

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL COUNCIL

3rd November 2022

Cabinet Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills: Councillor Fiona Baker

Report Title	Northamptonshire Children's Trust Annual Report 21/22
---------------------	--

Report Author	Colin Foster Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Children's Trust Colin.foster@NCTrust.co.uk
----------------------	---

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	18/10/2022
Chief Finance Officer (S.151)	Martin Henry	18/10/2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby Colin Foster	18/10/2022
Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	20/10/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) Annual Report 21/22

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The contractual arrangements between West and North Northamptonshire Councils and the Children's Trust included the expectation that the Trust produce an annual report. This report is presented to Council here for information, and the Annual Review is intended:
- for the Councils to consider the quality of practice in the provision of children's social care services delivered by NCT and the outcomes for children, young people and families in the county of Northamptonshire;
 - to facilitate the Councils' quality assurance of the operation of the Service Delivery Contract;
 - to enable the Councils to review the discharge of its statutory functions delivered by NCT;

- for the Parties to consider whether changes are required to the Service Delivery Contract to be agreed at the Annual Review meeting
- for the Parties to consider all factors that may impact upon future Contract Sums and for the Strategic Group to make a recommendation/proposal to the Council regarding the Contract Sum payable to NCT for the next Contract Year.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is allow West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to see the progress made and areas for improvement identified.
- 2.2 Significant improvement in delivery of children's social care has been made, and the OFSTED inspection recently completed and due to be formally reported on 25th November 2022 is expected to recognise these improvements and identify areas for future development.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Council is asked to receive the Annual Report for information.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Governance Agreements controlling the Northamptonshire Children's Trust require the production of this report and its submission to the Council.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) was set up in November 2020 following intervention by the Department for Education. 21 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were agreed against which the Councils would monitor NCT's performance. These were described in the Service Delivery Contract including standards of performance and tolerance levels.
- 5.2 NCT provides the councils with a monthly performance report defining performance against each KPI as well commentary on the performance and how NCT is working to improve performance. These are then formally tracked through Governance meetings as set out in the contractual agreements controlling the Trust.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 This report is for information.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

- 7.1 The Children's Trust operates against a background of increasing volume and complexity of demand while starting from a position of needing to improve services that had previously been failing children and their families.

7.2 This is against the backdrop of a worsening public sector financial position that will require both WNC and the Trust to continue to closely monitor spend, and to find better and more cost effective services that meet the needs of vulnerable children.

7.3 **Legal**

The contractual framework behind the Council's oversight of NCT will ensure compliance with legislation and good governance.

7.4 **Risk**

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.5 **Consultation and communications**

The NCT Annual Report was produced for both Councils and submitted through the established governance arrangements. The Council and NCT continue to work together to communicate to the public the service objectives and outcomes contained within the report.

7.6 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

NCT have been called to present on its performance at Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7.7 **Climate Impact**

7.7.1 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions. Following the Covid Pandemic NCT has noticed a decline in staff mileage and use of cars and public transport.

7.8 **Community Impact**

7.8.1 The report considers the safety and wellbeing of Northamptonshire children in care and care leavers, including those living out of county.

8. **Background Papers**

Northamptonshire Children's Trust Annual Report 2021/2022.