

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD REPORT

21st January 2013

Title of paper:	Reducing Offending Behaviour	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Tim O'Neil, Director Family and Community Teams Helen Blackman, Acting Director of Children Safeguarding Dave Walker, Inspector Paul Harris, Nottinghamshire Police	Wards affected: ALL
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Sam Flint, Children in Care Police Officer, Nottinghamshire Police • Natalie Pink, Case Manager and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Lead, Children in Care (on maternity leave) • Glynis Storer, Operational Team Manager, YOT • Kevin Hatherley (YOT Lead covering maternity leave) 	
Other officers who have provided input:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elise Darragh, Insight Manager (Analytical), Children and Families • Sharon Clarke, Service Manager: Children in Care • Shelley Nicholls, YOT Service Manager 	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		✓
Neighbourhood Nottingham		✓
Family Nottingham		✓
Healthy Nottingham		
Serving Nottingham Better		✓
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>This report explains the progress made in the reduction of the criminalisation activity of children in care. It is the intention of this report to focus on the role of the CiC Police Officer and YOT Lead for CiC, and how these contribute to this aim, achievements during 2011/12, and proposals for 2012/13. Performance information is enhanced by the development of a local measure and is summarised.</p> <p>Previous recommendations or requests for information around the development of quality assurance checks and restorative justice will now be led and reported upon by those to whom this directly applies (Debbie Barton Nottinghamshire Police RJ Lead for the City respectively). Information in italics provides updates from information originally submitted August 2012.</p>		
Recommendation(s): Recommendations for 2013 below build on those proposed in 2011.		
1	The Board to continue to acknowledge the importance of the role of the CiC Police Officer and YOT Lead for CiC in the drive to reduce the criminalisation of CiC and improve their outcomes	
2	The Board to approve the development of a further Safeguarding Children in Care event for 2013	
3	The Board to approve the continuation and Review of multi-agency Network Meetings with care providers	

1 BACKGROUND

Reduction in criminalisation of Children In Care - performance

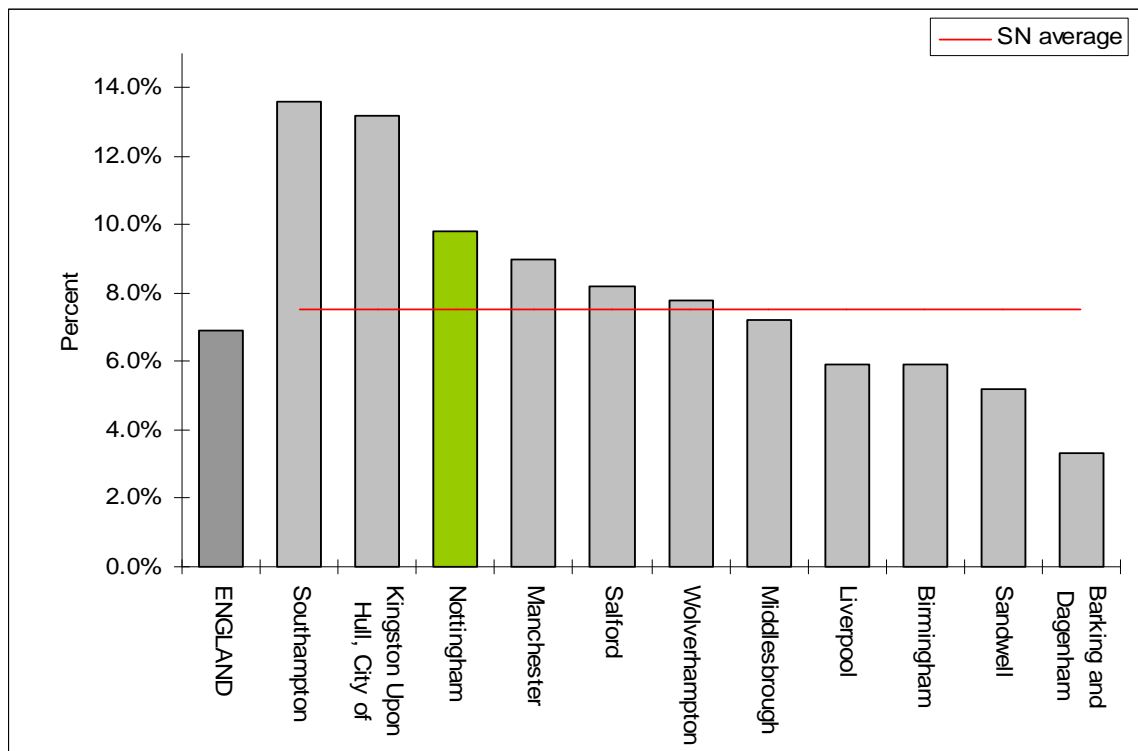
Rate of offending by Nottingham CiC

- 1.1 Performance information taken from the annual OC2 statutory return for Children in Care (CiC) shows the number of children and young people, aged over 10, who have been looked after for more than 12 months, and who have been convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year, for an offence committed while being looked after. Performance results for 2012 (as at 31st March 2012) indicate a slight rise, with 9.8% of CiC who were aged 10 or over being convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year.

Number of CiC aged 10 years old or older						
05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
220	242	223	216	215	222	225
Percentage of CiC cautioned or convicted during the year						
05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
19.1%	13.2%	9.4%	8.8%	9.8%	9.0%	9.8%

- 1.2 Nationally the proportion of children in care that were convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the 2011/12 statistical year fell slightly from 7.3% to 6.9% compared to 2010/11. Nottingham had the third highest proportion in the statistical neighbour group with only Kingston Upon Hull (13%) and Southampton (14%) having higher proportions.

Graph 2: Showing Nottingham's statistical neighbours proportion of Children that have been in care for 12 months or more at 31st March 2012 that were at least 10 years of age that were convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the 2011/12 statistical year



- 1.3 The Children In Care Outcomes Group agreed that a local measure of offending was required to monitor offending within the children in care population, regardless of the time they have been in care. This includes Nottingham city young people placed within and outside of the city boundary. Officers have developed a new measure which will be reported on a quarterly basis going forward. Performance is reported two quarters in arrears to ensure that the most accurate and robust view of offending rates can be provided. Data shown below covers the period of 1st April 2011 – 30th March 2012. New data will be available in February for the period 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012.
- 1.4 During the period 01 April – 31st March 2012, 48 young people committed an offence while in care, representing 12% of the 10-17 aged CiC cohort. Some young people committed multiple offences (4 offences was the highest number by young people) and the total number of offences committed in this period was 68. By far the most common offence was Violence Against the Person.

<i>April to March 2012</i>			
<i>a</i>	<i>Number of yp aged 10-17 who were in care during the period</i>	402	
<i>b</i>	<i>Of (a), number that committed a proven offence while in care</i>	48	12%
<i>c</i>	<i>Number of offences</i>	68	

1.5

Role of CiC police officer/YOT Lead to address the criminalisation of CiC

The Police Officer for Children in Care sits within the 15+ Social Work Service and has enabled close liaison with Children and Families, YOT, Social Care and placement providers. Acting as a central point of contact, this Police Officer has an overview of young people placed within Nottingham city, enabling a pro-active police response. The officer implements the missing from care protocol, co-facilitates cross-authority training on this subject. In addition the officer represents Nottinghamshire Police at cross-authority sexual exploitation meetings.

1.6

The role assists in the management of offending by children and young people in care by performing a preventative role in placement planning, promoting the use of alternative (non-criminal) disposals to divert, and enabling generic police time to be used more efficiently through the deployment of systems. The commitment and tenacity of this officer has been evident and young people will often refer to this officer as 'theirs'. The post has expanded over time to include private care providers throughout the city and has had a resource impact.

1.7

The role of 'YOT Lead' for Children in Care was formalised in 2011. The YOT Lead provides a point of liaison for YOT and residential staff, collates information, Co-chairs Quarterly Meetings with the CiC Police Officer, and jointly co-ordinated and delivered the 'Safeguarding Children in Care' event in March 2012.

1.8

Both roles are keen to emphasise the interplay between a young person's risk and vulnerability, and the reduction in the criminalisation of CiC as sitting within the safeguarding agenda. Both roles are involved in work to highlight the positive achievements of CiC, such as the planning and development of the Big It Up Awards for 2012.

1.9 The YOT Lead is supporting the development of the 'Have Your Say' questionnaire in order that this can apply and be distributed to young people qualifying as CiC in secure and custodial establishments. The CiC Police Officer and YOT Lead were asked to lead a workshop at a Prison Reform Trust conference, discussing the work of the CiC Police Officer and YOT Lead July 2012. This was well received and other areas have asked to consult as to how they could develop similar models of working.

1.10 **'Safeguarding Children in Care' event 27.03.12, Strelley Hall**

1.11 This event was planned and facilitated by Nottinghamshire Police, YOT and Children in Care Service. It was sponsored by Social Work Choices, and delivered at no cost to Nottingham City Council. There was consultation with the CiC Council regarding the format of day, and how they would like to be represented. The event was attended by representatives of Social Care (Adoption and Fostering, Children's residential, Targeted Support Team, Children in Care Team), YOT Case Managers and Victim Liaison Officer, Nottinghamshire Police, Virtual School, Futures, Business in the Community, Crown Prosecution Service, Barnados, Engagement and Participation and the Children in Care Council. E – Certificates were provided to participants to evidence multi-agency working across the Authority and partner agencies.

Aims:

To promote multi-agency working

To signpost to developments in working with CiC

To provide an opportunity for participants to share and reflect upon practice

To increase participants understanding of risk and vulnerability (that young people are not either risky or vulnerable)

Presentations:

1.12 Small Group Homes - including 'Virtual Tour' and CiC Team

Placements Service and Quality Assurance

Children in Care and Offending - YOT and Crown Prosecution Service

Children in Care Charter – members of the children in Care Council

Summary of feedback (40 respondents):

1.13 The majority of respondents felt the event aims were achieved, with a small number reporting they were achieved in part.

All presentations and workshops achieved a high level of satisfaction: 37-40 respondents scored presentations between 6-10, (10 being highest), with the majority of respondents scoring in the higher 8-10 range.

100% would like to attend a future Safeguarding CiC event.

The 'issues' board:

Learning disability, Autism, Aspergers and placements

1.14 Feedback from family

Long term outcomes for CiC

How do we promote and use restorative justice? How are RJ interventions recorded?

How are we aware of children's home in our area not on the framework?

Who raises issue of a young person's fitness to plead?

Innovate programme (NEET tracking)

Collating figures for CiC ie CPS YOT

Is there too high a tolerance of offending?

1.15 Parents using court as route to care

Young people being properly supported at court

Young people in custody with looked after status

Comments included:

- 'The event allowed me to network and learn more about other agencies'
- 'Good to be able to put faces to names and get some new, positive contacts'
- 'Need to bear in mind that language used is very specific to care employees and made it difficult to understand fully some information provided'
- 'Really good range of attendees and speakers'
- 'A wonderful morning, the Children's Charter is fantastic'
- 'Fantastic opportunity to meet some of the children in care'
- 'More events needed, at least 2 a year!'

1.16 Ideas for 2013

Transitions focus (home to care, between community and custody, young people's services to adult based services)
Court experience

- 1.17 A proposal for a 2013 event has been submitted to senior management which further strengthens multi-agency participation and the participation of the Children in Care Council, addresses case-based learning through the year, and informs attendees of new developments in the field (remands to custody, transitions etc).

Network Meetings

- 1.18 Quarterly Reducing Offending meetings were initially held within local authority children's homes, and were extended in 2011 to include private providers. The designated YOT Lead and CiC Police Officer co-chair meetings with providers looking to promote a consistent and quality approach to communication, behaviour management, health, education, and responses to children and young people missing from home. These meetings compliment quality assurance processes, help to identify any concerns or themes, and provide an opportunity to share information and reflect, to
- 1.19 prevent the unnecessary escalation of concerns. Previous feedback was positive, however it was identified that these meetings would benefit from greater multi-agency participation, and a formalised accountability structure.

A multi-agency focus group was established September 2011 with a view to securing wider participation within Nottingham City Council and with partner agencies. Progress is reported periodically to the Children in Care Outcomes Group and annually to the CP Board.

- 1.20 These meetings have resumed on a quarterly basis in 2012. Four meetings were held in June and July 2012, *three held in September, and one in October. Four meetings are planned in December.* Community venues have been used to promote locality-based/services. NGY My Space was pursued but cost initially precluded. Working links with YMCA subsequently enabled use free of charge. A representative from CAMHS has attended three meetings, and Nottingham Futures, Barnardos and NSPCC have attended or hosted meetings to promote their work and reinforce working links. Initial
- 1.21 feedback has been very positive. A review of these arrangements with partners was conducted by the Focus Group in September 2012 and enabled reflection and the targeting of resources.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 It is proposed that the role of CiC police officer and YOT Lead working in close partnership is a model of best practice. This was recognised within Ofsted inspection processes in both 2010 and 2011. It is believed that this has contributed to the performance figures outlined, and reduction of instances of missing reports for children in care. Nottingham city is the only authority with a CiC Police Officer/these roles working in close collaboration, and therefore Nottingham city could be considered a national lead in this area.
- 2.2 Further safeguarding event/s are proposed further to positive feedback from participants who felt aims were achieved. Such events provide an opportunity to evidence multi agency working and participation, to identify issues for consideration, and to share knowledge and developments in the field.
- 2.3 Participants have reported that quarterly Reducing Offending Behaviour meetings contribute to the risk and vulnerability management of young people in their care, and facilitate information sharing amongst professionals. It is proposed that these meetings encourage good communication and multi agency working between agencies, assisting early problem solving at an operational level.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

- 4.1 The post of Children in Care Police Officer is jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. Reduction of offending and missing reports has a financial benefit across the Authority and it's partners, as well as safeguarding CiC and improving their outcomes.
- 4.2 The YOT Lead role is a specialism incorporated within a Case Management post. Whilst this does have resource implications no additional funding is currently sought for this role.
- 4.3 Sponsorship of any future Safeguarding event will be sought through our private providers and has no cost implications to Nottingham City Councils budgets.

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

- 5.1 It is proposed these roles minimise risks to both the organisation and young people in care. The sustainability of these roles are considered instrumental in consolidating and building upon work in this area to date, in an effort to strive for better outcomes for children in care in Nottingham.

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

6.1 Annual statutory return (903) for CiC.

6.2 Analysis of evaluation forms completed by participants at Safeguarding Children in Care event March 2012.

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

7.1 Ofsted Annual Children's Services assessment (Southampton, Sandwell, Liverpool 2011)