

Planning for the Reorganisation of NCC Children's Services

*An invitation to attend an interactive session from
Sheila Lock, Interim Director of Children's Services*

Tuesday 15 July at Barnham Broom Hotel/Leisure Centre (Barford Suite)

Thursday 17 July at Great Yarmouth Racecourse & Conference Centre

5 pm to 7pm for both venues

As you know, Norfolk's improvement agenda relating to the education and safeguarding of children remains a key task for us. Working together closely and collaboratively to ensure good outcomes for our children and young people is our core priority.

Ofsted's latest inspection into our school improvement work is currently ongoing and due to report by the end of term.

Reviews of safeguarding operations here, most recently a Strategic Review conducted by the Association of Directors of Social Work on behalf of the Department for Education, concluded the initial phase of improvement at Norfolk County Council (which focused on 'getting the basics right') is largely complete. We have increased capacity in frontline social care teams, introduced a rigorous performance management framework, and streamlined the approach to social care case recording (supported by practice and procedural training for operational staff).

However, we still have a significant amount of work to do to achieve our target outcomes for children and the next phase will require a more transformational and whole county approach.

I am in the early stages of planning a reorganisation of the department, being due to submit some high level proposals to Children's Services Committee in September. To support this I would like to invite you to join me and members of my leadership team at a 'twilight' session week commencing 15 July. You will have the opportunity to hear our early thoughts (which I will send you details of by email week commencing 7 July), tell us what you think about them and what else we need to do to tackle our challenges together, jointly improve ways of working and consequently improve outcomes for children and young people.

I will be holding 2 sessions, one on Tuesday 15 July at Barnham Broom Hotel/Leisure Centre (Barford Suite) and another on Thursday 17 July at Great Yarmouth Racecourse & Conference Centre, both taking place between 5 and 7pm.

If you are planning to come along can you please confirm by replying to childrensservices@norfolk.gov.uk detailing which event you will be attending.

I hope you will be able to join me and my team at one of these sessions and look forward to seeing you and hearing your views.

Sheila Lock
Interim Director of Children's Services
Norfolk County Council