

# Children's Services Commissioning & Partnerships

Future Communities EAP  
5th March 2024





## Commissioning & Partnerships

- Susan Tanner – Assistant Director Commissioning & Partnerships
- **Business & Performance** (including the Children's Trust client function)  
Richard Woodward – Interim Head of Business & Performance/ICF Lead Officer
- **Partnerships & Development**  
Rochelle Mathieson – Head of Partnerships & Development
- **Commissioning**  
Laura Priestnall – Commissioning Manager SEND





## Intelligent Client Function

- 4 FTE
- Managing the Children's Trust arrangements on behalf of NNC and WNC.
- Ensuring all parties comply with their obligations and provisions set out in the various contracts and agreements.
- Contract and performance management of NCT.
- Administration and management key governance groups:
  - *Joint Committee – NNC & WNC elected members*
  - *Joint Officer Board – NNC & WNC officers*
  - *Strategic Group – NNC, WNC & NCT officers and elected members*
  - *Operational Group - NNC, WNC & NCT officers*
  - *Support Services Board - NNC, WNC & NCT officers*
- Management and coordination of annual setting of the contract sum
- Managing payments to NCT

## Business Management

- 3 FTE (3 vacant)
- Business management office
- Health & Safety
- Business Continuity
- Children's services finance management
- Children's Services Departmental Risk Register
- Corporate Risk Register (Children's items)
- Children's services democratic programme

## Performance

- 4 FTE (2 vacant)
- Children's Services departmental performance
- Family Hubs Programme
  - Data returns to DfE
  - Data dashboard/scorecard
- SEND Accountability Board dashboard
- Performance analysis of NCT contract KPI's and other data (on behalf of the ICF).

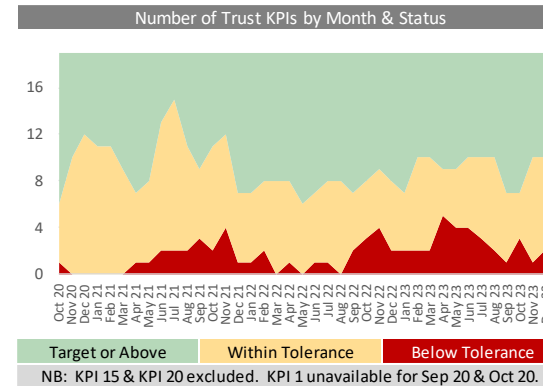


## Contract Management of NCT

- NCT delivers targeted early help and social care on behalf of NNC and WNC.
- 2023/24 Contract Sum – £150.938m (NNC's share £66.652m).
- In the face of significant demand for services and recruitment issues NCT reported a P9 forecast outturn of £29.670m pressure (NNC's share £13.102m)
- The Councils and NCT are jointly delivering the Circle to Success Programme to improve outcomes for children and deliver forecasted savings of £3.8m in 23/24 and circa £8m in 24/25.
- 24/25 Contract sum - £177.429m (NNC's share £78.353m)
- Newly established Transformation & Efficiencies Board with funding of £3.194m (NNC's share £1.410m) to drive further improvement in outcomes and savings.

## NCT Performance

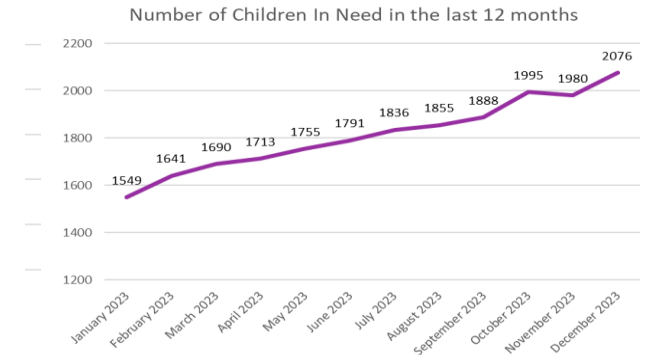
### KPI's



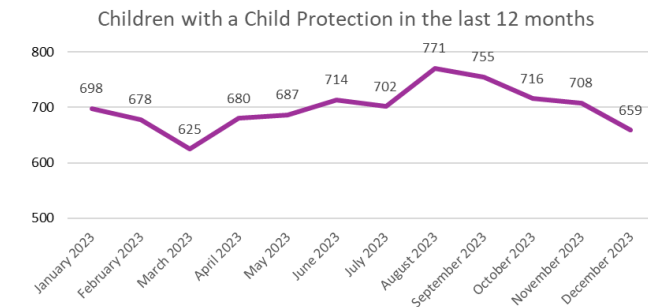
### Inspection

Inspection Activity	Date	Outcomes
NNC and WNC LAS Children's Services (ILAC)	October 2022	Requires Improvement
ILAC Focused Visit	October 2023	N/A
Youth Offending Service	October 2023	Good
NCT Fostering Agency (FA)	January 2024	Inadequate
NCT Adoption Agency	January 2022	Good
Arnold House	October 2023	Good
Phoenix House	February 2023	Good
Thornton House	June 2023	Requires Improvement
Raven House	October 2023	Good
Welford House	July 2023	Good

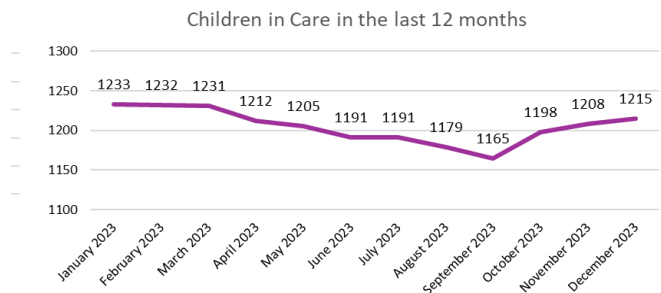
### Children in Need



### Child Protection Plans



### Children in Care





## Family Hubs

- £4m grant funded programme
- 7 FTE (*Fixed term*)
- Commissioned pilots
- Digital Offer (incl. Start for Life, Family Information Service & Local Offer)

## Transformation Team

- 5 FTE (staffing budget only)
- Directorate Improvement Plan
- Service & System transformation (ie: ECMS, disaggregation)

## Engagement & Participation

- 3 FTE (staffing budget only)
- Co-production
- Communication & Engagement Strategy for Children's Services
- Family Information Service (*Statutory duty*)
- Local Offer (*Statutory duty*)

## SEND Information Advice Support Service

- 6 FTE (staffing budget + website)
- Impartial support for families of children with SEND (*Statutory requirements apply*)
- Partnership funded across LA, Social Care and Health

## NSCP Business Office

- 5 FTE (Staffing budget + website)
- Programme management support for the NSCP partnership across Northamptonshire



## Key objectives

- To support schools in developing local provision by strengthening an early help offer of SEND advisory teams around our mainstream schools.
- Develop a SEND Brokerage function, to support more effective commissioning of provision from Independent and non-maintained schools/colleges.
- Working closely with the SEND team to review and develop responsive, flexible, and effective local specialist provision
- Ensuring the special educational needs of our children are responded to quickly and effectively through development of a brokerage service.
- Supporting schools to improve their offer to our children through robust quality assurance programmes
- Ensuring value for money through contract monitoring, reviewing and evaluation of our commissioned services
- Robust accountability and governance of both spending and quality assurance through comprehensive reporting mechanisms
- Transition for children & young people is improved across all areas of operation.
- Development of an effective SEND Commissioning function, underpinned by access to timely data to support evidence-based decision making and more effective strategic planning.

## Impact

- Increased confidence, expertise, and inclusion within each of the cluster of schools, through a more highly trained workforce, enhanced support and realignment of resources that are equitably distributed, of high quality and value for money.
- A local offer that enables all children and young people to have access to services and support according to individual need and to be educated with pupils of their own age, in their local community school, which is appropriately equipped and fit for purpose.
- A system that has capacity for early intervention as well as providing for those young people with the most complex/significant needs
- Higher achievement, improved life chances and better outcomes among pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities.
- Accurate data and reporting
- Value for money



<b>Service Area</b>	<b>High level Service Challenges</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Partnerships &amp; Development</b>	Transitioning Family Hubs into BAU.	Whole system approach with consideration in relation to; influencing future commissioning contracts, resource mapping & realignment, joint commissioning / pooling of budgets
	Continuation of Transformation resource beyond 2025.	Development of Directorate Improvement aligning resource requirement
	Sustaining Digital Offering (incl. Family Information Service, Start for Life and Local Offer.	Digital offering consideration across the Council / NN system following test and learn project for 2024/25.
	Meeting the increasing demand on SEND IASS.	Developing new approaches to engagement, working closely with high demand areas (EHCP) to improve collaboration and identify improvements. Securing equitable funding from across the partnership
	Managing the increasing demand on the Business Office (relation to sub-group committee management and implementation of new system and approach ie eCDOP)	New CDOP focused role being hosted by Health colleagues, integration of new eCDOP to streamline processes and manage effectively. Recruitment of additional Project Officer agreed by partnership.
<b>Commissioning</b>	Historic lack of strategic SEND capacity	New SEND Commissioner in post
	Delivering improvement post Ofsted SEND inspection	Development of SEND improvement plan and better partnership engagement.
<b>Business &amp; Performance</b> (including the Children's Trust client function)	Continuing to support NCT on it's improvement journey to Good.	Continued oversight and robust contract management.
	Financial sustainability of NCT and addressing issues to manage demand and other pressures in the Trust.	Continued oversight and robust contract management.
	Delivering the Transformation & Efficiencies agenda and approved business cases.	Tracking delivery of agreed savings and dependencies set out in business cases



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Questions / Contacts

Susan Tanner

Assistant Director Commissioning & Partnerships

[susan.tanner@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:susan.tanner@northnorthants.gov.uk)