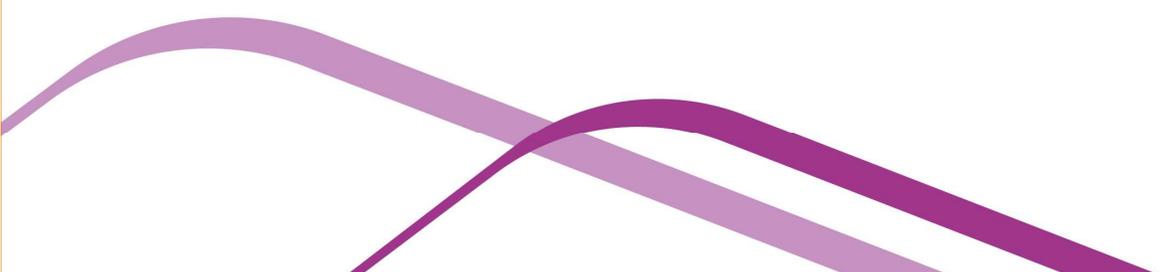


Children's Services

Jane Parfremment
July 2021



Childrens Services – Vision

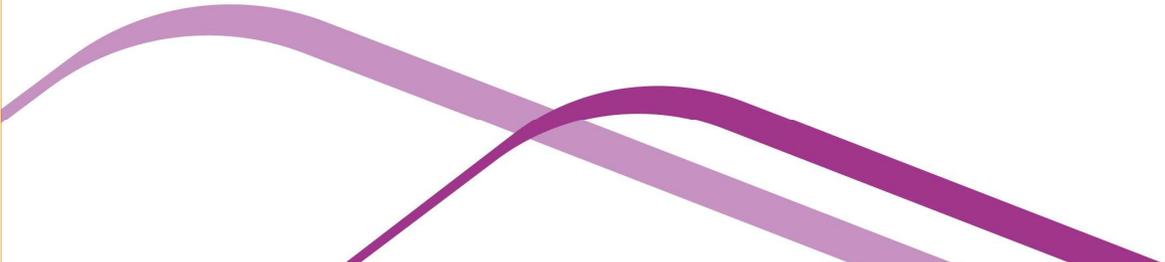
Working creatively together to inspire and empower children, young people and their families and communities to be the best they can be: safe, healthy, happy, learning and working



Key figures:

- 0-19 population of around 170,000
- 419 Schools including academies and support centres
- 3,567 Children in Need
- 914 Children in Care
- 897 Children subject to a Child Protection Plan
- 650 Children receiving Early Help
- 3,378 staff

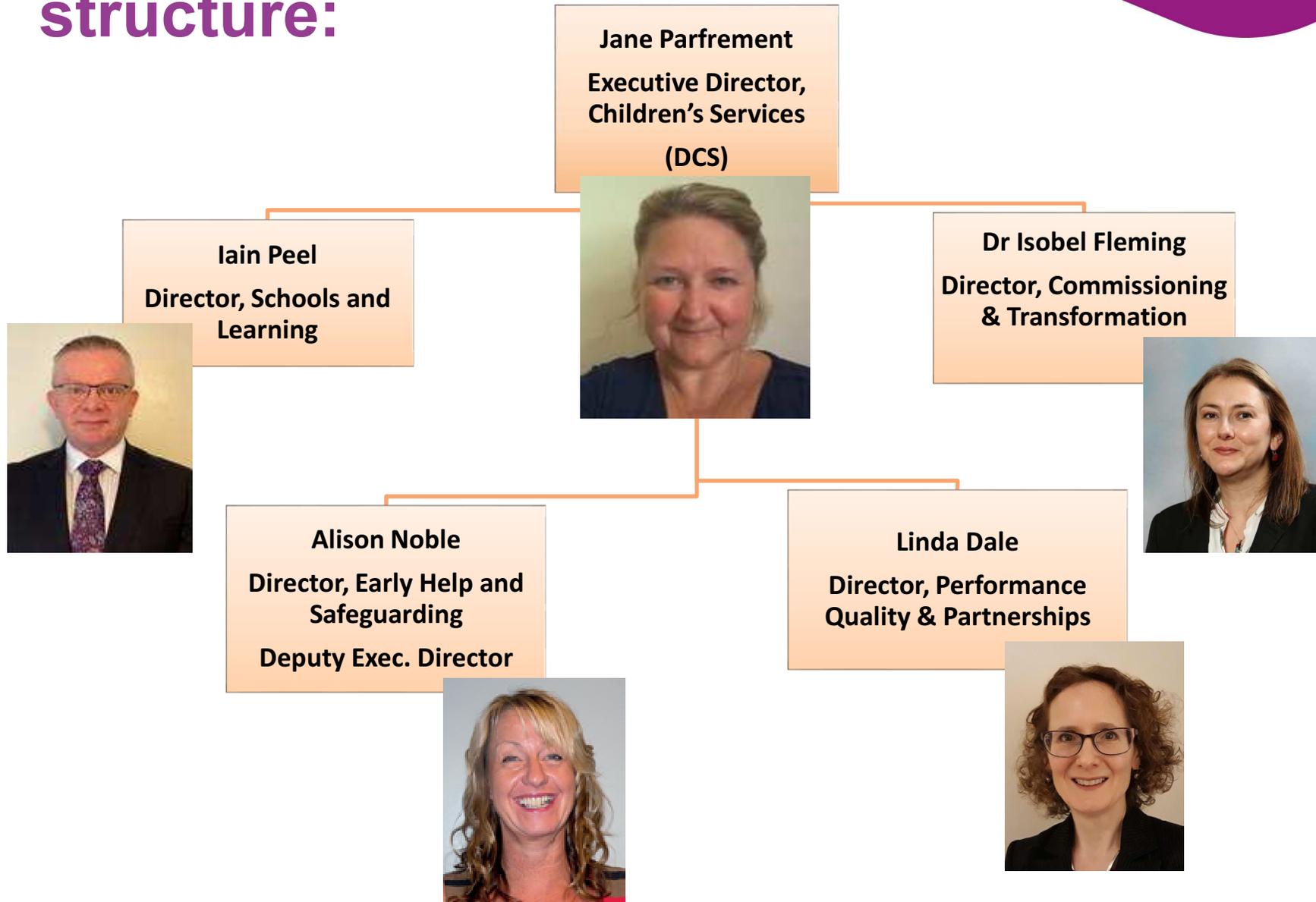
(25 June 2021)

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Budget

- 2021/22 Funding:
 - Core budget = £125.5m + other income and grants (excl DSG) of approx £40m
 - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) = £643.1m
- Budget pressures:
 - Core budget -2020/21 £3.4m overspend net of Covid funding. Grant Thornton forecast 2021/22 overspend £9m-19m, mainly on placements.
 - DSG 2020/21: - £1.3m net overspend, mainly High Needs (£5.25m o/s). Accumulated DSG deficit 31/3/21- £1.16m (includes £6.2m General Reserve deficit) – recovery plan needed

Senior management structure:



Five Key Improvement Priorities:

- Improving the quality and consistency of social work practice
- Strengthening support to our care leavers
- Strengthening our support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families
- Embedding our new arrangements for Early Help including support to develop partnership approaches
- Improving the % of children who achieve a good level of development in the early years

Plus.....lots of other work occurring including Achieving Great Futures transformation programme – later in slides

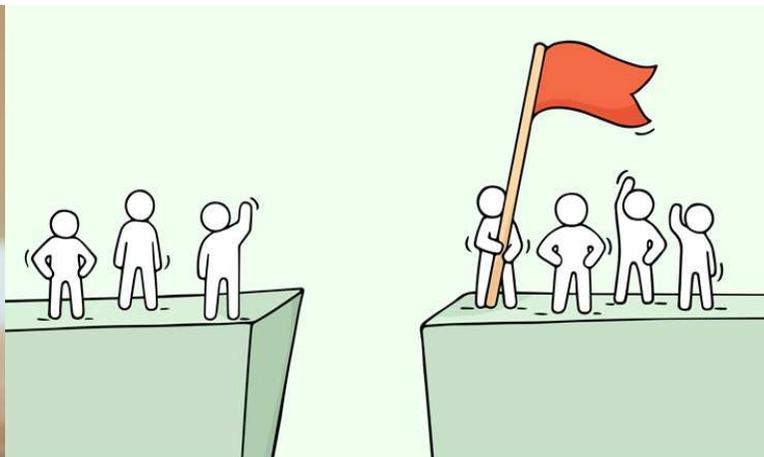
Schools & Learning

Director: Iain Peel

- Relationship management – 419 schools; 705 early years settings
- Championing educational outcomes / working with settings to close attainment gaps
- Adult Education – 16 centres; 10,000 enrolments; 245 apprenticeships
- Special educational needs assessment, transport, specialist support
- School catering – 350 schools; 1,500 staff; 50,000 meals per day
- School admissions and planning for sufficient school places
- Education support for children in care
- Sports and outdoor recreation – Lea Green, Whitehall

Key Issues

- Recovery from Covid-19
- % of schools good or outstanding
- Attainment gaps – early years, disadvantaged pupils
- Special educational needs – inclusive practice, specialist provision, co-working with families, preparing for adulthood
- Budget challenges – dedicated schools grant deficit
- Quality of school buildings – availability of capital
- Financial sustainability of traded services

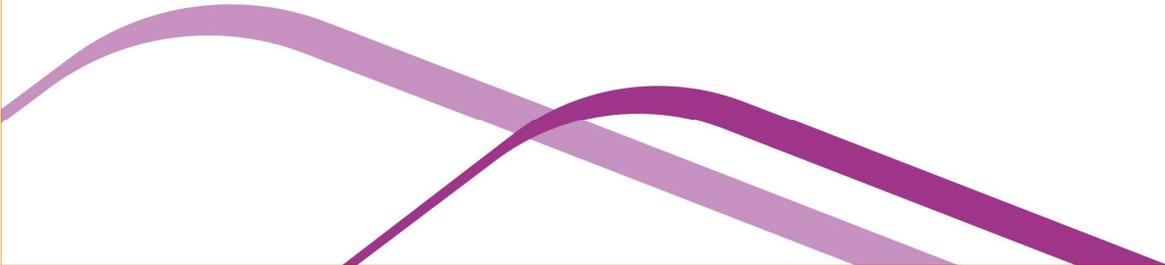


Next 12 months:

- Education recovery – co-design with ‘Future Shape’ groups
- Early years strategy and action plan
- Access to online learning
- New strategies to reduce attainment gaps
- Deliver SEND strategic action plan (3 yr programme)
- Dedicated schools grant recovery plan
- Value for money reviews – sports and outdoor education; specialist teaching service

Early Help & Safeguarding

Director: Alison Noble

- Starting Point – Initial contact and referral to children’s services
 - Children’s social care – 6 Localities
 - Social care services for disabled children
 - Early help services including children’s centres, youth service, careers, troubled families
 - Children in care support and provision - including fostering, residential and adoption
 - Care Leavers Service
 - Youth Offending Service
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Key Issues

- Early help to reduce rising need (e.g. Covid-19, domestic abuse, mental health)
- Engagement of partners and impactful joint working
- Practice consistency - large, dispersed workforce
- Budget pressures - rising need, placement costs
- Recruitment & retention to build experienced, stable workforce

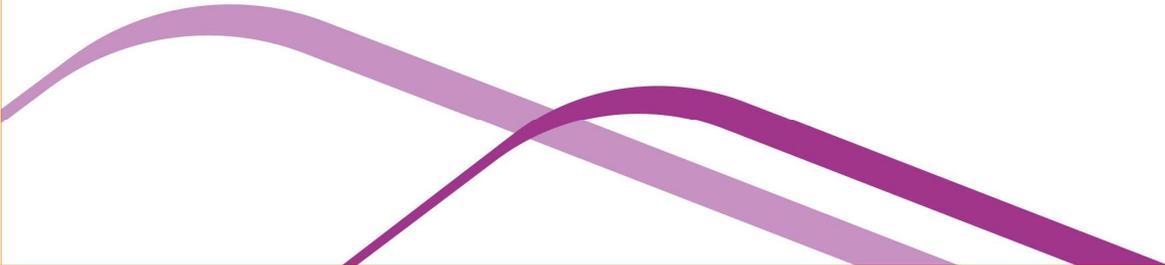


Next 12 months:

- Deliver practice improvement plan
 - Review short breaks for disabled children
 - Major refurbishment of council-run children's homes
 - Implement new model and offer for learning and development
 - Evaluate impact of early help support to partner agencies
 - Review fostering service including recruitment of foster carers
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Commissioning and Transformation

Director: Dr Isobel Fleming

- Strategic commissioning
 - Transformation, change management and programmes
 - Remodelling of services including process improvement
 - Future service development
 - Traded services (council-wide portfolio) including services for schools
 - Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership
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System working - The division works holistically, both across the division and in how they support/work alongside the wider department and cross Council.



Commissioning



Programmes



Process
Improvement



Traded
Services



Achieving Great Futures:

- Evidence-based approach to achieve significant and lasting improvement for children, young people and families
- Diagnostic last year to understand root cause of challenges
- Extensive data analysis alongside frontline expertise
- 3 yr transformation programme - Newton Europe delivery partner
- 5 workstreams:
 - Reducing demand and early intervention;
 - Placement sufficiency;
 - Leaving care (e.g. going home to family);
 - Special educational needs transport;
 - Preparing disabled children for adulthood;
 - Children in need plan progression.

Performance, Quality and Partnerships

Director: Linda Dale

Range of cross-departmental functions to enable service delivery and improvement:

- Independent oversight by child protection managers and independent reviewing officers for children in care
- Quality assurance including management of complaints and compliments
- Performance, business intelligence & inspection readiness
- Children and young people's participation
- Implementation/development of core ICT systems
- Business support

Next 12 months:

- Being ready for our next inspection – currently we believe a focused visit on care leavers
 - Key projects to improve ICT, business intelligence and reporting
 - Embed new youth network – reach of 30,000 young people 11+
 - Implementing new system to improve complaints performance
 - Timeliness of subject access requests and eliminating backlog of overdue requests
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Arrangements to drive forward improvement plans:

- 'SMART' action plans for 5 key improvement priorities
- Thematic governance boards oversee progress – e.g. care leavers improvement board
- Overarching Quality Assurance and Transformation Board chaired by Executive Director
- Achieving Great Futures - governance includes Executive Director and Managing Executive Director
- Impact tested through ongoing targeted quality assurance activity

Legislative framework:

Children's Services is heavily regulated – research by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) in 2018 identified 298 legal duties. Most of these supported by detailed regulations and guidance.

Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services are statutory roles under the Children Act 2004, for the purposes of discharging the education and children's social services functions of the local authority. Statutory guidance sets out factors that must be considered in making these appointments.

Children Act 1989:

- Places duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area by providing a range of services in relation to their needs
- Section 17 defines 'children in need' and gives local authorities responsibility for determining what services should be provided to them
- Duty on local authorities to identify and assess the needs of young carers and provide support
- Duty on local authorities to identify and assess whether the parent carer of a disabled child may have needs for support
- Section 47 places a duty on local authorities to assess whether children in their area is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm
- Enables the courts to make emergency protection orders and care orders
- Section 20 - powers to enable the local authority to provide voluntary accommodation for children in need
- Duty on local authorities to provide leaving care services up to age 21, subsequently amended to age 25

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018:

- Key piece of statutory guidance which informs local and national arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Children Act 2004:

- Duty on local authorities to promote co-operation with other agencies to improve wellbeing and safeguarding of children
- Duty on range of agencies to ensure their functions are discharged in a way that promotes the wellbeing and protection of children

Legislative framework (cont'd):

Education Act 2002:

- Places duties on local authorities, maintained schools and further education institutions to exercise responsibilities in a way that promotes safeguarding and wellbeing of children

Education & Skills Act 2008:

- Places duty on academy schools to exercise responsibilities in a way the promotes safeguarding and wellbeing of children

Children & Social Work Act 2017:

- Established national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- Replaced previous model of Local Safeguarding Children Boards with local arrangements made by key safeguarding partners (local authority, chief officer of police, clinical commissioning group)
- Key safeguarding partners required to make arrangements to work together to promote effective local safeguarding arrangements and identify serious child safeguarding cases and for these cases to be reviewed. Arrangements for working together must be published and must include arrangements for independent scrutiny
- Establishes responsible agencies and arrangements for reviewing child deaths within a local area
- Requires local authorities to provide personal advisers for care leavers up to the age of 25

Children & Families Act 2014:

- Introduced Education, Health and Care plans for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities up to age 25 with extended rights to request a personal budget
- Requirement to jointly commission health and care services for children with special educational needs and disabilities and to publish accessible information about the 'local offer'