

## Audit and Governance Committee 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Northamptonshire Children’s Trust Assurance Arrangements and Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23</b>
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**Annex A** – Report of Northamptonshire Children's Trust – Risk Management, Governance and Reporting Arrangements

List of Appendices to Annex A

Appendix 1 – NCT Assurance and Governance 2023-24

Appendix 2 – NCT Audit Report 2022-23

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a brief overview of risk management, assurance, governance and reporting arrangements for Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT).

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT) was established in November 2020 by statutory direction from the Department for Education (DfE). In the following April two new Unitary Authorities (North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council) were established to replace the former County Council and the District and Borough Councils within the area.
- 2.2 Prior to its dissolution, a contract was agreed between Northamptonshire County Council and NCT for the provision of children’s social care, targeted early help and youth offending services by NCT for a ten-year period, subject to review at 5 years. The contract sets out the obligations of both parties, the contract governance arrangements, and performance expectations and monitoring, among other matters. The contract was inherited by the two new Unitary authorities when they were established in 2021.
- 2.3 The attached report from the Trust included as Annex A, together with supporting appendices, sets out the current assurance and reporting arrangements for the Trust.
- 2.4 The Internal Audit Report and Opinion for 2022/23 is provided as Appendix 2 to Annex A.

### **3. Recommendations**

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3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the report of Northamptonshire Children's Trust attached as Annex A which sets out the governance and reporting arrangements for the Trust.
- b) Note the Internal Audit Report and Opinion for 2022/23 for Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations:

- For the Committee to exercise its duties and responsibilities within its Terms of Reference for receiving reports and considering the main issues arising.

### **4. Report Background**

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4.1 It was previously agreed that NCT would provide a report to this Committee setting out the assurance arrangements in respect of the operations of the Trust. This is attached as Annex A.

### **5. Issues and Choices**

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5.1 The report provides an overview of the governance and assurance arrangements for the Children's Trust. There are no alternative options proposed.

### **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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#### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

6.1.1 Not specific to this report.

#### **6.2 Legal**

6.2.1 Not specific to this report.

#### **6.3 Risk**

6.3.1 The report provides assurances over the Trust's governance framework.

#### **6.4 Consultation**

6.4.1 Not specific to this report.

#### **6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 Not required on this occasion. However, the Trust does attend Council Scrutiny meetings when requested.

#### **6.6 Climate Impact**

6.6.1 Not specific to this report.

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 Not specific to this report.

**7. Background Papers**

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7.1 None.