

Councillor Andrew Weatherill
Contact email: Andrew.Weatherill@northnorthants.gov.uk

23rd August 2022

Colin Foster
Chief Executive,
Northamptonshire Children's Trust

CC: Susan Tanner
Assistant Director Commissioning & Partnerships (Interim)
Children's Services
North Northamptonshire Council

Dear Colin,

North Northamptonshire Council Audit and Governance Committee – 5th September 2022

Thank you for accepting the invite to attend North Northamptonshire Council's Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 5th September. We very much look forward to speaking with you about the operations of the 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.

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 statutory responsibilities of the Council and the requirements for this Committee. With this in mind the Committee would like to consider:

- Key risks (financial and non-financial) and how these are managed – what assurance process are in place, both internal and external, around performance and control and the governance processes that surround these.
- The role of the Trust's internal audit function and how this can provide assurance – the Committee would welcome an update on outcome of audit reports and future audit plans. It would also like to understand where the outcomes of the audits are reported and shared more widely, and how does this feed through to the Council(s) to provide the necessary assurance of the adequacy of the control environment.

The Committee would also like the Trust to allow access to its audit reports for consideration by this Committee and/or the Council's Chief Internal Auditor for review. This will support the assurance sought by the Committee in fulfilling its role.

If you need any further information regarding the meeting, then please contact 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 5th September.

Regards

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

Councillor Andrew Weatherill

Chair, Audit and Governance Committee
North Northamptonshire Council.