

Your Ref
Our Ref AM/JM
Please reply to Anthony May
Tel 0115 9773353
e-mail cyps.director@nottsc.gov.uk
Date 5 November 2009



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Children and Young People's Services

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Nottingham NG2 7QP

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To staff and partners across
Children and Young People's Services

Dear colleague,

Unannounced Inspection

As you will probably be aware, Ofsted conducted an unannounced inspection of Nottinghamshire's contact, referral and assessment arrangements for children and young people's services on 8 and 9 October 2009. The inspection team conducted fieldwork on 8 October and visited our Reception and Assessment Teams for Mansfield and Ashfield, and Rushcliffe and Gedling. The team also made a visit to the Notts Connect Customer Services Centre. The majority of the inspectors' time was spent in the Mansfield and Ashfield office.

The inspection identified several areas for development, many of which we had already identified and had begun to address. In fact, additional investment had been approved by our Cabinet in September to enable us to respond to these areas, which have arisen as a result of an unprecedented increase in referrals to social care and a much higher number of children and young people in care.

On the day of the inspection, I regret that the inspectors identified some areas for priority action. We took steps immediately to address these and since the inspection we have taken a range of urgent measures to improve capacity, particularly in Mansfield and Ashfield.

Alongside these urgent changes, I have commissioned a Safeguarding Improvement Programme, led by a group of our Elected Members and augmented by independent advisors. This Improvement Programme will draw together work on the issues we have already identified and the findings of the Ofsted inspection. The Improvement Programme has the full support of the County Council and is seen as the top priority for both our Members, and the Corporate Leadership Team.

We are working hard to strengthen and improve our service and are committed to making sure that all children are as safe as possible. I am confident that we will make the necessary improvements and offer a good quality service to all those who need our support. Our highest priority is to support those children and young people most in need. In partnership with other agencies we are determined to get it right.

The letter which sets out the findings of the unannounced inspection will be published by Ofsted on Friday 6 November. The letter will be available on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/list

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. May'.

ANTHONY MAY
Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



2005-2006
Sustainable Energy
2006-2007
*Culture and Sport for
Hard to Reach Groups*
2007-2008
Emergency Planning
2008-2009
Improving Accessibility