

Councillor Andrew Weatherill  
Contact email: [Andrew.Weatherill@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Weatherill@northnorthants.gov.uk)

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

AnnMarie Dodds  
Director of Children's Services  
North Northamptonshire Council

Dear AnnMarie,

North Northamptonshire Council Audit and Governance Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Thank you for accepting the invite to attend North Northamptonshire Council's Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September. We very much look forward to receiving your report regarding the work of Children's Services and the arrangements with Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

As you will be aware, the Committee has a far-reaching remit to ensure there is independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment and this extends to all aspects of the Council's responsibilities. This covers both financial and non-financial arrangements and performance, to the extent it impacts on the Authority's exposure to risk and weakens controls.

The Committee will wish to consider the work of Children's Services including those services provided by the Children's Trust. Whilst the Committee accepts that the Trust delivers services to the Council under contract, there is a close and dependent relationship between the two organisations, and assurance around the work of the Trust is essential when considering the Council's statutory responsibilities and the requirements for this Committee to obtain the necessary assurance on governance, controls and management of risk. With this in mind the Committee would like to receive a report which considers:

- Key risks (financial and non-financial) and how these are managed within Children's Services – how do you derive assurance on the performance and controls in place for the Service including the arrangements for risk management, particularly with the Children's Trust which has an "arm's length" arrangement under contract. What assurance process are in place, both internal and external, including governance arrangements.
- How do you obtain assurance from the work of audit and, in particular, the audit arrangements for the Trust. For instance, are you able to feed into (or are you informed of) the formulation of audit plans and assessment of risk as part of your statutory role? Do you have access to the outcome of audit reports?
- Any other information that you feel relevant to provide the Committee with the assurance it seeks in respect of the adequacy of the performance and control environment for Children's Services.

If you need any further information regarding the meeting, then please contact [Fiona.hubbard@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.hubbard@northnorthants.gov.uk), Senior Democratic Services Officer for the Committee.

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I hope this note is helpful and I look forward to seeing you on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Weatherill', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

**Councillor Andrew Weatherill**

Chair, Audit and Governance Committee  
North Northamptonshire Council.