

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 18 MAY 2009

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| Title of paper: | Update on proposals to restructure support to improve the education outcomes for Children in Care | |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Andy Downing Director - Schools & Early Years | Wards affected: All |
| Contact Officer(s) and contact details: | Kate Marron – Head of Curriculum & Strategy 8-13, Children's Services, Sandfield Centre, Sandfield Road, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 1QH Tel: 0115 915 7854 E-mail: kate.marron@nottinghamcity.gov.uk | |
| Other officers who have provided input: | None. | |
| Relevant Council Plan theme(s): | | |
| Choose Nottingham | | X |
| Respect for Nottingham | | X |
| Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods | | X |
| Supporting Nottingham People | | X |
| Serving Nottingham Better | | X |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users): | | |
| <p>The paper provides an overview of the aims and purpose of the new 'Serving Vulnerable Groups Better Team', with specific reference to provision for children in care.</p> <p>It also gives some information about transitional arrangements, together with an indication of additional support provided through the Early Intervention programme.</p> | | |
| Recommendation: | | |
| 1 | The Board is asked to note the information about future arrangements to raise attainment of children in the care of Nottingham City. | |

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The proposals are part of a wide restructure process to:

- Establish a leadership post to support school leaders to secure, monitor and evaluate the progress of children and young people vulnerable to underachievement.
- Provide additional capacity to the LA to monitor the progress of groups of pupils across the city as a whole, supporting their schools and intervening on their behalf.
- Establish a team of curriculum and strategy staff, including 6 focussed on children in care, who will each have a teaching qualification and recent and relevant experience of leading improvement in outcomes for pupils and students in care. Their aim will be to advise and support schools in teaching and learning for children in care, including the management of additional support and personalisation of learning.
- Provide professional support and challenge to Designated Teachers in schools to enable them to discharge their statutory duties on behalf of children in care effectively.
- Enable schools and the local authority to provide efficient and effective services on behalf of children and young people who may have more than one factor associated with underachievement, such as being in care and being from an ethnic minority group that typically underachieves in comparison with pupils of the same age generally.

1.2 The timescales for the recruitment and deployment of the new staff are affected by terms and conditions for education staff generally. Because of the workforce reduction processes we are not able to recruit new staff before 31 May 2009, which is the last permitted resignation date for teachers and other education staff taking up a new appointment on 1 September 2009. The next relevant dates are 31 October 2009 and 1st January 2010 respectively.

1.3 Transitional arrangements will be made to support the education outcomes of children in care during the Autumn term 2009.

Strategies will include:

- Existing curriculum and strategy staff, including those 'slotted in' to the new structure, will support schools with advice relating to the statutory role of the designated teacher.
- Existing school curriculum and strategy staff will be able to advise schools on contents and quality of Personal Education Plans, especially in relation to achievement in English and mathematics.
- Written advice will be available to school leaders, including Designated Teachers, through the Children's Services website.
- Administrative staff will be deployed to support social care staff with processes to maintain the completion of Personal Education Plans and the keeping of accurate records in relation to completion.

1.4 Through the Early Intervention programme of the city council, funding for 2 years has been provided for the separate appointment of a Development Officer to focus on raising the aspirations of children and young people to achieve as highly as possible.

The Development Officer will:

- Report to the responsible Schools and Early Years Adviser.
- Develop links with partners such as universities, extended schools and employers to provide additional, out of school experiences for children in care in Nottingham.

• FURTHER EDUC ADVISOR
The preparation of the job description and person specification is intended to meet

timelines for the post to be included in available vacancies as part of the Workforce Reduction Programme.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

This additional information was requested by Mark Leavesley (Committee Administrator).

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

Financial implications are subsumed in the wider Workforce Reduction Programme.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

There are no specific risk management issues arising from the information contained in this report.

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

Balancing the Council's Budget.

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None.