placements on which to calculate an increase in placements.</p>	Ongoing
2.2	<p>Increase in internal residential children's home capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional 4 bed residential home opened. 	Colin Pettigrew/ Adrian Smith	Devon Allen/ Neil Gamble	Timely mobilisation of new residential home. Four new NCC residential placements available avoiding the need for more costly external residential	Timeframe is largely dependent on the operating model agreed by Members, but is estimated at between June and September 2020.	Four additional residential placements for Nottinghamshire in a NCC owned home by May 2020.	A review has been undertaken and there is now being consideration as to whether two two-bedded homes might provide better value. This is in light of one young person who needs ongoing accommodation in a specialist setting which cannot be provided in the market. The estimations on completion date remain unchanged.	Ongoing

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration when remodelling wider NCC estate and in planning applications for housing developments to increase children's home capacity/ accommodation for care leavers 			placements and resulting in good outcomes for the children.				
2.3	Increase the number of "block contract" residential placements with external providers. The total number of new homes under this arrangement will be four.	Colin Pettigrew	Jon Hawketts	Contracts which provide a better cost per placement (as long as occupancy is maintained) and therefore help reduce placement costs.	First two homes by September 2019	Savings target achieved New homes operational and fully occupied by February 2020.	The first two homes became operational from July 2019 and are fully occupied. The third home became operational from November 2019 and admitted its first placement at that point. The second placement will be made in December 2019. A fourth home is being sourced by the provider to become a specialist unit to accommodate a Nottinghamshire child in care who is deaf and presents with a range of special needs.	On track
2.4	Establish a D2N2 Commissioning Framework for residential and Independent Fostering Agencies.	Colin Pettigrew	Jon Hawketts	To use economies of scale to reduce the cost of placements. To develop the market across the D2N2 footprint to increase diversity, availability and quality. This will also reduce costs per placement overall. Further development of block arrangements may also reduce unit costs.	February 2020	New D2N2 Framework in place	The tender process is nearing completion and a wide selection of providers of provider have applied and will be eligible for the framework. Contract management arrangements are in place.	On track
2.5	Develop enhanced models of semi-independent accommodation for the most complex care leavers in smaller units.	Colin Pettigrew	Jon Hawketts	The most complex care leavers often fail to make a successful transition from residential care to supported accommodation. By providing smaller units an earlier successful transition could be made which is better for	Some already operational; others planned to be so by 2020/21	14 new units in place by April 2020 Reduced instances and level of evictions Improved outcomes for individual young people (as evidenced via Outcome Star scores)	1 smaller 5-bed 24 hour staffed setting has been developed and is operational. Potential site identified for Core plus service and ongoing discussions with Strategic Business Partner and current provider regarding its development Approval sought to commission spot placements via the DPPS to meet the needs of the most vulnerable care leavers aged 18+. Guidance note developed.	Ongoing

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
				the young person as they reach adulthood and is also significantly cheaper than residential care. It also frees places in residential care for those who need it the most.			Making teenage parent service staffed 24/7 (6 bed unit), existing provider is currently in the process of recruiting night workers for this service.	
2.6	Delivery of the Social Impact Bond Model (jointly with Nottingham and Derby City Councils).	Colin Pettigrew	Jon Hawketts	To reduce the number of young people in high cost residential placements and therefore reduce the pressure on the placements budget. To make use of up to £3m of Big Lottery (LCF) funding.	SIB to be operational by Feb 2020 (revised)	SIB to become operational, receiving referrals and delivering positive outcomes for individual CYP and delivering budget savings	A new social investor has been identified and the final stages are now being undertaken so that the new service can be mobilised. This is expected by February 2020.	On track
2.7	To ensure that the corporate Digital Development Programme supports delivery of the Children and Families Department's "Digital Development Plan"	Adrian Smith / Colin Pettigrew	Katharine Smith Tracy Hill Sue Milburn Joe Foley	Using technology to achieve simple and immediate access and better support for service users More efficient access to relevant information between organisations within the children's partnership (e.g. social care and CAMHS). Care leavers better able to access information about local offer.	Details	Delivery of the Children and Families Department's "Digital Development Plan"	These programmes are aligned and the Digital Development Plan for the department has been consulted on and signed off by the Digital Development Board and implementation has begun. The plan will form part of the department's annual update to Improvement and Change Committee.	On track
2.8	Ensuring there is sufficient/prioritised capacity to develop the BI reports required to meet Ofsted requirements	Nigel Stevenson	Rob Disney	Reduction in manual tasks undertaken within frontline services thus freeing up management and	End of September 2019 for Ofsted reporting	A suite of appropriate reports and dashboards available	Business intelligence reports for Ofsted were completed in line with requirements. There is further work to do on improving workforce reporting and developing the required BI reports as part of the Department's transformation and change programme. The Department will work with	Ongoing

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
	(including workforce reporting), baseline and track benefits of change programmes, and facilitate management decision-making.			<p>business support capacity.</p> <p>Better data on which to inform decision making.</p> <p>Better data upon which to inform benefits monitoring of projects</p> <p>Fulfil Ofsted requirement.</p> <p>Ability to track impact of project initiatives on recruitment and retention of staff.</p> <p>Better decision making on use of agency staff.</p>	Further development by June 2020		Performance and other stakeholders to agree the set of priorities for the next six months.	
2.9	<p>Additional project management capacity/financial resource for capacity within the department to be established to deliver the following change projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing whole family safeguarding teams between children's and adults; Making the front door delivery model sustainable within the context of increasing demand; Taking a joint commissioning approach with health for children with 	Nigel Stevenson /Colin Pettigrew	Sue Milburn/ Lucy Peel / Marion Clay	<p>More timely delivery of a range of projects intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve practice and through this children's outcomes; release capacity within frontline teams; and make more efficient use of resources and avoid cost where possible. <p>SEND budgets are managed so that large budget deficits do not appear in the Dedicated Schools Grant.</p>	<p>To be determined once projects initiated. Next step for progressing family safeguarding is joint CFS and ASCH leadership team meeting on 17 September.</p> <p>SEND strategy – initial phases are being delivered following Higher Level Needs budget review. This is being developed into a formal 5 year strategy for implementation from spring 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing whole family safeguarding teams between children's and adults; Making the front door delivery model sustainable within the context of increasing demand; Taking a joint commissioning approach with health for children with complex needs; Delivering a five year SEND transformation strategy and <p>Developing a coherent approach to supporting children living in kinship arrangements.</p>	<p>Additional capacity agreed in principle at Transformation and Governance Group on 26 July. 3 additional programme officers have been appointed and this has enabled work to commence on the front door development plan, the kinship project and additional capacity for the Children's Centres project. Recruitment to the two project manager posts within P&P is pending, and this will enable the project work to commence on the joint commissioning and SEND projects. A kinship project has been initiated however medium-term resource with this is to be established. The Department is preparing a resourcing proposal to be considered by the next Transformation and Governance Group on 29 November.</p> <p>SEND strategy in development.</p> <p>Following the review of the High Needs Budget and underpinning Strategy by Peter Grey published June 2018, there has been a comprehensive consultation with the schools sector and with parents and as a result the Education, Learning and Skills Service has been reviewed and a new structure agreed by CYP in June 2019. In addition, this review, including the parent and stakeholder feedback of the high consultation undertaken between Dec 2018 – Jan 2019, it was agreed that there should be a move to</p>	Ongoing

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
	<p>complex needs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering a five year SEND transformation strategy and Developing a coherent approach to supporting children living in kinship arrangements. <p>Anticipated additional capacity requirements: 2 project managers, 3 programme officers within programmes and projects, plus funding for 2 project manager posts to be hosted within the department, graduate trainee.</p>						<p>locality working by the Schools and Families Specialist Services and the Service is now in the process of advertising for 7 district SENCOs and to move to a locality working model. Also, "Nottinghamshire SEND Policy" (0-25 years) 2020 – 2023 will go to consultation on 16th September which will open until the 29 November 2019. This consultation will inform the final Policy which will be taken to the December 2019 Policy Committee.</p>	
2.10	Ensuring that sold services are achieving full cost recovery in all instances	Colin Pettigrew	Laurence Jones	Accurately calculating full costs and having charges which reflect these	1 April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> full cost calculated income achieved 	A review of the nightly bed price for disability homes and Clayfields House is complete. Sold services to schools are being reviewed based on updated demand information.	Ongoing

3. Creating the conditions for good practice to flourish

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
3.1	Taking a corporate approach to parking at all sites to ensure social workers have prioritised access to parking.	Adrian Smith	Derek Higon	Better efficiency of social work time. Improved staff morale.	To be determined.	Improved staff satisfaction ratings as measured through feedback via annual health check and through Practice Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking pressure at Padge Road, Beeston, has been significantly alleviated to support parking access for social work staff The Investing in Nottinghamshire Board has established a workstream to establish a corporate staff parking policy that will support priority access for key staff groups 	On track

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
3.2	Ensuring that the smartphones for social workers function as smartphones at the earliest possible opportunity and no later than the current planning go live date of October 2019.	Nigel Stevenson	Nigel Harlow	Social workers better able to work efficiently. Would mean that Apps that have been commissioned (Mind of My Own, Guardian 24) can be used on work phones. Reduction in risk of IG breaches. Improved staff morale.	All social workers to have smartphones by October 2019	All relevant staff having functioning smartphones Improved staff morale as measured through feedback via annual health check and through Practice Forum	Of 250 users who had smart phones that weren't enabled, the majority are now functional. These users will need to be upgraded to the fully managed service in early 2020. There are still a number of users of non smart enabled phones who have not yet upgraded their phones. The Department is working with ICT to progress this. Once the above is complete, a new process will be implemented for new smart phones to be ordered for those that do not have one.	Ongoing
3.3	Introduction of Guardian 24 on smartphones to improve personal safety for workers during visits in the community	Nigel Stevenson / Marje Toward	John Nilan	Improved staff morale. Reduction in cost (current solution more expensive).	Implementation from September 2019	All relevant staff have access to Guardian 24. Improvement in percentage of staff feeling safe as measured through annual health check (baseline through health check of 79%).	Despite some issues with procurement, due to issues with the provider, costs have now been received and are being considered. The use of Guardian 24 is being considered as a review of personal safety for staff across the local authority and a new framework will be established and in place by spring of next year.	Ongoing
3.4	Introduce a clear values-based framework within which to work and support in managing the challenges of complex case work (rollout of reflective group supervision).	Colin Pettigrew	Lucy Peel	Improve case progress and successful outcomes therefore over time reducing the number of cases requiring a social worker. Increase job satisfaction and therefore social worker retention. This then reduces the need for expensive agency workers.	Rollout across District Child Protection Teams and the Children's Disability Service by September 2019. Further roll outs to follow.	Social work caseloads are within the set manageable number Reduced drift and delay (average duration of child in need and child protection cases) Improved staff retention during 2020-21 Continued reduction in use of agency staff during 2020-21	A strengths-based practice development day was held in October 2019 and attended by 550 members of staff from Children and Families. A working group overseeing the plan to implement and embed this way of working. This will include revising the approach to child protection conferences and having a comprehensive training offer. Group reflective supervision has been rolled out across safeguarding teams. An evaluation will be completed in May 2020.	Ongoing
3.5	Provide support recognising the emotional toll of the work that social workers do (piloting Schwartz Rounds,	Colin Pettigrew	Lucy Peel	Reduce stress related absence and therefore for the need for expensive agency worker cover. Improve	Pilot commences June 2019. Full rollout out January 2020 pending evaluation.	Improved staff retention Improved staff wellbeing as measured through health check	Schwartz Rounds begun in the North and South of the county since June 2019. Ten rounds have been held. Feedback from staff and the Point of Care Foundation has been extremely positive. A proposal for mainstreaming the Rounds is being considered	Ongoing

	Improvement Action	CLT Accountable Officer	Lead Officer	What we hope to achieve	Timeframe	Success Measure	Progress	Status
	access to counselling support and a health and wellbeing hub).			social worker recruitment and retention through the offer to social workers.		Reduction in stress related absence	by the Remodelling Practice Steering Group in November 2019.	
3.6	Good continuing professional development and career progression opportunities through a refreshed CPD offer for experienced social workers and new team managers, and developing additional advanced practitioner roles.	Colin Pettigrew / Marje Toward	Lucy Peel / Helen Richardson	Improved social worker recruitment and retention through the offer to social workers.	Detailed action plan being developed.	Improved staff retention during 2020-21 Quality of practice as assessed through the Quality Management Framework	<p>We support practitioners and managers throughout their career by providing continuous professional development opportunities which align with the Post Qualifying Standards for Child and Family Practitioners and Practice Supervisors (Knowledge and Skills Statements). The comprehensive programme includes a variety of opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottinghamshire county council online and classroom training courses • Internally commissioned online and classroom training courses • University (30 –credit) modules • Workplace shadowing • Workplace briefings and workshops • Professional discussions and reflective opportunities • Self-directed learning • Supervising students or mentoring NQSWs • Access to best practice through Policies, Procedures and Guidance • Training delivered by the Safeguarding Partnership • Membership of Community Care Inform • Membership of Research in Practice <p>Our priority moving forwards is to further develop our training offer to ensure that it embeds strengths-based practice and addresses training needs practitioners and managers may have in respect of the knowledge and skills statements.</p> <p>A budget pressure for advanced practitioner roles will be considered as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process. Job descriptions are being developed in preparation.</p>	Ongoing

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 14

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT CHAPTER – EARLY YEARS AND
SCHOOL READINESS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To share the findings and recommendations of the new 'Early Years and School Readiness' Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapter, and to consider what if any actions are required by the Children and Young People's Committee.

Information**Joint Strategic Needs Assessments**

2. Government legislation makes production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) mandatory for local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups through the Health and Wellbeing Board. The JSNA provides an overview of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population, and each chapter outlines the local picture for the topic of interest, evidence of what works, unmet need, assets and recommendations for consideration. The JSNA undergoes a programme of continuous improvement including future national guidance, local priorities and feedback from consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.
3. This JSNA chapter focuses on school readiness which is measured by the level of development of a child when they reach Foundation Stage at school. The chapter provides information about current performance, local services and interventions, as well as a comprehensive review of research and evidence of what works to improve children's development. The chapter was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 6th November 2019.

Key Findings

4. Ensuring children are able to get the best from education is vital; not enough children are starting school with the range of skills they need to succeed. Educational attainment is one of the main markers for wellbeing through the life course and so it is important that no child is left behind at the beginning of their school life.

5. Research shows that access to high quality early learning experiences, together with a positive learning environment at home, is a vital combination to ensure that children have reached a good level of development at the start of compulsory school age. School readiness is a strong indicator of how prepared a child is to succeed in school cognitively, socially and emotionally.
6. In 2018, there was a small increase in the percentage of children who achieved a good level of development both nationally and locally. However, in 2018, 69.7% of Nottinghamshire pupils achieved a good level of development, compared with 71.5% across England. Nottinghamshire also performs poorly in comparison with statistically similar local authorities. Progress in Nottinghamshire is slow and despite improvements in many other outcome measures, addressing school readiness remains a challenge and therefore a local priority.
7. Children from low income households do less well than their peers. In 2018, only 49.9% of children eligible for free school meals in Nottinghamshire achieved a good level of development. *“Early years education for children below the age of four has a positive impact on the life chances of disadvantaged children, yet disadvantaged children spend significantly less time in pre-school than children from more affluent backgrounds”* (House of Commons Education Committee 2019). Around 25% are unable to communicate effectively, control their own feelings and impulses or make sense of the world around them to ensure they are ready to learn. Furthermore, many have reduced opportunities for home learning and parental engagement (Ofsted 2016).

Unmet needs and service gaps

8. Unmet needs and service gaps are explored fully in the JSNA chapter. Gaps and opportunities have been identified in relation to several areas:
 - i. Interventions to improve school readiness should start much earlier during the antenatal period so greater engagement of maternity services is required.
 - ii. School readiness targets have often been the responsibility of the Children and Families Department, however evidence suggests that a partnership approach is required, taking into consideration a holistic whole family approach focusing on a range of interdependent outcomes as evidenced in this JSNA chapter.
 - iii. Resources and funding for children accessing early years provision who have complex medical needs is insufficient. Children accessing Childminders, Private Day Nurseries and Voluntary Sector Preschools have to pay the NHS to train their practitioners in order to meet the specific health needs of a child; they also have to pay for specialist equipment and assessments which enable a child to access childcare; this is currently provided at no cost for school early years settings. Dedicated Schools Grant Funding from the Early Years Inclusion Fund and Disability Access Fund only provide costs to contribute towards staffing and some equipment, as criteria for these funding streams are set nationally; however both of these funding streams are underspent. A longer-term solution is required in order to prevent children with complex medical needs being turned away from early years provision.

- iv. There are localities across Nottinghamshire where there are sufficiency challenges in terms of childcare. This is especially the case for parents who require childcare to fit around their working patterns. There are also localities where there is sufficient high-quality childcare, however parents choose not to take up their funded childcare entitlements for a range of reasons.

Recommendations for consideration by Commissioners

9. A number of recommendations have emerged following a review of local service provision, performance, research and evidence. The JSNA has provided opportunities to review activities which will help inform the new Best Start Plan, as well as the transfer of the Children's Centre Service to the Council in June 2020.

Priority	Recommendations	Suggested Lead
To ensure Children get the Best Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Best Start Strategy/Plan and a strategic partnership group to consider wider factors which contribute to school readiness from preconception to the age of 4. Target resources to engage families earlier during the antenatal period and not wait for children to access early years provision. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC Public Health, NCC
Children achieve a Good Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the quality of early year's providers to ensure that all childcare settings are 'good' or 'outstanding' to enable poorer children to gain the best start in life. Promotion, delivery and commissioning of evidence based interventions only. Implement and review the findings of the Best Start early years tracker tool to help early years providers to assess the developmental needs of children and enable commissioners to track progress and assess impact of services and interventions. Explore increasing the moderation of assessments carried out by schools during the Early Years Foundation Stage as they do not reflect the progress children are making at age 2 - 2½. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Children most at risk of poor educational outcomes have a good level of development and the attainment gap is narrowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow the attainment gap for children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers, ensuring that progress is on a par with statistical neighbours (measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile). Target wards across Nottinghamshire with higher proportions of children living in poverty and low IDACI¹ scores. Additional work is required to engage low income families prior to the age of three and low income families not accessing early education or childcare. Increase the take up of funded early education for 2 year olds eligible for Free School Meals. Work with early years providers to ensure there are sufficient high quality and sustainable places available in low income areas. Target Children's Centre resources to target groups most at risk of poor attainment and development. Undertake tracking of outcomes for children with SEND who have claimed supplementary funding (Disability Access Fund and Early Years Inclusion Fund). 	Early Childhood Services, NCC

¹ IDACI – Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index

Priority	Recommendations	Suggested Lead
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review specific needs of migrant families and refugees with young children. Information is required to help engage these groups to access early years and childcare provision. 	
Highly Skilled Early Years Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide and evaluate high quality training and workforce development support to early years professionals across Nottinghamshire. Links with Higher Education and Further Education organisations should be strengthened to improve promotion of accredited qualifications including teaching. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Improve outcomes for Looked After Children and those known to Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure early years is embedded in the work of the Virtual School to enable young children in Local Authority Care to succeed; and commissioners are able to assess the impact of additional Pupil Premium funding allocated to this group. Ensure early years strategic leads work closely with the Virtual School to ensure that social workers, kinship and foster carers are aware of the importance of the quality of early years education. Provide training and support to early years settings to enable them to be prepared for working with high-risk and potentially high-need groups, such as looked after children. Undertake early years foundation stage data tracking and analysis for Children in Need and those on Child Protection Plans following the introduction of the Deprivation Fund. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Parents are engaged in their child's learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the Home Talk intervention or similar evidence based intervention to address and improve speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) by working with parent and child in their own home. Promotion of the national Home Learning campaign 'Hungry Little Minds' (launched July 2019) Consider the commissioning/delivery of a Home Learning resource co-produced with parents. Ensure that home learning is promoted through all local online and social media opportunities. Evaluate existing home learning interventions and launch the new home learning pathway. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Parents are effectively supported to improve their wellbeing, parenting skills, and understand their child's development needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the latest evidence base to identify which parenting programmes and family support interventions are most effective and evidence value for money, for delivery by the Children's Centre Service from 2020. Continued evaluation of outcomes for parents and carers who have participated in a variety of evidence based programmes delivered by Children's Centre Services. Topics will include boundaries and behaviour, sleep routines, parental conflict etc. Continued delivery and evaluation of 1-2-1 family support delivered by the Children's Centre Service, focusing on family routines, parental wellbeing, keeping children safe, emotional needs of children and home learning. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Children's Centre Services are responsive to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the impact of Children's Centre interventions and ensure that interventions are evidence based and evaluated. Greater engagement of children most at risk of developmental delay and their families. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC

Priority	Recommendations	Suggested Lead
need and improve outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater focus on engaging families from the antenatal period until children reach the age of 3. Ensure the Children's Centre Service once under the management of the Local Authority maintains strong links with Healthy Family Teams and Maternity Services. 	
Improve outcomes for White British Boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve outcomes for White British Boys by ensuring that the opportunities we are providing for boys in the Early Years Foundation Stage fully engage and support them in developing positive dispositions to learning. Increase take up of childcare and early education opportunities for White British Boys as early as possible. Provision of Forest School approaches should include a thorough evaluation on the impact for White British Boys, anecdotal information on the impact is insufficient and yet practitioners regularly share information about the successful engagement of boys in Forest School work. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Improve communication and language skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations highlighted from the Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Maturity Matrix assessment tool which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater engagement with maternity services and specialist Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services. Greater ownership by Clinical Commissioning Groups Improve Speech Language and Communication Needs pathways to specialist SLT services. Maintain effective speech and language support through the evaluated Home Talk programme (or similar), which identifies and supports children with early speech and language delay. Active promotion of the new national Hungry Little Minds home learning campaign which includes a focus on SLCN. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC & Public Health, NCC
Improve the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote tools to foster emotional wellbeing from the earliest stages of life, enhancing resilience and the importance of relationships to help build solid foundations for overall health and wellbeing. Implement the Routine Enquiry about Adversity in Childhood (REACH) programme to ensure that parents have their needs addressed and the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage is broken through the Children's Centre Service and Healthy Family Teams. 	Public Health, NCC
Improve outcomes for Children with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significant increase in the number of young claimants of Disability Living Allowance will require a focus on this population to review access and take-up to inform plans to ensure sufficiency of appropriate provision. Commissioners should work across County Council departments to help share findings from SEND assessments for children under the age of five, sharing key findings and learning which in turn will inform commissioning decisions and service planning. This will need to include the children that do not meet the thresholds for specialist support. Review the use of the Early Years Inclusion Fund and the Disability Access Fund to ensure that children are effectively supported as part of their transition to school. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC

Priority	Recommendations	Suggested Lead
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater promotion of childcare provision to families with children with SEND and increased promotion of funding supplements to early years settings. 	
Developmental Delays are identified and supported early	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed and review the findings of the 2-year integrated review and the impact for children accessing early years settings, and compare progress against statistical neighbours. 	Public Health, NCC
Improve outcomes for children with English as an Additional Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the specific childcare and health needs of families with English as an Additional Language (including refugees and asylum seekers). Encourage schools and health services to report both ethnic origin and English as an additional language using Office of National Statistics (ONS) codes to enable improved monitoring and analysis. 	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Ensure sufficient high-quality childcare provision is available	<p>Nottinghamshire needs to have robust data about both supply and demand for childcare, it is recommended the Local Authority evaluates progress of new data collection and monitoring procedures to ensure it supports their market management role and sufficiency duties.</p> <p><i>Refer to the Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.</i></p>	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Reduce financial barriers preventing access to childcare	<p>Work should be undertaken with key stakeholders to ensure partners and staff are aware of what support for the costs of childcare is available, and how the free entitlement can be used, and disseminate that information to their client groups.</p> <p><i>Refer to the Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.</i></p>	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Offer flexible childcare provision and provide additional childcare during school holidays and increased wrap around care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore flexible delivery models as a matter of urgency; and consider how these models of working can be applied across different types of provision for all age ranges of children. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified demand for provision in school holidays and an unmet need for after school and before school provision. Work should be undertaken with key stakeholders to identify options for additional childcare and wrap around provision, ensuring all available provision is recognised and promoted through the Local Authority's information duty, delivered by the Families Information Service. <p><i>Refer to the Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.</i></p>	Early Childhood Services, NCC
Ensure Teenage Parents are effectively engaged and supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve uptake of Care to Learn Grant for teenage parents Gain a better understanding of which services teenage parents access and gain a better understanding of the local barriers for young people in accessing the Children's Centre Service and childcare. 	Public Health and Early Childhood Services, NCC
Consider ceasing the commissioning /delivery of some	Review the interventions provided locally that do not have a clear evidence base, or evaluation and performance does not evidence impact. Commissioners and service providers should not prioritise	Public Health and Early Childhood Services, NCC

Priority	Recommendations	Suggested Lead
interventions with no evidence base	these interventions where budgets are restricted. This could include baby massage which parents enjoy. However, it must also be acknowledged that evidence of effectiveness is not a replacement for ongoing evaluation. The fact that an intervention has evidence from a rigorous evaluation conducted at one time and place does not mean that it will be effective again. The evidence described in this chapter is therefore not a replacement for good monitoring and evaluation systems as interventions are set up and delivered.	
Provision of behavioural sleep training	Continue to provide behavioural sleep training through the Children's Centre Service and provide information through Healthy Family Teams during the antenatal and postnatal stage.	Public Health and Early Childhood Services, NCC
Increase the use of social media and web-based resources	Consider increasing and improving information and support available for parents and expectant parents including activities to promote positive home learning environments and parenting support such as 'Triple P Online'.	Early Childhood Services, NCC

10. It is proposed that a new Best Start Group should oversee the implementation of all recommendations, working in close partnership with commissioners and providers of educational, health and wellbeing services for preschool children and their families. The proposal to establish the Best Start Group will be progressed following a workshop with members of the Children and Families Alliance and the Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2020.

Other Options Considered

11. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendation

12. The JSNA chapter has provided an opportunity to consolidate information regarding service provision and local performance data against the latest evidence of what works. It is now understood that some interventions are provided because parents enjoy them rather than there being any evidence to suggest that outcomes have improved for those families. The JSNA chapter therefore provides detailed recommendations of what should change and what activities should continue.
13. Historically, work to improve children's development has resulted in intensive work with organisations providing childcare; however, we know that disadvantaged children are less likely to access childcare and that interventions need to start much earlier. The JSNA chapter helps to reprioritise activity provided by the Council and other key stakeholders.
14. The aim to give every child a good start in life is a key priority in the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the aim to ensure families prosper and achieve their potential is a priority within Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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

16. There are none arising from this report although the findings and recommendations will inform local commissioning decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:

- 1) considers whether there is any further action it requires arising from the information contained within this report, including any opportunities to review the support available for children with complex medical needs.
- 2) agrees to support the recommendations through their inclusion in County Council priorities, strategies, and divisional work plans.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

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Constitutional Comments (LW 15/11/19)

17. Children & Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (CDS 12/11/19)

18. 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.

[Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022](#)

[Early Years Improvement Plan - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 29th April 2019](#)

[Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment](#)

Approval of JSNA Chapter – Early Years and School Readiness Health and Wellbeing Board Report (6.11.19)

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-board>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1317

16th December 2019**Agenda Item:15****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT CHAPTER – 1001 DAYS,
CONCEPTION TO AGE 2****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an oversight of the recommendations within the 1001 Days: Conception to Age 2, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Chapter, which was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2019. The full chapter is available as a background paper.

Information

2. *'The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being - from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status'*
- Michael Marmot¹
3. In particular, the first 1001 days, from conception to the age of 2, are widely recognised as a critical period of development. This is because the earliest experiences, starting in pregnancy, shape a baby's brain development. During the first two years of life the brain develops a remarkable capacity to absorb information, and adapt to its surroundings, and by 2 years of age the brain will be about 80% of its adult size.
4. Pregnancy is a critical period during which the physical and mental wellbeing of the mother can have lifelong impacts on the child. Maternal stress, diet and alcohol or drug misuse can place a child's future development at risk.
5. Loving, secure and reliable relationships with parents, together with the quality of the home learning environment, support a child's emotional wellbeing, brain development, language development, ability to learn, and capacity to develop and maintain good relationships with others.

¹ Marmot M (2010) Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review. Available at:
<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report-pdf.pdf>

6. This JSNA chapter explores the factors from conception to the age of 2, 'the critical 1001 days' that influence a child's development, helping us to identify which children will be at greater risk of poorer development, school readiness, and life chances.
7. A child's physical, social, emotional, and brain development from conception to the age of 2 is shaped by these key factors:
 - good maternal mental health
 - parent-infant interaction: sensitive and attuned parents
 - secure attachment
 - healthy pregnancies and the protection and promotion of health in infancy
 - quality of the home learning environment.
8. A parent's ability to support their child's health and development can be adversely affected by a range of issues, including:
 - domestic abuse
 - maternal stress
 - level of income
 - teenage parenthood
 - their own adverse childhood experiences
 - having multiple vulnerabilities or complex social needs.

Unmet needs and service gaps

9. Unmet needs and service gaps are explored fully in the JSNA chapter. Gaps and opportunities have been identified in relation to a number of key areas:
 - Maternal mental health, parent-infant interaction and attachment: there are opportunities to better identify and support women with mild to moderate mental health needs and those with parent-infant interaction difficulties
 - Healthy pregnancies and the promotion and protection of health in infancy: smoking in pregnancy rates are very high in some areas of the County, and breastfeeding rates low
 - Child development: some families decline 1 and 2 year development reviews, and some children are not achieving 'a good level of development' at 2
 - Families with multiple vulnerabilities: there are opportunities to strengthen care pathways for these groups, and to improve information sharing

Recommendations for consideration by commissioners

10. A number of recommendations have emerged to strengthen early identification of need and delivery of appropriate interventions in the first 1001 days. These will be owned by the Early Years Integrated Commissioning Group until such time as a proposed Best Start Group is established. The proposed Best Start Group will ensure a co-ordinated partnership approach to improve a range of outcomes for young children and their families starting from

pregnancy, with a particular focus on targeting children, young people and families most at risk of poor outcomes.

11. It is recommended that the Best Start Group could oversee the implementation of all recommendations, working in close partnership with the Local Maternity and Neonatal System Board.

Recommendations	Lead organisation(s)				
	Local Authority	Local Maternity & Neonatal System	Provider organisations	Clinical Commissioning Groups	Other partners
System-wide:					
<p>1. Recognising the importance of the first 1001 days in supporting child development, school readiness and the life-long impact on health, wellbeing and prosperity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the earlier identification of need and provision of evidence-based support for families in the 1001 days. Ensure interventions currently delivered reflect best available evidence. • Establish a multi-agency, strategic Best Start Group and accompanying strategy to ensure every child in Nottinghamshire has the best possible start in life, beginning in pregnancy and across their early years. 	/				

Recommendations	Lead organisation(s)				
	Local Authority	Local Maternity & Neonatal System	Provider organisations	Clinical Commissioning Groups	Other partners
<p>2. Local Maternity Systems, public health leads, Healthy Family teams, children's centres services should work in close partnership to support health and wellbeing in pregnancy, with a specific focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking in pregnancy: to reduce the proportion of women smoking in pregnancy in line with locally agreed trajectories Breastfeeding: to increase the proportion of women breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks Continuity of care: to increase opportunities for women to receive continuity of carer across maternity services, and to improve communication and handover of care between maternity services and Healthy Family teams Information sharing and partnership working, including information technology Maximising opportunities to improve health and wellbeing between pregnancies Promoting and supporting early access to maternity care 	/	/	/	/	/
3. Review and strengthen pathways of care and partnership working for women with complex social needs or vulnerabilities.	/	/	/		
4. There are inequalities in outcomes across districts, most likely linked to levels of household income, which should be considered when planning and targeting services and interventions.	/			/	
5. Continue to recognise the skill and expertise of the early years workforce and further invest in evidence-based training to support a wide range of professionals to recognise the importance of the 1001 days and to work to engage and support families collaboratively, building relationships based on trust.	/		/		
Health promotion:					

Recommendations	Lead organisation(s)				
	Local Authority	Local Maternity & Neonatal System	Provider organisations	Clinical Commissioning Groups	Other partners
6. Ensure women are accessing maternity care early, ideally by 10 weeks, but usually by 12 weeks and 6 days.		/	/	/	
7. Radically improve the uptake of Healthy Start vitamins by pregnant women and infants from the age of 4 weeks.	/	/	/		
8. Develop pathways of care between maternity services, Healthy Family teams, children's centre services and the new NCC integrated wellbeing service in relation to weight management, smoking cessation and alcohol use in pregnancy and infancy.	/	/	/	/	
9. Continue efforts to improve breastfeeding prevalence, focused on areas of the County with the lowest rates.	/	/	/		
10. Increase the awareness and uptake of vaccinations in pregnancy and early childhood.	/	/			/
Maternal, mental health, attachment and parent-infant interaction:					
11. Improve uptake of the antenatal review by better understanding the barriers to this.	/		/		
12. Ensure the actions identified to strengthen the pathway of care for women with perinatal mental health needs are implemented, including the implementation of a new assessment tool in maternity services, improved referral pathways to psychological therapy services and a rolling training programme.		/	/	/	
13. Develop clear and consistent universal messages about the importance of sensitive, attuned and face-to-face interactions from birth onwards	/		/		
14. Identify opportunities to assess parent-infant interaction in the first few weeks and consider how interventions to support this could be delivered. Please note: this recommendation may have significant resource implications, for further exploration.	/		/		

Recommendations	Lead organisation(s)				
	Local Authority	Local Maternity & Neonatal System	Provider organisations	Clinical Commissioning Groups	Other partners
15. Support clinicians working in neo-natal units to identify maternal mental health needs.		/			
Child development:					
16. Support parents to develop good home learning environments from birth, targeted at at-risk groups such as families with low incomes / those living in areas of multiple deprivation. Consider developing clear and consistent universal messages about the importance of home learning, from birth.	/		/		/
17. Replicate the robust pathways from the 2 year review to sources of appropriate support e.g. children's centre programmes, for the antenatal, new birth, 6 to 8 week and 1 year reviews, and identify any gaps in appropriate support.	/		/		
18. Review and, wherever possible, implement the recommendations from Public Health England's pathway for children aged 0-5 with speech, language and communication needs, once published.	/			/	

Other Options Considered

12. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The aim to give every child a good start in life is a key priority in the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is now recognised that the period from a child's conception to the age of 2 has an important impact on his or her long-term development. The chapter has been written to reflect best available evidence and emerging national direction, and the recommendations will shape local priorities and action to give every child the best start in life.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. There are none arising from this report although the findings and recommendations will inform local commissioning decisions.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) considers whether there is any further action it requires arising from the information contained within the report.
- 2) agrees to support the recommendations through their inclusion in County Council priorities, strategies, and divisional work plans.

Jonathan Gribbin
Director of Public Health

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Constitutional Comments (LW 15/11/19)

16. Children & Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (CDS 12/11/19)

17. 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.

[Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022](#)

[JSNA Chapter 1001 Days, Conception to Age 2](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1318

16th December 2019**Agenda Item: 16****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTORS FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING &
SKILLS AND YOUTH, FAMILIES & SOCIAL WORK****ATTENDANCE AT THE BETTER EDUCATIONAL TRAINING & TEACHING
(BETT) AWARDS ON 22 JANUARY 2020 AND APPROVAL TO HOST A LOCAL
EVENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to fund the attendance, travel and overnight accommodation for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee to attend the BETT (Better Educational Training and Teaching) Awards Ceremony in London on 22nd January 2020 as a result of the Multi Modal Literacy Project being shortlisted as a 2020 finalist (<http://bettawards.com/shortlist2020>) and for any related media communication.
2. The report also seeks approval to host an after school Multi Modal celebration event in early January, inviting all past children, young people, foster carers and teachers who have participated in the project since 2011 and for any related media communication.

Information

3. The Bett Awards are a celebration of the inspiring creativity and innovation that can be found throughout technology for education. The awards aim to showcase the world's leading education technology solutions and developments which improve educational outcomes for children and young people. The winners are seen to have excelled in ICT provision and support for nurseries, schools, colleges and special schools alike with a clear focus on what works in the classroom.
4. Over the past nine years, the Virtual School has funded the Multi Modal Literacy Project which to date has worked with primary aged children, their teachers and foster carers in a partnership that has improved children's literacy. Since 2011, 150 Nottinghamshire looked after children have engaged with the project with a similar number of other local authorities buying places for their looked after children. Evaluation of the project each year demonstrates positive impact on reading and writing skills with teachers reporting over 80% of the participants showing improved literacy outcomes and/or confidence in literacy skills. All the participants demonstrate improvements in reading skills and reading for pleasure. The project uses IT and literacy software packages to develop the speaking and listening skills of children, ultimately impacting on their reading and writing. This project is

commissioned by the Virtual School and is led by Dr Petula Bhojwani and Craig Wilkie, independent educational researchers, who have worked as associate advisers for the Council on this IT and literacy project.

5. This project has been subjected to rigorous best practice research and is published in key professional journals: Power-up Literacy: technology and multimodality within the extended classroom, UKLA (2018 and 2019), Wilkie, C. (2018) Using RIX Wikis to Close the Literacy Gap for Looked After Children in the Virtual School online <https://rixresearchandmedia.org/close-literacy-gap/> and presented at a United Kingdom Literacy Association International Conference.
6. The project has developed over the years and the most recent cohort of children, foster carers and teachers have had access to the art work of the Harley Gallery. A display of our children's work is currently on display at the Harley Gallery along with the Portland Miniatures until 31st December 2019 (<https://www.harleygallery.co.uk/exhibition/the-literacy-project/>).
7. This project has been successful in being shortlisted as a BETT 2020 finalist in the 'Service and Support' award which seeks to identify the most successful project in supporting pupils to improve their outcomes and engage in learning.
8. This report seeks approval to fund the travel, accommodation and attendance at the BETT Awards ceremony for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee to attend the BETT event. Officer approval has already been secured for the Assistant Head of the Virtual School, and an officer representative from Youth, Families and Social Work to attend this event. The total cost of all travel and accommodation for officers and the Chairman is likely to be approximately £2,500.
9. In addition, the report seeks approval to facilitate and fund a Multi Modal celebration event at County Hall, prior to 22nd January, inviting all children and now young people, their foster carers and teachers to mark the shortlisting success. This event will be an opportunity to acknowledge the power of strong partnership working between foster carers, schools and children as well as celebrating the success of the multi modal IT project in making a difference in the lives of many children.

Other Options Considered

10. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. This national event provides an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the literacy achievements of our children.

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 funding for transport, accommodation and attendance at the event will cost approximately £2,500. The cost of hosting the celebration event will be up to £2,000 which will be catering and preparation of the event e.g. displays, presentations. The total cost is approximately £4,500 and this will be contained within the Virtual School LA budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) approves the travel, accommodation and transport costs for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee to attend the Better Educational Training and Teaching (BETT) Awards ceremony in London on 22nd January 2020 as a result of the Multi Modal Literacy Project being shortlisted as a finalist and any appropriate communications arising from the event.
- 2) approves the delivery of a County celebration event at County Hall for all children, foster carers and teachers who have participated in the IT Multi Modal Project since 2011 and any appropriate communications arising from the event.

Steve Edwards
Service Director
Youth, Families and Social Work

Marion Clay
Service Director
Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Charles Savage
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Psychology Services
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Constitutional Comments (KK 06/12/19)

14. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/12/19)

15. The funding for transport, accommodation and attendance at the BETT Award ceremony event will cost approximately £2,500. The cost of hosting the celebration event will be up to £2,000 which will be catering and preparation of the event e.g. displays, presentations.

The total cost is approximately £4,500 and this will be contained within the Virtual School LA budget of £278,000.

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.

C1328

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 17

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES DURING THE PERIOD 17 AUGUST TO 8 NOVEMBER 2019

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on the appointment of Local Authority (LA) governors to school governing bodies for the period 17 August to 8 November 2019 in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Information

2. Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) Amendment Regulations 2014, governing bodies of maintained schools were required to reconstitute to a skills-based model of governance by September 2015, and are allowed one LA governor on the reconstituted governing body. For this model of governance, governing bodies may set eligibility criteria for, and appoint, the Local Authority governor.
3. Under these Regulations the County Council is responsible for nominating individuals as prospective governors. Nominations are made by the County Council, in accordance with the eligibility criteria provided by the governing body. When nominating new governors or re-nominating existing governors, the County Council must consider the skills and experience the governing body needs in order to be effective.
4. Local Authority governors nominated by the County Council and appointed by school governing bodies during the period 17 August to 8 November 2019 are as follows:

ASHFIELD	
Fountaindale Special	Councillor Steven Vickers New appointment to the category of LA Governor
Brierley Forest Primary and Nursery	Mrs Ana Smith New appointment to the category of LA Governor

MANSFIELD	
Newlands Junior School	Mrs Joan Bowes New appointment to the category of LA Governor

Other Options Considered

- No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendation/s

- The constitution requires the Corporate Directorate to report governor appointments to Committee on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 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

- The information contained within this report is already within the public domain and a privacy impact statement is therefore not needed.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- That the Committee receives further updates regarding future appointments on a quarterly basis in accordance with the Constitution.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sarah Sayer
Team Manager
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Constitutional Comments (KK 13/11/19)

- The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SH 19/11/19)

10. There are no financial implications arising 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.

None.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

Ashfield

Sutton Central and East
Sutton West

Cllr Samantha Deakin
Cllr Tom Hollis

Mansfield

Sherwood Forest

Cllr John Peck

C1319

16 December 2019

Agenda Item: 18

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2019-20.

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.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason for Recommendation

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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
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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 2019-20

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
13 January 2020			
Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services		Colin Pettigrew	Lucy Peel
Children's Centre Service proposals		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Children Missing Education Strategy and Elective Home Education Policy		Marion Clay	Karen Hughman/ Ruth Hardy
Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future – Departmental Strategy: six month review of progress (April to September 2019)	Six-monthly review	Colin Pettigrew	Matt Garrard
Communication strategy for the promotion of a free school presumption competition to secure a sponsor for a new school arising from housing at Newton		Marion Clay	Mike Sharpe
Basic Need Expansion: St Luke's CE Primary, Worksop		Derek Highton	Phil Berrill
Future delivery of the Families Information Service		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Nottinghamshire Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award 2019	Annual update report	Laurence Jones	Pom Bhogal
Proposed changes to the Family Service		Steve Edwards	Rachel Miller/ Edward Goodson
Temporary changes to the staffing establishment within the Information and Systems Team		Laurence Jones	Joe Foley/ Emily Sullivan
National Children and Adult Services Conference 2019	Report back on attendance at conference	Cllr Tracey Taylor	
Corporate Parenting items:			
Promoting and improving the health of Looked After Children	Annual report and including CAMHS Looked After and Adoption team annual report	Steve Edwards	Lucy Peel/ Katharine Browne

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
10 February 2020			
Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy		Marion Clay	Chris Jones
First admissions applications to Nottinghamshire schools and academies – academic year 2019/20		Marion Clay	Mike Sharpe
Nottinghamshire school admission arrangements 2021-22: determination		Marion Clay	Karen Hughman/ Mike Sharpe
Destination of Looked After 16 & 18 year olds at end of Key Stages 4 & 5		Marion Clay	Sue Denholm
Update on the Remodelling Practice programme	Quarterly report	Steve Edwards	Lucy Peel/ Holly Smitheman
Annual refresh of the Local Transformation Plan for children and young people's emotional and mental health	Annual refresh	Jonathan Gribbin	Katharine Browne/ Rachel Clark
Early Childhood Services Communications Plan 2020-22		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Corporate Parenting items:			
23 March 2020			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 3 2019/20	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert
Progress on Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan	Quarterly update	Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones
2019/2020 Children and Families budget update		Laurence Jones	Sue Summerscales
Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools – termly update	Autumn term report	Marion Clay	Diane Ward
Children Missing Education	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Karen Hughman/ Ruth Hardy
Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire update	Six-monthly update	Steve Edwards	Rachel Miller
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Corporate Parenting items:			
Contact Service annual report	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Denise Martin
Six monthly update on the Local Offer for Care Leavers		Laurence Jones/ Marion Clay	Marion Clay
Foster carers items			
27 April 2020			
Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All – six monthly update		Marion Clay	Koni Rakhit
Schools Forum and Education Trust Board officer group report	Annual officer group report	Marion Clay	Marion Clay
Corporate Parenting items:			
Provision, achievements and progress of the Children in Care Council and participation of children and young people looked after 2019/20		Steve Edwards	Pom Bhogal
Improving the emotional health of looked after children	Six-monthly update	Steve Edwards	Lucy Peel/ Katharine Browne
18 May 2020			
Update on the Remodelling Practice programme	Quarterly report	Steve Edwards	Lucy Peel/ Holly Smitheman
School Capital Programme progress report	Six-monthly update	Derek Higton	Mick Allen
Corporate Parenting items:			
15 June 2020			
Best Start Strategy 2020-2025		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 4 2019/20	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert
Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future – Departmental Strategy: six month review of progress (October 2019 to March 2020)	Six-monthly review	Colin Pettigrew	Matt Garrard
Outcome of Ofsted inspections of schools – termly update	Spring term report	Marion Clay	Diane Ward
Elective Home Education update	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Ruth Hardy

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Progress on Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan	Quarterly update	Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer
Corporate Parenting items:			
Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: annual report 2019/20	Annual update	Laurence Jones	Joe Foley/ Hannah Johnson
Fostering Service annual report		Steve Edwards	Ty Yousaf
Virtual School annual report	Annual report	Marion Clay	Sue Denholm
Independent Reviewing Officer Service annual report		Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin
National Minimum Fostering Allowances and Levels Payments to Foster Carers 2020/21	Annual determination	Steve Edwards	Ty Yousaf/ Tara Pasque
Foster carers items			
20 July 2020			
Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team		Marion Clay	Sarah Lee
Corporate Parenting items:			
Children's Homes Governance Board – review of terms of reference and update		Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones