

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

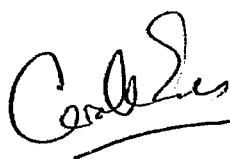
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday 18 March 2013

Time: 2.30pm

Place: Meeting Room LB 31/32 - 3rd Floor at Loxley House, Station Street

Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting on the date and at the time and place stated to transact the following business.



Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director for Resources

Constitutional Services Officer: Catherine Ziane-Pryor Direct dial - 0115 8764298

A G E N D A

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 3 MINUTES** Attached
Last meeting held on 21 January 2013 (for confirmation)
- 4 REGULATION 33 VISITS - INTERNAL RESIDENTIAL** Attached
Report of Interim Director of Safeguarding
- 5 PERSONAL EDUCATION PLAN OUTCOMES** Attached
Report of Acting Corporate Director of Children and Families
- 6 PERFORMANCE REPORT** Attached
Report of Interim Director of Safeguarding
- 7 CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS 'HAVE YOUR SAY' 2012 RESULTS** Attached
Report of Acting Corporate Director of Children and Families

IF YOU ARE UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD DECLARE AN INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR MATTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING, WHO WILL PROVIDE ADVICE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES

Agenda, reports and minutes for all public meetings can be viewed online at:-
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/default.asp>

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES

of meeting held on **21 JANUARY 2013** at

Loxley House from 2.30 pm to 3.45 pm

- ✓ Councillor Mellen (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Klein (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Campbell
- Councillor Culley
- ✓ Councillor Dewinton
- ✓ Councillor Jenkins
- ✓ Councillor McCulloch
- ✓ Councillor Morley
- Councillor Morris

✓ indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

- PC Sam Flint - Nottinghamshire Police
- Ms Gill Moy - Nottingham City Homes
- Ms Phyllis Brackenbury - Nottingham CityCare Partnership.

Nottingham City Council

- Ms Paulette Thompson-) Children in Care) Children and Families
- Omenka))
- Ms Kay Sutt - Children's Residential)
- Mrs Lorna Beedham - Inclusive Learning)
- Miss Elise Darragh - Quality & Commissioning)
- Ms Helen Blackman - Safeguarding)
- Miss Kelley Connolly - Schools & Learning)
- Mr Kevin Hatherley) Youth Offending Team)
- Ms Glynis Storer))
- Mrs Evonne Rogers - Business Strategy & Support)
- Ms Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Democratic Services) Resources
- Ms Lisa Black - Head of Revenues, Benefits)
- and Welfare Rights)

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Culley and Morris, Ms Sharon Thompson, Designated Nurse Children in Care, Miss Heidi Watson, Business in the Community, and Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

31 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 November 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

32 WELFARE REFORMS

Ms Lisa Black, Head of Revenues, Benefits and Welfare Rights, was in attendance to deliver the presentation, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Board of the proposed measures to ensure that young people leaving care were adequately supported, in view of the major changes to be made under welfare reform.

Ms Black highlighted the following issues which may affect care leavers and/or foster carers:

- the introduction of Universal Credit (possibly in October 2013 for Nottingham City) meant that welfare entitlements were to be paid once a month directly to the individual, and they would be responsible for budgeting and ensuring that all of their bills were paid, including rent and Council Tax;
- the Social Fund was to be abolished but Nottingham City Council were planning to allocate £1.8 million for use as an Emergency Hardship Fund with strict criteria, and partnering with credit unions to support an Emergency Loan Scheme for those who did not meet the criteria for the Emergency Hardship Fund. It was expected that, on current information, approximately 60% of young people leaving care would need to access the Emergency Hardship Fund;
- for working age people in social housing, from 1 April 2013, there were to be changes to Housing Benefit, including reductions for under occupying their homes (i.e. a 'spare' bedroom tax) for which there were to be no exemptions. This was predicted to affect approximately 7,000 households in the City;
- the changes to Council Tax benefit would result in residents of a Council Tax band 'A' property paying approximately £1.79 of their income per week towards their bill;
- it was expected that 80% of universal credit applications would be made managed online.

The Board's questions and concerns were responded to as follows:

- up until the end of March 2013, there were to be welfare rights support sessions for young people leaving or preparing to leave care. However, it was noted that the Independent Living Preparation Plan for such young people needed to be quickly strengthened with a new emphasis on the budgeting skills required;
- in regard to the under occupation penalties for social housing, as there were to be no exemptions, Nottingham City Homes (NCH) had arranged a budget of £697,000 to provide discretionary housing payments which would temporarily balance the shortfall in financial support in very specific circumstances, such as preventing homelessness for the most vulnerable, while other, long term, sustainable solutions were sought;

- with the introduction of Universal Credit, thorough budgeting skills would be required. It was anticipated that only vulnerable people in specific circumstances, such as substantial rent arrears, would be eligible to have their rent paid directly to the landlord. However, as the definition of vulnerable in this context was yet to be determined by Central Government, and, although preferable to potentially accruing debt, it was uncertain if care leavers could be included. It was noted that most parents would assist their children with budgeting, so, as corporate parents, it was important to provide the same support;
- NCH's Care Leavers Protocol would ensure that one of the first contacts for care leavers approaching NCH would be a financial liaison officer who would assist, guide and support young people through the welfare process;
- approximately 4% of foster carers in the City would be affected by the under occupancy penalties during periods between placements so, in an effort to ensure that fostering did not become over complex, which could potentially deter people, it was anticipated that any under occupancy penalties would be paid from the Discretionary Housing Fund. However, this was yet to be confirmed and forms would still need to be completed by the foster carers for each period of under occupancy for which discretionary payments were made, which was not ideal;
- options were still to be determined in regard to ensuring that the 20% of Universal Credit applicants who were not expected to apply online could access the system. This included the possibility of using facilities at libraries, joint service centres and partner organisations;

It was suggested that a proportion of the £1.8 million Emergency Hardship Fund be set aside specifically for the benefit of supporting care leavers.

RESOLVED

- (1) that Central Government be lobbied to include care leavers within their criteria for vulnerable people, in regard to rent payments and the ability to pay the landlord directly;**
- (2) that, as Head of Revenues, Benefits and Welfare Rights, Lisa Black be requested to update the Board on the implementation of the welfare reforms in regard of children in care and foster carers, at a future meeting;**
- (3) that, the thanks of the Board to Lisa Black for her attendance and presentation, be recorded.**

33 REDUCING REOFFENDING

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Director of Family and Community Teams, the Director of Children's Safeguarding, and Nottinghamshire Police, a revised version of which was circulated at the meeting, and submitted to the online agenda following the meeting.

Police Constable Sam Flint, presented the revised report and was accompanied by Mr Kevin Hatherley and Ms Glynis Storer of the Youth Offending Team, and Ms Elise Darragh who presented the statistical information.

The following points were highlighted, and responses given to questions and comments of the Board:

- Debbie Barton of Nottinghamshire Police Restorative Justice, was facilitating a 3 day, full time 'Children in Care Restorative Justice course' to train 12 people from partner services, at no charge, with a view to them being able to train/inform other colleagues in their organisations;
- the quarterly 'Reducing Offending Network Meetings' with statutory and private partners had proved a valuable route for raising concerns about providers, and also for sharing information and good practice;
- the Sexual Exploitation Group included partners across the City and aimed to raise awareness of exploitation and how it could be identified, identify reporting and advice routes, and suggesting what measures could be taken to prevent it. Training on these points was proposed to be made available and, if funding could be secured, it was possible that a theatre group would perform a play which would work with children in care and at schools etc, to raise awareness and understanding among those young people who were likely to be targeted. There was also the possibility of promoting young people champions as young people may be more likely to discuss concerns with someone their own age;
- the Safeguarding Children in Care event held on 27 March 2012, had been well attended by a variety of partners and proved a great success so it was proposed to hold a further event in 2013 which would build on the issues previously covered, address additional topics, and further promote and enable multi-agency working;
- with regard to the rise in the rate of children in care over the age of 10 years who had been cautioned or convicted to 9.8% from 9% the previous year, it was noted that Nottingham City had the third highest rate amongst the eleven statistical neighbours. A member of the Board commented that criminal behaviour was not necessarily as a result of being in care, and that some young people would have been criminally active prior to being taken into care;
- while violence against the person was the highest recorded crime of children in care, the Board were informed that in regard to peer incidents, which would probably occur in a parental home between siblings, the judgement of the care workers was applied in regard to reporting incidents to the Police. The majority of violent incidents occurred against care staff. Police were not called unless the permission of the Duty Manager had been sought and given. PC Flint was informed of any 'unnecessary' incidents reported to the Police. This, along with the improvements of children's homes, had resulted in a reduction of reported incidents;
- prior to charges being brought, Police would exhaust an eight point check list of alternative routes such as sanctions and restorative justice. For incidents where charges were brought, before progressing to a court hearing, further investigations would take place to ensure that this was the appropriate course of action.

Board members commented on how encouraging progress had been and asked that representatives of foster carer organisations have the opportunity to attend the restorative justice and sexual exploitation training sessions.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the importance of the roles of the Children in Care Police Officer and the Youth Offending Team Lead for Children in Care, in driving to reduce criminalisation of children in care and improve their outcomes, be noted;
- (2) that the development of a further Safeguarding Children in Care event for 2013, be approved;
- (3) that continuation and review of multi-agency network meetings with care providers be approved;
- (4) that the thanks of the Board to PC Sam Flint, Mr Kevin Hatherley, Ms Glynis Storer and Ms Elise Darragh, for their report and attendance, be recorded.

34 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

35 CHILDREN IN CARE PERFORMANCE

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Quality and Commissioning, revised copies of which were circulated at the meeting, providing the latest available information.

Ms Elise Darragh, Quality and Commissioning, presented the performance figures and highlighted the following points:

- o there were, as of the date of the meeting, currently 557 Children in Care in Nottingham City. This figure was still below the rate of statistical neighbours but, at 88 per 10,000 of children in care, was above the target of 83.8%;
- o while the 10.9% 'stability of placements of children in care: number of moves based on a rolling 12 month period' (National Indicator 62) had not met the target of 12%, the 'Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of Placement' (National Indicator 63) at 69.2% had exceeded the 67% target. It was noted that children were not moved unless it was absolutely necessary;
- o 45.2% of care leavers (19 years of age) were in employment, education or training (eet), (NI148), but the target was 60%. The actual numbers were in eet was 19 young people out of 42.

RESOLVED

- (1) that in addition to the figures of representation of BME children in care to the BME population, the representation of white children in care to the white population, also be provided for future reports;
- (2) that the percentage figures for adoption and special guardianship be provided for both BME and white children in care, be circulated with the minutes.

**Breakdown of the Adoptions and SGO this year to show BME representation.
(Against the 10.5% Q3 measure – 25 adoptions and 22 SGOs)**

Ethnicity	Adoption	Special Guardianship Order
Black / Black Brit - any other black background		1
Mixed - any other mixed background		3
Mixed - White & Asian		2
Mixed - White & Black Caribbean	3	5
White - Any other White background	1	1
Any other ethnic group	1	
White British	20	10

**What percentage of the Adoptions and SGOs this year were sibling groups?
(Against the 10.5% Q3 measure – 25 adoptions and 22 SGOs)**

In the table below the child is part of a sibling group when they have a sibling relationship and their discharge from care is the same.

Sibling Group	Adoption	Special Guardianship Order
YES	12	9
NO *	13	13

*Please note, 2 of these children and young people were adopted into homes where birth siblings had PREVIOUSLY been adopted

Against the representation BME CiC to BME pop measure, can we calculate the same measure but for white children to act as a comparator?

The definition below may help to explain what the BME CIC measure represents.

CSS147 Definition

Performance measure CSS147 (Representation BME children CIC to BME population) compares the CIC BME population to the Nottingham City BME population. CSS147 for December was 5.9%. This means that the CIC population has proportionally 5.9% more BME when compared to Nottingham City.

Breakdown of NEET/EET for 19 year old care leavers

Status	Main Activity on 19th Birthday	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Total
EET	Young person engaged full time in education other than higher education	2	2	4	8
EET	Young person engaged full time in higher education(i.e. studies beyond A level)			1	1
EET	Young person engaged full time in training or employment	3	1	3	7
EET	Young person engaged part time in education other than higher education	1			1
EET	Young person engaged part time in training or employment	1	1		2
NEET	Young Person Not In Education, Employment Or Training, Because Of Disability		2		2
NEET	Young Person Not In Education, Employment Or Training: Other Circumstances	3	5	12	20
NEET	SSD Not In Touch With Young Person		1		1
Total		10	12	20	42

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 18th MARCH 21013

4

Title of paper:	Regulation 33 Visits – Internal Residential	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman Acting Director Safeguarding	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Paulette Thompson-Omenka – Head of Service, Children in Care paulette.thompson-omenka@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8765023	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Kay Sutt, Service Manager, Residential and Targeted Support kay.sutt@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 01158765667	

Relevant Council Plan theme(s):		
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):

Internal Residential Homes are required to be inspected on a monthly basis by suitable persons independent to Residential Services as part of legislative requirements under National Minimum Standards (2000). Members of the Corporate Parenting Board and other relevant professionals are included on the Rota managed by the Service Manager. Reports are sent monthly as statutorily required to Ofsted. The person carrying out the visit shall –

(a) interview, with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home;

(b) inspect the premises of the children's home, its daily log of events and records of any complaints; and

(c) prepare a written report on the conduct of the home.

Recommendation(s):	
1	Continued involvement of relevant professionals undertaking Regulation 33 visits.
2	Outcomes of Reports analysed and monitored by Service Manager to identify trends and patterns to improve performance as well as to share good practice.
3	Corporate Parenting Board updated regularly in respect of outcomes of visits.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Residential services since April 2011 have been re-configured into a Small Group Homes Model which is an umbrella term. The specifics are set out below:
- 1.2 There are now 6 settled beds in 3 Children's Homes, 7 Emergency beds which accommodate 3 young people in the Bestwood area each on a short-term basis and 12 Semi-Independence beds (6 Sherwood Rise, 4 and 2 in NCC 2 transition houses in the NG7 area).

- 1.3 The number of internal beds in Nottingham City has increased from 17 to 25 which require further Regulation 33 visitors.
- 1.4 Regulation Visits are an important quality assurance process and also serve as a Safeguarding measure for Children in Care. They are able to inform practice and performance and ensure young people have access to someone independent, should they need to complain or disclose information about the care they are receiving.
- 1.5 Regulation 33 Visits are also a legislative requirement and completed reports are sent to Ofsted on a monthly basis. Some members of the Corporate Parenting Board have undertaken the training to add to the independent scrutiny. Other Board members have attended the training and have been out to visit the homes with other Reg 33 Visitors. Further training sessions are planned for the coming year in order to have a healthy number for the current and future rotas.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Due to the nature of the provision it is imperative that the service is scrutinised independently to ensure it is delivering cost-effective services and improving outcomes for Children In Care. People carrying out Regulation 33 visits can make recommendations to improve practice as well as ensuring that minimum standards are being adhered to, if not exceeded.

- 2.2 Since April 2011 Regulation 33 Visits have been undertaken in all the Children's Homes.

- 2.3 They have identified recent performance issues such as:

Statements of Purposes and Welcome Guides needing to be updated to include new staff members, due to changes in staff and management in some of the Homes.

Training needs for staff identified to undertake Life Story work to assist them in the work they undertake with children/young people in the Homes.

- 2.4 Each visitor formulates an Action Plan which is completed by the Registered Manager and checked by the visitor on the next visit. Recommendations/Action plans have reduced significantly over the last few months with some homes having no actions to complete for several months concurrent. This has been reflected in recent ofsted inspections with two of our homes receiving outstanding judgments and several others receiving good judgements.

- 2.5 The majority of reports continue to be very positive with Inspectors describing the Homes as follows:

"Pleasant working environments, where staff all pull together and support each other".

"The Assistant Manager and the staff member I spoke to were very committed to the care of the young people and displayed an understanding of how to best manage the young people to improve attitude and performance in time keeping and attendance at college, school and activities".

"Staff are equipped with the skills to meet the needs of the children".

"I briefly saw 2 young people coming to staff for advice and the interaction was supportive and positive".

"Both young people said they were happy in the home and staff were good to them. One remarked that it was much quieter here than his own where he is one of ten children. They had no complaints when asked other than some staff were better cooks than others. We

discussed school and what they wanted to do in the future for a career. One wished to become a mechanic working with cars, the other an engineer". Also met with SR on her own. We had spoken to each other on my last visit.

"She spoke warmly of staff. She now understood the area where she had to take responsibility for her life and not leave things to others which showed some maturity".

"I spoke with both young people. Neither wished to raise any issue of concern. Indeed both young people stated how happy they were at the home. They spoke highly of staff members and felt they had a voice in helping to shape their environment. On both of my last 2 visits I have been impressed by the warm, homely young person centred environment. The staff are inviting and professional and have developed positive working relationships with both young people".

2.6 All continue to have been very positive about the décor and environment and comment how evident it is that staff and young people care about the Homes.

2.7 More importantly the young people have reported to visitors the positives about living in the houses. Some of the recent comments from children and young people are as follows:

"Staff were very welcoming and caring".

"Everyone here is caring and wants to look after me as well as everything else".

"You get looked after and everyone is nice".

"I didn't want to come here, but it's not what I thought it would be like. It's like, things are ordinary here. It's just like living in a house with different people".

"I have no issues and I'm very happy with my placement here. Staff are friendly and helpful. I feel safe in the home and prefer this home to my foster placement".

"Staff are always available/willing to talk to me no matter what time of day or night".

2.8 The only recent recorded complaint was in relation to pocket money:

"Would be better if we had more money".

2.9 It has also been clearly noticeable that the level of missing young people is continuing to decrease, as is the number of Notifiable Events and young people being involved in anti-social behaviour for example arrests, convictions and emergency call-outs to police.

2.10 Young people's access to Education and Employment is improving all of which is recorded in the Regulation 33 Reports. Currently only 2 young people in our internal homes are not attending school or college and staff are working very hard along with other professionals in encouraging them back into education or work. Staff work very closely with the virtual head in supporting our children and young people in school and ensuring that educational packages are put in place for those children who don't currently have a school placement. The staff have high aspirations for the children and young people and achievements are celebrated as a matter of high priority.

2.11 Ofsted have recently requested that inspectors ensure they include in all Regulation 33

reports the opinions of children and young people about the care they receive. Young people had been absent from the home at the time of some of the inspections taking place. Ofsted have advised that in these circumstances it is acceptable for inspectors to telephone children and young people to ascertain their opinions and record accordingly. Inspectors have acted upon this recommendation and now every Regulation 33 report contains children and young people's views about the care they receive. The staff also gain feedback from children, young people and their families by way of a questionnaire which is shown to inspectors. The feedback from these questionnaires have generally been very positive and comments have also been made for improving the service which serve to shape the future of Children's Residential.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None required.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 The re-configuration of Children's Residential continues to be cost effective for the City Council. The increase in internal beds has reduced the need for external beds and costs are currently in line or lower than external provision. Also the increase in internal beds prevents some young people from being placed outside of the city as it is good practice wherever possible to keep children and young people near their family, friends, school and college.

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

5.1 Regulation 33 reports include legislative requirements (amended to meet new Minimum Standards, April 2011)

5.2 Record and capture information in relation to young peoples offending and anti-social behaviours.

5.3 They also report as to whether young peoples cultural and diversity needs are being met within their identified Care Plan

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

6.1 N/A

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

7.1 N/A

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD REPORT - 18th MARCH 2013

5

Title of paper:	Personal Education Plan Outcomes	
Director(s)/	Candida Brudenell : Acting Corporate Director	Wards affected: ALL
Corporate Director(s):		
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Lorna Beedham – Virtual School Head Teacher 0115 8764677 lorna.beedham@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other officers who have provided input:	None	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World CLA'ss 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>The report sets out details of PEP results for the period January to December 2012.</p> <p>The quality of PEPs remains a significant focus for improvement. This report indicates actions taken and those planned to address this issue.</p> <p>The quality of PEPs remains a priority for the team. Schools do make appropriate provision for young people but this is not always recorded on the PEP form.</p>		
Recommendations:		
1	The Board is asked to note the maintenance of PEP completion figures at over 90% and the actions undertaken to address the quality of PEPs.	
2	The Board to note developments planned to enhance the quality of the written records of PEP meetings.	

1 **BACKGROUND**

1.1 Every Child in Care (CiC) is entitled to a Personal Education Plan (PEP) when s/he is placed into care. The first is to be started within ten days of being placed in care and completed within 4 months. Following PEPs are undertaken every six months unless a child moves placement or school when a new PEP is expected.

1.2 The PEP contains a history of placement, school and social worker. It records the child's own view of their educational progress, ambition and targets as well as an educational plan for the next PEP period.

1.3 It is the social worker's responsibility to ensure that the PEP review takes place. Where possible the social worker should attend the meeting although it is not a requirement except for the first PEP. The school may take the lead in a PEP meeting except for the first.

1.4 **PEP Completion Rates**

Month	% PEPs In Date
January 2012	95
February 2012	97
March 2012	98
April 2012	96
May 2012	95
June 2012	92
July 2012	94
September 2012	94
October 2012	92
November 2012	90
December 2012	91

These results display a reasonable stability that has not been present in previous years' figures.

1.5 The past twelve months has seen all completion rates being at or above 90%. This has been achieved through:

- Virtual School robust admin.
- A monthly reminder being sent to all social workers
- Earlier notification to social care team leaders of completion percentages for each month
- Reminders at designated teacher network meetings of PEP completion expectations and social worker and designated teacher responsibilities;
- Combining PEP and statement review meetings to avoid the repetition of meetings. An achievement consultant has worked with NCC special schools to make these adaptations;
- PEA applications only being accepted if a PEP is in date and the PEA request matches priorities identified in the PEP;
- The training of the CiC Social Work team regarding PEP essentials and their submission to the Virtual School;
- The attendance of achievement consultants at PEP meetings for pupils with changes to provision or placement

1.6 The Virtual School has also produced a Key Stage 5 PEP to support those young people transferring to college. The aim is to complete it in the second half of Year 11 and invite the prospective college to the meeting so that it can ensure support mechanisms are in place. A network of colleges has been established by the Virtual School to ensure best practice is modelled by, and shared between, the colleges.

1.8 **Quality of PEPs**

The quality of PEPs is still variable. The pupil view is generally well recorded, carers' views are now recorded (a development from LA'st year's review) as is the historical information, but the education plan is often limited and does not always focus on English, mathematics or other subjects where the young person is underachieving but rather behavioural and social targets.

1.9 The Virtual School has changed its audit process to ensure all PEP records are audited as soon as they are received and, therefore, schools and social workers receive more timely feedback on their quality.

1.10 Actions taken so far are:

- An audit of a PEP record is completed as soon as it is received by the named consultant for that child
- Feedback on audited PEPs is given to the social worker and designated teacher
- PEPs and audit records are held electronically on the Virtual School IT system
- Copies of PEPs are kept in pupil record folders
- IROs to ask for PEPs at reviews
- The CiC Team has received training on the required areas for improvement in PEPs
- Designated Teacher network meetings have highlighted PEP requirements
- The establishment of the Virtual School Steering Group to monitor the impact of the Virtual School on the provision made for CiC and to make recommendations and influence the practice of social care and schools
- A section has been added to the PEP to record the use of Pupil Premium funding

1.11

Further actions to be taken:

- Consideration of the commissioning of an e-PEP which would transfer information from one PEP to the next and would have a built in reminder to social workers and designated teachers of the requirement to complete their sections
- Extension of attendance and attainment data collection to include all city schools. Presently this is commissioned for City academies and those schools external to the LA whilst LA schools attendance data is collected through the electronic B2B system
- Training sessions for new Designated Teachers and social workers on how to complete a good quality PEP to be planned into the 2012-13 support programme
- For Out of City children Designated Teachers to be informed of PEP's out of date status alongside the social worker to ensure a meeting is co-ordinated and a PEP report completed

1.12 **Evaluation**

The year has seen a completion rate of at least 90% in terms of meetings.

1.13 Some improvement has been seen in the quality of PEPs. Additional work required regarding the Education Action Plan. The Independent Reviewing Officers will request sight of the PEP in advance of the child's Looked After Reviews.

1.14 It has been a challenge to correlate PEP completion rates with pupil outcomes. The PEP meeting is a discussion regarding progress and attainment and a place where future actions are identified. The child's or young person's outcomes are impacted upon by the actions taken by the school and resources provided; e.g. Pupil Premium, PEA funding, 1:1 tuition, learning support which may need to change from those recorded at the PEP meeting as circumstances change.

1.15 Discussions with Virtual School Head Teachers in the East Midlands region indicate that all LA's have issues over the quality of PEP meeting records.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 The Virtual School, on behalf of the CPB, takes on responsibility for monitoring and recording PEP completion. This has resulted in a more consistent completion rate, at least similar and in some cases higher than regional and statistical LA's.

2.2 There are challenges for social workers in terms of the distances travelled to attend some PEP meetings as sometimes children reside outside of Nottinghamshire. Half of the school aged CiC are placed in schools external to the City. In the period January to December 2012 the number of Children in Care increased by 14 (528 to 542) the number of children requiring PEPS increased by 30 (289 to 319).

2.3 The size of the Virtual School Team means that they are not able to attend all PEP and LAC review meetings. Where they cannot attend a PEP meeting they offer advice to social workers and Designated Teachers. They also offer training at team meetings and designated teacher networks as well as to individuals.

2.4 The Virtual School requires up to date information on its children to determine where support is required to improve progress and raise the attainment of individuals and year groups, because of the large number of schools involved and the lack of access to a significant number of schools' data storage systems the Virtual School has commissioned the collection of attendance and attainment data on its behalf for the past 18 months. A tendering process is underway for a 3 year contract to include these two elements and an e-PEP. This service has proved invaluable to the Virtual School especially with the increasing numbers of academies in the City and the lack of access to information from schools external to the City boundary.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 The costs of PEP meetings are contained within salary costing of staff and very rarely are room hire/refreshment costs incurred as most meetings take place within the school. Social care has costs for social worker travel to meetings, especially those held external to the City boundary.

4.2 Schools incur costs when making provision to meet the action plans but pupil premium funding contributes to this as does any additional SEN funding approved as part of the usual statement or MSG bid process. Educational provision is the school's responsibility. Historically, in a few exceptional circumstances, additional funding has been provided by the SEN or Virtual School budgets or the social care team to meet changes or adaptation to school provision.

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

5.1 Children in Care have an entitlement to a Personal Education Plan regardless of age, gender, race and disability and it forms part of the child's care plan.

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

None

7 **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

None



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2013

CONTEXT

The purpose of this additional report is to provide the Board with the most up to date performance overview information in relation to Children in Care and to highlight results as of January 2013.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The tables below show performance against key monthly and quarterly Children in Care measures. Performance for January 2013 is shown along with 2012-13 targets and previous year end out-turn. Now the Munro performance framework has been published, work will commence to develop new measures and outcome indicators ready for implementation for April 2013.

Performance against key monthly measures is listed below:

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Stat Neigh 11/12	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Sep - 12	Oct - 12	Nov - 12	Dec - 12	Jan - 13
CSS101(a)	Number of Children in Care	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	737	541	524	553	552	547	547	559
CSS101(b)	Rate per 10,000 of Children in Care *	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	90.6	86.6	83.8	88	88	88	88	89
CSS114	Number of Admissions to Care	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	243	No target set	17	18	12	14	34
CSS115	Number of Discharges from Looked After	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	221	No target set	21	21	20	16	24
CSS147	Representation BME children CiC to BME population	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	9.6%	No target set	6.8%	6.0%	5.4%	5.9%	5.4%

The majority of data in the report is obtained from CareFirst. CareFirst is a live database, as such the information is subject to change and fluctuations are not uncommon, this is due to records being amended, added or removed. As a consequence, the data presented in this report only represents a snapshot of the performance picture for the month that the report was run. Previous monthly performance figures are not re-calculated, therefore the monthly figures may not always equal the year-to-date totals.



NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Stat Neigh 11/12	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Sep - 12	Oct - 12	Nov - 12	Dec - 12	Jan - 13
NI63	Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement	Joy Chambers	65.4%	73.1%	67.0%	71.6%	72.2%	69.7%	69.2%	68.2%
NI66	Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales	Dome Collinson	86.0%	94.6%	97.0%	97.4%	96.8%	95.5%	95.3%	94.3%
PAF C63	Participation in Reviews	Dome Collinson	Not published	85.9%	90.0%	94.0%	93.0%	93.5%	93.8%	92.7%
CSS158	% of Children in Care for 3 months or more with an up-to-date health assessment	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	77.6%	80.0%	78.7%	76.3%	73.9%	74.5%	81.1%
CSS159	% of Children in Care after for 3 months or more with an up-to-date dental check	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	82.7%	80.0%	84.3%	83.8%	79.7%	78.7%	79.5%
CSS160	% of Children in Care after for 3 months or more with an up-to-date SDQ	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	90.0%	100.0%	84.9%	85.5%	84.5%	82.7%	82.5%
CSS153	% CiC with a completed PEP	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	98.0%	98.0.0%	94.0%	92.0%	90.0%	91.0%	92.0%
CSS151	Percentage of eligible CiC who have a Pathway Plan commenced (age 15% - 17)	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	New measure from Sep 12	100.0%	86.6%	89.9%	86.7%	80.8%	78.2%
CSS155	% CiC allocated to a named social worker	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	100.0%	100.0%	99.6%	99.8%	99.6%	100.0%	100.0%

* The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released new 0-17 population protections for mid-year 2011. These are based on the most recent Census data and figures show the child population in Nottingham has increased to 62,500, as a result the rate per 10,000 children will decrease. This figure is used in rate calculations from 11/12 (apart from BME measures).

The majority of data in the report is obtained from CareFirst. CareFirst is a live database, as such the information is subject to change and fluctuations are not uncommon, this is due to records being amended, added or removed. As a consequence, the data presented in this report only represents a snapshot of the performance picture for the month that the report was run. Previous monthly performance figures are not re-calculated, therefore the monthly figures may not always equal the year-to-date totals.



Performance against key quarterly measures is listed below:

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Stat Neigh 11/12	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Q1	Q2	Q3
PAF C23	Adoptions of CiC (including SGO's)	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	13.0%	9.9%	13.0%	1.4%	6.1%	10.5%
NI61	Timeliness of placements of Children in Care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	68.5%	62.1%	68.5%	33.0%	71.4%	48.0%
NI62	Stability of placements of Children in Care: number of moves (based on rolling 12 months)	Joy Chambers	11.2%	11.5%	12.0%	9.8%	10.1%	10.9%
NI147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	88.8%	80.4%	95.0%	100.0%	95.2%	95.2%
NI148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	58.0%	60.7%	60.0%	77.8%	52.4%	45.2%

Whilst performance in many areas has improved, significant focus is being placed on areas where performance is weaker. Robust action plans, monitored by senior management, are being implemented to drive performance improvements.

The majority of data in the report is obtained from CareFirst. CareFirst is a live database, as such the information is subject to change and fluctuations are not uncommon, this is due to records being amended, added or removed. As a consequence, the data presented in this report only represents a snapshot of the performance picture for the month that the report was run. Previous monthly performance figures are not re-calculated, therefore the monthly figures may not always equal the year-to-date totals.

7

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 18th MARCH 2013

Title of paper:	Children in Care Council – 2012 Have Your Say results	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Acting Corporate Director Children and Families – Candida Brudenell	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8764817	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Paulette Thompson-Omenka – Head of Service Children in Care Yu-Ling Liu-Smith, Quality and Commissioning	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		x
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		x
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>The findings from the 2012 Have Your Say survey have been analysed by the Children in Care Council and they have assessed performance against the results of the 2011 HYS survey.</p> <p>The assessment process used a RAG rating to show how services are performing from the perspective of responding service users.</p> <p>The accompanying presentation to Board highlights the findings of this assessment and provides a guide to priority actions to inform the 2013/14 Corporate Parenting Action Plan.</p> <p>A summary of findings from the survey process will also be presented to Board.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	It is recommended that the assessment results are used to inform the 2013/14 Corporate Parenting Action Plan, with priority given to areas highlighted by the assessment.	
2	The Board recognises the significant work done by the Children in Care Council in the planning, delivery and analysis of the HYS survey, as part of their vital role in the co-production of services across children's social care.	
3	The Board agree to support all aspects of the 2013 Have Your Say survey and implement its findings as appropriate.	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Nottingham City Children in Care Charter makes a series of pledges that are owned by the Corporate Parenting Board. The pledges commit the Board and its constituent partners to work towards the highest standard of service delivery to Children in Care and Care Leavers corporately parented by the Board.

1.2 The principal means of performance assessment against the pledges is through the annual Have Your Say Survey, which is sent out to all CiC and contacted Care Leavers.

1.3 The 2012 survey, issued last November, produced C.150 returns from a survey group of 660, or 23%. This compares to 18% in 2011, a 5% rise in returns.

1.4 The correspondence accompanying the postal distribution of 2012 surveys was accompanied by 'You Said, We Did' feedback on actions taken against the priority areas highlighted by the Children in Care Council from the 2011 HYS survey.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 Ensuring the views of service users are used to inform service improvement is a cross-cutting theme of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Corporate Parenting Action Plan. It is one of the primary means by which the Corporate Parenting Board demonstrates the active participation of corporately parented children and young people in decision-making at strategic and operational level.

2.2 Other significant drivers include the various safeguarding related inspection criteria that require the Board to evidence service user participation; Munro Report recommendations on developing a child centred approach to service design and delivery; Nottingham City Participation Strategy commitment to Article 12 on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 The total resource cost of the 2012 HYS survey and the anticipated resource requirement will be presented to Board.

4.2 Improvements in services based on the insight from service user views can lead to a wide spectrum of benefits, including resource efficiencies.

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

5.1 Each survey has a unique reference number enabling all responses to be screened for individual safeguarding and specific service-use complaints.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

No. This report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions

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

7.1 Children in Care Charter.

7.2 2012 Have Your Say Survey

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 Nottingham City Children and Young People's Plan

Children in Care & Care Leavers' Charter

Nottingham City Council has a responsibility to children and young people in its care and to its care leavers. This responsibility is represented by the term "Corporate Parenting": Nottingham City Council is the "Corporate Parent" for all children and young people in its care and its care leavers. Because of this responsibility, Nottingham City Council makes the commitments below.

We will ensure that all children and young people in and leaving our care have the right home and support to keep them safe and well and to help them grow into happy, healthy, successful and fulfilled young adults who are optimistic about their future.

Commitments to children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will treat all our children and young people with respect and with regard to their age and understanding
- We will give our children and young people enough time and help to understand (and be happy) with their circumstances
- We will make sure they know about the advocacy and complaints services in case they want help to have their views heard or are unhappy with us
- We will listen to our children and young people and involve them in planning for their care
- We will keep our children and young people safe and well by:
 - o Seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible
 - o Making sure that this home is stable and keeps them safe
 - o Giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible
- We will help our children and young people to enjoy themselves
- We will help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability
- We know that a change of home, carer, social worker or school can easily cause problems for a child or young person so we promise to do all we can to prevent such changes unless they are absolutely necessary to keep the child or young person safe and well
- We will make sure that a child or young person stays in touch with their birth family and friends as much as possible, considering their safety and wellbeing
- We will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood
- We will ensure that all our children and young people – and the adults working for them – know about these promises

Commitments concerning children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will make sure that Nottingham City Council is the best Corporate Parent it can be and achieve improved and sustainable outcomes for children and young people in and leaving our care
- We will ensure that everyone who shares our responsibility to children and young people in care and care leavers helps us to keep these promises
- When there are changes to the law or other things that affect the lives of children and young people in and leaving our care, everyone involved – Nottingham City Council and its partners – will respond together, for the benefit of our children and young people
- We will let children, young people and everyone else concerned with these commitments know how well we are keeping them by reporting about them regularly

For more information or to see the Children & Young People's Plan please visit www.nottinghamchildrenspartnership.org.uk

Nottingham City Council, NHS Nottingham City, City of Nottingham Governors' Association, National Probation Service, Job Centre Plus, Nottinghamshire Police Authority, Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham Community and Voluntary Services, Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board, Hadden Park High, Nottingham Nursery and Training Centre, Springfield Primary School.



**NOTTINGHAM
CHILDREN'S
PARTNERSHIP**