



Report of Councillor Fiona Baker Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

October 2022

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST (NCT)

The ILACS OFSTED inspection finished on 14 October. A huge effort from all teams involved who demonstrated excellent partnership working and a focus on supporting our most vulnerable children.

The final report will be published on 25 November.

EDUCATION

Star Chamber sessions have taken place to identify potential efficiencies and budget pressures – service leads working to develop future plans.

The first meeting of the new WNC Youth Offer Board took place on 12 October. Members from the Council, NCT, Northampton University, PCC's office, voluntary/community groups all working together to map current provision and develop a consistent youth offer across all areas of the Council.

Cllr Baker and Ben Pearson, AD for Education, have completed a number of visits to schools and Multi Academy Trusts. These have been really useful to understand the challenges schools are facing, and to share best practice.

A series of workshops on 17 November will see the launch of the new SEND Ranges Guidance. This is a detailed and robust guide that includes good practice for all school staff to develop understanding of children's needs, and how best to work with individual children with additional needs. This guide has been co-produced by Council officers working with national and local SEND leaders.

At present over 400 people have signed up to attend the workshops.

Proposed changes to SEND governance will be discussed through the SEND Accountability Board. This is likely to lead to the creation of a WNC-only SEND Accountability Board from January 2023 onwards.

Proposals have been developed to create a new SEND Improvement Service within the Council – to develop a three-year strategic plan to improve outcomes for children with SEND.

Councillor Fiona Baker
Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education)