

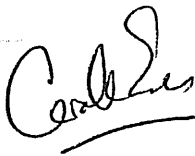
NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday 18 November 2013

Time: 2.00pm

Place: LB 31/32 at Loxley House, Station Street

Members 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 23 September 2013 (for confirmation)
- 4 BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY - RISE UPDATE** Attached
Report of BiC Employment Development Manager
- 5 REDUCING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR** Attached
Joint report of Director of Acting Director of Safeguarding and Nottinghamshire Police
- 6 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD RESPONSE** Attached
Report of Director of Acting Director of Safeguarding
- 7 QUARTER 1 & 2 PERFORMANCE** Available at the meeting
Report of Director of Safeguarding

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House on 23 SEPTEMBER 2013 from 3.00 pm to 4.11 pm

- ✓ Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
- Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Georgina Culley
- Councillor Emma Dewinton
- ✓ Councillor Glyn Jenkins
- ✓ Councillor Carole McCulloch
- Councillor Eileen Morley
- ✓ Councillor Jackie Morris (minutes 22 to 24 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Wendy Smith

✓ indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

- Councillor Rosemary Healy - Observing
- Gill Moy - Nottingham City Homes
- Bev Beatie) Foster Carers
- Tanya Mackley)
- Lewis Fearon - Children in Care Council Rep
- Jon Dudley - Fostering & Adoption)
- Paulette Thompson-Omenka - Head of Children in Care)
- Kelly Connolly - Schools Access & Improvement) Children and
- Helen Blackman - Safeguarding) Families
- Emma Pearce - Child & Adolescent Mental Health)
- Services (CAMHS))
- Alan Monaghan) 15 Plus Team)
- Lynn Pearce))
- Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Constitutional Services - Resources

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Councillor Georgina Culley
- Councillor Emma Dewinton
- Councillor Jenkins (on other Council business)
- Candida Brudenell
- Evonne Rogers
- Heidi Watson

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Although not required to do so, Councillor Mellen informed the Committee that, with regard to agenda item 4, (minute 24) he had a close friend who was part of the Fostering Network, and so while remaining in the room, he would not comment during this item.

21 MINUTES

The Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2013, as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

22 IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES WITHIN CAMHS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CARE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY - NOTTINGHAM CITY

Emma Pearce, Team Manager for Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Children Looked After Team, presented the item by explaining the role of her team.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the team, based at Thorneywood, had considered how the service could be improved for Children in Care, both those living in the City and those placed outside;
- (b) currently, once the child's social worker had requested the support of the service, an initial approach would be made to the young person and, where necessary, the foster carer;
- (c) once contact is made, then the involvement of the team lasts as long as it is needed;
- (d) the team continue to provide regular consultations to internal staff at residential homes on how best to support young people with their emotional and mental health needs;
- (e) group sessions on improving skills with young people, held over 6 weeks are also available to home staff. Staff had fed back that the course was proving very useful so it was suggested that it be rolled out to foster carers too;
- (f) members of the Team have continued to take part in a variety of panels and meetings involving young people to ensure that the profile of mental health remained prominent. These include:
 - (i) Placement Panel
 - (ii) Profiling Tool Panel;
 - (iii) Edge of Care Panel;
 - (iv) Children in Care Working Group;
 - (v) Children in Care Outcomes Group;
 - (vi) National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Steering Group;
 - (vii) NCSB Audits;
 - (viii) Network Meetings - Police/ Youth Offending Team;
- (g) The intention is to re-examine the remit of the team and potentially increase its size by October 2013. It is proposed that a pathway be devised to include:
 - (i) For children and young people placed outside Nottinghamshire, the recruitment of two CAMHS practitioners to specifically liaise with CAMHS in the area in which the child lives and to clinically monitor these children;

- (ii) All Nottingham City Children placed out of the area to receive an initial assessment to ensure that the right therapeutic and mental health services are provided locally and in a timely manner;
 - (iii) That six monthly Strengths, and Difficulties Questionnaires scores are undertaken as part of the Health Assessment Review and within the LAC review statutory process;
 - (iv) Links closely with the placements service ensuring that CAMHS are informed of placement moves and can forward information to ensure that effective monitoring can take place, such as incorporating references in the Strengths and Difficulties surveys;
 - (v) Support the network in relation to CAMHS and external providers' quality assurance.
- (h) It is proposed that a pre and post adoption support services will be expanded to ensure that emotional needs are met. This may potentially include offering training to prospective adoptive parents. It's currently not certain how this will be structured as clarity was required from the Clinical Commissioning Board as to what their requirements are;
- (i) Where other Local Authorities have children placed in Nottingham, Fostering and Adoption had offered to sell their services. Where the offer has been accepted, it has generated a small income which has been re-invested into the service;
- (j) The waiting list for adoptions is relatively short but the team are currently working to capacity. With additional team members the waiting time can be reduced much more quickly.

The following information was prompted by the Board's questions:

- (k) Young people do have a say in their consultations, initially through their social workers, then with the team. Each case is treated individually and ideally, all reports are shared with the young person;
- (l) 204 children in care have been allocated to the team and are receiving ongoing consultations. Approximately 1 in 5 looked after children have mental health issues;
- (m) Schools are included in the network partnership;
- (n) The youngest children involved so far have been 5 years of age. Although all cases are considered on an individual basis, in cases where the children are this young, the team will work directly with their carer;
- (o) Where children are placed outside Nottinghamshire, an arrangement with that Local Authority is made for them to provide the required services. Their service is monitored by the team who also liaise with the commissioners;

- (p) The pilot scheme of a 'tariff model and traded services' had generated £8,000. The scheme had proved perfect with regard to the more specialist needs of the young person. Currently there are 47 of Nottingham's young people resident outside of Nottingham, some only a few miles away, depending on where carers are available;
- (q) Once a referral has been made, usually by the GP or social worker, an initial assessment generally takes place within a week. During that assessment, the date of the next meeting/session is scheduled, usually for between 4 and 6 weeks time. Each session lasts approximately half a day and depending on the need of the child, can take place weekly or fortnightly with reviews every 6 months or 12 sessions;
- (r) If a child receiving the services of CAMHS is moved to the area of another Local Authority, the team endeavour to ensure that the local CAMHS is made aware and Nottingham CAMHS will continue to provide services until a full hand over can be completed;
- (s) Carers generally found the service to be fantastic but, where a young person was desperate, the wait of 4-8 weeks can seem very long for the carer and the child;
- (t) It would be helpful if carers could make referrals and not have to wait for the social workers or GPs. This would improve the speed of the process.

RESOLVED to note the report.

23 COMMISSIONED SERVICES AND THE REFORM AGENDA IN THE FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICE

Jon Dudley, Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption, presented the report which summarised the impact of two current contracts for commissioned work by Social Work Choices and Fostering Network Advice and Mediation Service.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) The Action Plan for Adoption was published by Central Government in March 2012, with revised guidance issued in July 2013, primarily to reduce the time that children wait for adoptive placements and for those adoptions to be completed;
- (b) A 3 year pilot to assess adopters and foster carers was commissioned from Social Work Choices;
- (c) First4Adoption was a "front door" website containing information, advice and details of adoption agencies;
- (d) A two stage process had been developed for adoptions, to reduce the process to 6 months or less, a similar process has also been applied for the process of approving foster carers;
- (e) Nottingham City recruits foster and adoptive carers through in-house advertising, initial information events, training and monthly information meetings;

- (i) Between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, 297 adoption information packs were dispatched, slightly lower than the previous year when 335 were sent out;
 - (ii) The number of enquirers attending adoption information sessions has risen from 130 to 144;
- (f) Assessments are passed to Social Work Choices (SWC), the commissioned partner which then prepares and presents the applications to the Panel for consideration;
- (i) SWC have presented 28 applications to the Panel (all approved), compared to 14 the previous year;
 - (ii) The contract was set initially for three years and is nearing the end of the second year;
- (g) Not all applications result in adoption or fostering for a variety of reasons. Some applicants withdraw for personal reasons but others are declined or deferred by the Panel following medicals, international checks, Criminal Record Bureau checks etc;
- (h) Nottingham City Foster Carers currently provide placements for 218 children and 153 looked after children are currently at some stage of the adoption process;
- (i) To help reduce the delay in the adoption process, grant funding from central government will be used to employ several additional staff:
- (i) A Communities and Marketing Officer;
 - (ii) A Customer Services Officer;
 - (iii) Fast Track Adoption Support Advisors;
 - (iv) Two additional Adoption Support Advisors;
 - (v) A Practice Manager;
 - (vi) An enhancement to Post Order Support;
 - (vii) An Innovation and Change Manager.
- (j) An adoption scorecard is the national method of monitoring the time taken for an adoption to be completed, with the guidance stating that the process should not take more 91 weeks from when the child enters care and when they are placed for adoption, and no more than 30 weeks between the court agreeing a plan for adoption and children being matched to parents;
- (k) During 2012/13, on average, Nottingham City achieved both stages as within 95 weeks and 36 weeks respectively;
- (l) It is a statutory requirement to ensure that carers have access to independent advice so Nottingham City Council provides its foster carers with individual membership of the Fostering Network Advice and Mediation Service:
- (i) The service offers a advice on a range of issues;

- (ii) During 2012/13, this service was accessed by Nottingham City carers 31 times;
- (iii) Some of the issues raised highlighted the need for carers to receive full and complete information on children at the start of each placement, and where allegation are made against carers, for those carers to receive support and to be kept informed of progress;
- (iv) The cost of the contract with the Fostering Network is currently £14,626 per year.

The following responses were given to questions asked and comments made by the Board;

- (m) Before SWC were engaged, the applications and assessments were processed by an in house team but the system was complicated and often confusing to potential carers. As part of the 3 year pilot, the performance of SWC's 'one assessment system' is due to be assessed after the second year, hopefully during December, by which time all the relevant information can be analysed. In addition, carers will be asked for their opinions as part of the assessment of the pilot;
- (n) The assessments undertaken by SWC were still thorough and enabled decisions to be made much earlier in the process. This was in the best interest of the child;
- (o) There was also to be a review of the timeliness of how courts processed adoption issues;
- (p) With the new marketing manager post in place, there were plans to try and encourage partner organisations to display the City Council advertising for fostering and adoption to encourage their employees to come forward. In addition, the City Council Team also planned to attend some community events and festivals to promote fostering and adoption through the City Council;
- (q) Through SWC, currently each fostering assessment cost £2,000 and each adoption assessment £2,200;
- (r) Foster and adoption carers will be asked their opinions on the best places and methods for advertising;
- (s) Central Government promotes fostering with a view to adopting but there are risks to acknowledge in that currently the courts will make the final decision. Carers will need to be prepared to cope with this risk;
- (t) 40 children were adopted last year through the City Council, and since March this year, 10 more have been adopted;
- (u) One of the issues raised as a result of the calls to the Fostering Network was that communication between the City Council and carers needed improving. This would be addressed;

- (v) Carers attending the meeting had contacted the Fostering Network for issues including special insurance required, tax office problems, and a special guardianship query. The service was considered by the carers to be like a union for foster carers.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note:
 - (i) the steps being taken locally to address the challenging Adoption Reform agenda and meet our national and local strategic priorities;
 - (ii) the work undertaken by the commissioned partners to support the City Council's work;
- (2) to approve the continuation of offering foster carers the benefits of individual membership of the Fostering Network;
- (3) to review the work commissioned through Social Work Choices at the end of the second year of the contract with particular reference to quality and value.

24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on 18 November 2013 at 2.30pm in Loxley House.

Response to Resolutions from Corporate Parenting Board
15th July 2013 to be presented to the 18th November 2013 meeting

Jamie Shrivastava presented 4 recommendations to the corporate parenting board on 15th July 2013.

The resolutions which were minuted are numbered (1) to (4) below along with actions taken since.

- (1) To request BITC and the City Council's Family Community Team and the 15+ Team to improve their promotion of the RISE Programme to care leavers and local business partners, and to consider the use of social media:**

This is an ongoing piece of work and both parties are committed to working closely to improve awareness of the RISE programme and resulting referral levels. We are delighted that the Face-Up Facebook page is now live and we will be feeding information out to the administrators to post onto this.

- (2) To request Jamie Shrivastava and Dave Richards of RISE liaise with appropriate contacts to clarify the joint protocol ensuring that outcomes are successfully captured;**

Dave Richards has met with Sharon Clarke and Paul Wilkinson and agreed a protocol for reporting client progress on the RISE Programme. In addition to the service level agreement, which is currently being finalised, the RISE manager, Jamie Shrivastava, will be communicating client log sheets on a monthly basis that will be uploaded onto the Castle system.

- (3) To receive a further report from the RISE team at the November meeting, detailing:**

- (i) A business case for the proposal to provide bridging loans to support young people in their first month of employment between benefits stopping and receiving their first wage;**

Business Case

Background: A young person in receipt of JSA receives £54 per week. This amount is often impacted on and can be subsequently reduced by fines/sanctions imposed by the DWP (Department for work and pensions). Typically young people can receive £36 a week. These fines and sanctions are often the result of young people failing to evidence looking for work, or failing to attend appointments. These sanctions are widely applied, as the benefit system is overstretched. It should also be recognised that Care Leavers are not a recognised category by DWP.

In order to counteract this problem in the past the young people were forced to turn to DWP to request a crisis loans/emergency payment. A claim such as this can take 3 to 4 weeks to come through so by the time the young person receives the money, if they are eligible to receive it, it may come too late.

Young people take the option of employment because we encourage them to see this as a crucial step to a better quality of life. However, if a young person gains employment, they are expected to work a month in hand, a month without receiving any payment whatsoever, bringing them into hardship.

Currently the RISE programme loans the young person £30-40 a week until they receive their first salary. This money is for gas, electric and food. The local authority pays for travel. Without offering this financial support we would effectively be leading vulnerable young people, who automatically fall within the UK poverty bracket, into a far worse situation risking their potential to succeed in their first month of work.

Without gas and electric the young people find it very difficult to maintain the hygiene level required and without sufficient, high enough quality food, they risk being unable to concentrate and learn at work, and run the risk of falling ill and having to take time off work giving a very poor impression to employers.

***Solution:** Happily, Sharon Clarke, (Service Manager, Children in care), has now found some funds that could be used to support young people in their first month of employment, this will be allocated on a case by case.*

- (ii) **The potential inclusion of young single parents within the programme, including details of the support which Sure Start could provide, and other support options available.**

Background: Due to a lack of support network (family/relatives/friends) and low income – Lone parents care leavers have struggled to engage with the RISE programme in the past and therefore we have not gained referrals from this source.

In order to offer the best possible support to young single parents and engage them in the programme we have researched the additional support available and discovered the following:

Under the Families Information Service (Families and Communities Team) Nottingham City Council, exist a range of services that are available to everyone (including under 18's) and some specific to teenage and/or lone parents. The Families Information Service will be able to support any lone parents with issues around childcare and associated benefits and additional family support services are being delivered through Children's Centres across the city.

This team is also available to brief colleagues (Case holders within the 15 plus team) about their services for families and parents. They can also meet young people/lone parents to explain about the support and advice offered.

In addition to this Jamie Shrivastava has met with a local representative from Job Centre Plus. There exists criteria in which lone parents (18 plus) can apply for financial assistance regarding childcare and Jamie has been assured that JCP will consider RISE sessions as valuable tools in the search for sustainable employment which they would be willing to support in this regard.

Business in the Community worked in partnership with both JCP and the Families Information Service to set up informative/introduction sessions appropriate for lone parents who are under the care of the authority. These information/sessions are now offered on an individual basis.

(4) To note the Board's appreciation of the report and attendance of Business in the Community's representatives at the meeting.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our work with you.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD REPORT – NOVEMBER 2013

Title of paper:	Reducing Offending Behaviour	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman, Acting Director of Safeguarding Dave Walker, Inspector Kaur, Nottinghamshire Police, Sarah Day	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 • Kevin Hatherley, Case Manager and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Lead, Children in Care • Glynis Storer, Central Locality Team Manager, YOT 	
Other officers who have provided input:	Elise Darragh, Insight Manager (Analytical), Children and Families.	
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 criminal behaviour of children in care (CiC). The aim of this report is to focus on the role of the CiC Police Officer and YOT Lead for CiC, and to explain how these contribute to this aim. It will also discuss achievements made during 2012/13, including the progress made around implementing Restorative Justice (RJ) within the care homes, the Quarterly Reducing Offending meetings held with the care home staff and the development of strategies to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of Children in Care. Performance information is enhanced by the development of a local measure and is summarised.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
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 2014	
3	The Board to approve the continuation and Review of multi-agency Network Meetings with care providers.	
4	To acknowledge extensive work being carried out to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of children in care.	

1 **BACKGROUND**

Reduction in criminalisation of Children In Care - performance

1.1 **Rate of offending by Nottingham CiC**

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 2013 (as at 31st March 2013) indicate a reduction in offending, with 8.7% (20 children) 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							
13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13
220	242	223	216	215	222	225	230
Percentage of CiC cautioned or convicted during the year							
13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13	13/13
19.1%	13.2%	9.40%	8.80%	9.80%	9.00%	9.80%	8.70%

The Department for Education (DfE) will publish at the end of September 2013 benchmarking data for all Local Authorities. Once this is available, additional analysis will be undertaken to show ranking positions and to highlight how our performance compares to national and regional averages.

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 September 2012 – 31st December 2012.

During this period, 8 young people committed an offence while in care, representing 2.5% of the 10-17 aged CiC cohort. Some young people committed multiple offences and the total number of offences committed in this period was 48. By far the most common offence was Violence Against the Person.

<i>September to December 2012</i>			
<i>a</i>	<i>Number of yp aged 10-17 who were in care during the period</i>	326	
<i>b</i>	<i>Of (a), number that committed a proven offence while in care</i>	8	2.5%
<i>c</i>	<i>Number of offences</i>	48	

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

The role of CiC Police Officer and YOT lead for CiC play an important part in reducing the criminalisation of CiC. 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 2013.

The Police Officer for CiC, PC Sam Flint sits within the Targeted Support Team based at Isabella Street. This has enabled close liaison with Children and Families, YOT, Social Care, health 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 role assists in the management of offending by performing a preventative role in placement planning helping to ensure where possible that children are placed in suitable accommodation units (for example ensuring that children at risk of sexual exploitation are not placed near the Forest). The officer also supports the missing from care protocol and co-facilitates cross-authority training on this subject. The CiC Police Officer also ensures that the Multi Agency Guidance (see attachment) is implemented consistently.

Young people can relate to the commitment shown to them by the CiC police officer who acts as a positive role model; they will often refer to this officer as 'theirs'.

1.3 Restorative Justice (RJ)

The use of RJ disposals within the care system to avoid involving children in Court processes has continued to expand during the past year. We have been able to divert children from the criminal justice system enabling generic police time to be used more efficiently. On-going training of restorative justice for residential staff has continued and a further RJ course has been secured free of charge for November 2013. This consists of 12 places for staff from both private and statutory homes and also a representative from the 15 Plus team within the Nottingham city council. The YOT staff group have been extensively trained in RJ and are also prepared to offer training to residential staff.

1.4 Quarterly Reducing Offending Meetings

Quarterly Reducing Offending meetings were initially held within local authority children's homes, and were extended in 2011 to include the growing number of private providers. These meetings resumed on a quarterly basis in 2013. Whilst this has been a very positive step, it has had a resource impact for the CiC police officer and YOT lead.

The YOT Lead collates information and feedback about care homes from YOT staff and brings this and any concerns to the meeting where they are discussed with residential staff. He co- chairs the Quarterly Meetings with the CiC Police Officer.

The purpose of the meeting is to promote a consistent and quality approach to communication, behaviour management, health, education, and responses to children and young people who go missing from care. These meetings compliment Quality Assurance processes, help to identify any concerns or themes, and provide an opportunity to share information and reflect, to prevent the unnecessary escalation of concerns.

Administrative support is now provided by the Targeted Support Team and minutes are copied to the Placements Team. Any safeguarding concerns are reported directly to the young person's Social Worker and Social Worker's Manager. Progress is reported periodically to the CiC outcomes group and annually to the corporate parenting board.

1.5 Sexual Exploitation

The importance of addressing the issue of sexual exploitation has been established not least because children experiencing this can become involved in offending as an expression of their extreme distress. For example the YOT has evidence that violent, as well as sexually aggressive behaviour can sometimes be triggered by young people's engagement in this activity. The CiC police officer represents Nottinghamshire Police at the **Cross-Authority Child Sexual Exploitation Meetings**. One of the actions from this group's action plan is to "reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of Children in Care" and the CiC PO has been given the responsibility of setting up a **subgroup** specifically aimed at reducing the risk of sexual exploitation of children in the care system. Amongst the membership of this group are OFSTED, the City Council Children's Placements Team and a specialist Independent Reviewing Officer. PC Flint and the YOT lead worker has also established a **Concerns Network Meeting** for multi agencies to attend and has set up a direct channel for information to be fed into. These meetings are held to discuss any concerns agencies may have about young people in Nottingham who may be at risk of or are being exploited. They are held quarterly and hosted by the NSPCC, with nominated attendees from Police, Health, CAMHS, YOT, NSPCC Project and Residential care (both statutory and private). At these meetings any concerns that are based on low level intelligence and not yet at referral level are discussed, information is shared and a multi agency strategy is put in place.

PC Flint has also helped with the securing of funding and planning to commission a bespoke theatre production which tackles the issue of sexual exploitation of children, showing how they can easily be drawn into this world, and which has been presented to both city and county Schools and to children in care within the city. Also attached to this is a catalogue of resources for staff to use in residential settings.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

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, 2011 and 2012. It is believed that this has contributed towards protecting our children in care from criminalisation and from sexual exploitation in Nottingham city. This has also provided a more efficient response to children missing from care. Nottingham City is the only authority where the CiC Police Officer and YOT lead work in close collaboration, and therefore Nottingham City could be considered a national lead in this area.

It has not been possible for a Safeguarding Event to be organised in 2013 due to workload issues. However a further Safeguarding Event is proposed for 2014. Positive feedback from participants at the 2012 event felt their 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.

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 its 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 sought for this role. The YOT lead has also become involved in the reduction of sexual exploitation of children in care.
- 4.3 Sponsorship of any future Safeguarding event (venue, lunch) will be sought through our private providers and has no cost implications.
- 4.4 The RJ course has been secured at no cost to the authority by PC Flint. The YOT has trained trainers who will also be offering to facilitate RJ training to residential social workers, at no cost.
- 4.5 Through the planning and implementation of the theatre group in relation to sexual exploitation, training has been expanded to include residential staff in both private & statutory providers. We are seeking to incorporate this training as a mandatory requirement for OFSTED registration.

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.
Multi Agency Guidance

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - NOVEMBER 2013

Title of paper:	Child Sexual Exploitation and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Response	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman, Acting Director of Safeguarding	Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):
Report author(s) and contact details:	Anne Partington, Acting Head of Safeguarding Martin Hillier, Nottinghamshire Police	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report is presented to the Corporate parenting Board to provide an overview of the partnership work currently underway in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation in Nottingham City. The work is undertaken within the governance of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board (NCSCB) and is reported through the Operation Management Group of the board. As a priority issue for the NCSCB, it is included within the Business Plan for 2013 /14 and a multi agency work stream is led by Martin Hillier of Nottinghamshire Police, covering agencies in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board to note this report	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The public perception of Child Sexual Exploitation is based on the recent high profiles cases which have attracted media attention such as Operation Retriever & Kern (Derby), Operation Chalice (Telford), Operation Span (Rochdale) and Operation Bullfinch (Oxford). All of these cases have involved organised gangs of adult males of British Pakistani origin.

Definition of CSE: -

- Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive something (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing and/or another or others performing on them, sexual acts.
- Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the

child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

- A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

1.2 There is no actual offence of child sexual exploitation, it is a generic term that encompasses a number of offences involving children from the Sexual Offences Act 2003: -

- Rape
- Assault by Penetration
- Sexual Touching
- Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity
- Sexual Activity with a Child
- Arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence
- Meeting a child following sexual grooming.

Despite the increased profile of CSE and improvements in how agencies are tackling CSE, under reporting still remains an issue.

1.3 Any child is potentially at risk of being sexually exploited, but some children are more vulnerable than others, such as those who go missing from home or care; where there is bullying or gang links; or where there are family difficulties such as parental domestic violence, mental health issues or drug and alcohol misuse.

1.4 Facts and figures

Nottinghamshire Police data indicates that the numbers of referrals linked to Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming have increased over the last 2 years, which will be related to the increased recognition and response to the indicators of both issues.

It is important to recognise that the definition of child sexual exploitation from the DfE National Action Plan includes all types of grooming methods, all forms of exploitation but does not include offences relating to indecent images of children only. Indecent images may form part of the grooming process itself but as a single offence it does not come under the definition for CSE.

In terms of who is at risk of CSE, it is important to recognise that any child may be at risk, particularly in the increasing world of social networking which perpetrators can access relatively easy without any safeguards. Boys, girls and young men and women can be at risk, and the age range at which children are vulnerable is also wide.

However, there are some children and young people who may be particularly vulnerable, for a number of reasons. These include:

- runaway and missing children/young people
- children/young people with special needs
- children/young people in or leaving care
- migrant children/young people
- children/young people disengaged from education
- children/young people involved in gangs

- children/young people where there is domestic violence in the family or bullying in school
- children/young people where there is a family association with sex offenders
- children/young people who have parents with a high level of vulnerability, for example, drug, alcohol or mental health issues.

This list is not exhaustive and it must be stressed that any child can potentially become a victim of child sexual exploitation from any background.

Local data in relation to children and young people, who run away from home or care and the risks that they have experienced, or may be at risk of, is collected and indicates that the risk of sexual exploitation or associating with an adult who may pose a risk is linked to going missing.

1.5 Targets and performance

Research and experience indicates that local authorities and police forces struggle to provide coherent data about CSE, so there is no viable way to compare the incidences of CSE between different local authorities or police forces. In part this is because there is no national data set or consistent way of recording such cases. There are no national benchmarks and therefore no opportunity to judge our performance in Nottingham against other local authorities or police forces. The government has, however, indicated that local authorities and partners should use a data monitoring tool devised by the University of Bedfordshire, which may lead to a position where more comparative data is available.

Based on this, as well as other factors, locally there is a drive to ensure that the police and children's social care record cases of CSE in a more consistent manner, which allows collation and analysis of data to shape and drive forward practice. Through the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group (CSECAG) from the 1 April 2013 strategy meetings for CSE will use the University of Bedfordshire data collection document. This document will also be used by Nottinghamshire Police from the 1 July 2013 and will provide the data necessary to scope and monitor the extent of CSE within Nottinghamshire

1.6 Current Investigations

There are a number of CSE investigations taking place relating to cases that involve more than one perpetrator and have some form of organisation. All these investigations involve a number of agencies working together to safeguard the victims, disrupt the activities of the offenders and ultimately progress to prosecution and conviction at court.

1.7 Case example.

Operation F is the investigation into the trafficking and sexual exploitation of a group of vulnerable juvenile females in Nottingham.

There had been a number of intelligence and information submissions regarding alleged offences against a number of girls but no individual had made any disclosure of CSE to the Police or Children's Social Care. A joint investigation was commenced with Police and CSC and in the enquiry which resulted in some direct evidence. Evidence was also captured from interaction on Facebook.

It was clear at this point that positive action was required to disrupt the activity of the offenders and in doing so safeguard the children from any further offences. One challenge was that the girls did not see themselves as victims of sexual exploitation. In order to progress the investigation evidence from the social media interaction needed capturing by the seizure of communication devices such as mobile phones and laptops from both the offenders and victims.

A joint operation with Police and Children's Social care resulted in a number of search warrants being executed, relating to both victims and offenders. The offenders were arrested and interviewed in connection with CSE. Children's Social Care supported all of the victims through the process on the day and as a result has received disclosures around specific CSE offences. The offenders have been bailed with conditions and all served with child abduction warning notices (CAWN). All of the victims have dedicated social workers who continue with the support needed for the girls

1.8 National and local strategies

Partner agencies of the NCSCB work in accordance with the national statutory guidance, *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation (2009)*, which is issued under the Department for Education's statutory guidance *Working Together 2013*. Agencies are also mindful of the *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation – Action Plan (2011 + update 2012)* and the All Party Parliamentary Group Report from the joint enquiry into children who go missing from care (2012), which has a strong emphasis on the risk of CSE for children in care. Locally (jointly with Nottingham City Council) there is a *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation* (November 2011) procedure which is issued under the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Locally, in response to a number of national drivers and a recognition that good practice needs to continue to evolve and reflect the changing nature of CSE, a multi-agency CSE cross-authority group was established and chaired by the Police. This group has created a local strategy and action plan which all agencies involved are working towards. The group has a number of working groups which are looking at issues such as data collection, engagement with young people, awareness-raising with professionals and models of working. The group drives the recommendations from the National Action Plan (2011), the OCC report (2012) and the ACPO Action Plan (2013). The work of the group is overseen by the Operational Management Group of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board (NCSCB) and the Executive of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

1.9 Local views

The City is in the unique position of having the NSPCC Protect & Respect Project. The project supports those subject to or vulnerable to CSE and tries to provide and support a pathway away from the abuse of CSE. The project is currently working with sixteen girls from the City and Conurbation area and it is a vital part of the intervention process. The City also has a Concerns Network for CSE which is multi-agency meeting allowing professional to raise concerns around intelligence and information on CSE that falls short of any direct referral. This was previously a gap that was identified in the intelligence gathering process around CSE.

1.10 Current activity and service provision

There is a local protocol issued under the Local Safeguarding Children Boards which professionals follow in terms of instigation of offences and concerns around CSE. A significant aspect of the protocol is that where there is a level of concern about a child being either being sexually exploited, or at risk of being so, that strategy meetings are held. These meetings are chaired by independent child protection chairs. The aim of the meeting is to co-ordinate work, with the young person and their family, to reduce the level of risk to the young person. Police Officers involved in the investigation attend the strategy meetings which in the majority of cases will be the Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit.

There is considerable activity aligned to the cross-authority group referred to in paragraph 1.3 above, which includes training and awareness-raising for professionals, as well as awareness-raising for young people (certain schools) through a theatre production, this is explained further later in the report

1.11 What are the key inequalities?

Research indicates that the knowledge and data we have is not necessarily reflective of the whole picture and that it is probably an underestimate. With the introduction of the University of Bedfordshire (UOB) data capture form we will be better placed to show the extent of CSE.

1.12 What are the gaps in knowledge?

It is likely that as resources become more available that the numbers of children who are referred to services may increase. This is something that will need to be prepared for and responded to as appropriate and of the children that we do know about, unfortunately there is no further demographic information available (at this time) to contribute to this report or to our understanding of the issue.

1.13 What are the risks of not delivering targets?

Research and professional awareness indicate that the costs of not adequately responding to the issue of CSE are significant both from an individual's safety, health and wellbeing point of view, but also from an organisational and societal perspective, i.e. health, criminal justice and confidence/reputation for organisations.

1.14 Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Sub Group (CSECAG)

There are a number of drivers in the field of CSE nationally and locally. Nationally, CSE remains high profile politically and in the media, driven by a number of key players and the voluntary sector in particular (agencies include Barnardos, NSPCC, Children's Society, the University of Bedfordshire and the National Working Group).

There have also been a number of high profile cases in the media recently, as mentioned earlier and following the review of all of these investigations criticism has been levelled at the Police, Children's Social Care and the Crown Prosecution Service for failing to respond appropriately to concerns about possible sexual exploitation of children.

Through the workings of CSECAG the procedures and policies for multi agency working in this area are being reviewed and improved in preventing and detecting the abuse of children. There is still a long way to go but multi-agency investigations

in are certainly better placed now in terms of the understanding of CSE than ever before.

As referred to elsewhere in this report, locally the driver for work is through the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards and the CSE cross-authority group which is chaired by the police. The cross-authority group has a number of specific work streams that it is working to in order drive forward standards and practice in line with new guidance and research:

- **CSE Awareness Training for Professionals**

Through the working group of CSECAG, CSE training for professionals has been introduced into safeguarding training this year. The training targets all professional who are involved with child sexual exploitation especially those who may come into contact with children and young people subject to or vulnerable to CSE. It is crucial that professionals are able to identify the indicators of CSE and take appropriate action where necessary. The first full day of CSE Training for frontline staff took place at Bulwell Riverside on 10 July 2013. The feedback from attendees has been very positive.

- **CSE Awareness for Children & Young People**

The working group has commissioned and financed a theatre production by the Pint Sized Theatre Company about child sexual exploitation. The performances of this company will be delivered to schools and academies around the City for the age range of students most at risk of or vulnerable to CSE. The NSPCC will produce session plans and DVD's and teachers will be trained around the subject before the production is performed to the children. This type of production is the most innovative way of raising awareness of CSE to children and Young People and a number of other LSCBs have been involved in similar productions within their own authorities.

A further strand of work in this area is the CSE resource catalogue that was created by the group from a various sources and media for CSE. This was uploaded on the 16 July 2013 to the LSCB website and allows access to anyone requiring professional advice around child sexual exploitation. The pack also includes posters and leaflets that can be printed offering advice and information as well as a list of support agencies and organisations involved in the world of CSE.

- **CSE Looked After Children Working Group**

The LAC working group was formed as part of the CSE action plan (1.4) and the terms of reference has been drafted and confirmed. The membership of this group will include a representative from OFTSED and the Nottingham City Council's missing children team. This group is in its infancy having had only one initial meeting but it is seen as critical in improving the protection afforded to looked after children. It is anticipated that the remit for this group will eventually extend well beyond the subject of child sexual exploitation.

- **CSE with Girls in Gangs**

CSE within girls and gangs had been included in the CSECAG action plan for the first time this year following the recommendations of the report by the

Children's Commissioner. This action is also in its infancy but contact has already been made with other work in the City to move it forward.

- **CSE Data Collection**

The scoping and monitoring document from the University of Bedfordshire (UOB) is now incorporated into every strategy for child sexual exploitation. The IRO will be responsible for populating the document with the information provided by agencies within the meeting. There will only be one document in existence for each CSE referral and hopefully in the future this process will enable us to provide a clearer picture of CSE within Nottingham.

- **CSE Co-located Team recommendation**

The CSECAG report for co-located CSE teams was presented to the City Operational Management Group on the 4 July 2013 and following advice further work has been tasked around the recommendations contained therein. It is clear that a stepped approach will be employed to bring together in a virtual team initially, professionals actively involved in CSE investigations. As part of the report, the commissioning of a local authority CSE coordinator was recommended and that this post would collate and direct activity around CSE. The OMG was supportive and this will be progressed shortly.

- **CSE Practitioners Forum**

A CSE Practitioners Forum has been created and the first event will take place before the end of the year. It is estimated that there will be between 30 & 40 attendees for the forum and that interest had been shown from a number of different agencies and support services. The first event is likely to be spent identifying gaps in knowledge/understanding and resources, which will inform future response. The content of successive events will involve pre-planned input e.g. updates from NWG. The YOT, CAMHS, Residential Care. School safeguarding leads and POW have also been invited and discussions from this forum will feed into CSECAG meetings.

1.15 What should we be doing next?

- Work continues to the CSE cross-authority group strategy and action plan, reporting into the Local Safeguarding Boards
- Commissioners will be asked to consider different approaches to working with CSE, for example through a co-located team approach.
- Commissioners may also be asked to consider how we resource the specialist emotional and psychological support needed for children and young people who may either be at risk of sexual exploitation or who are already being sexually exploited, but may not immediately recognise the relationship as such.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

Impact on partner agencies to ensure staff are trained and supported to identify, refer and manage safeguarding issues connected to Child Sexual Exploitation.

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

Child Sexual Exploitation has a high profile within the media as a result of a number of cases nationwide, including some that relate to Children In Care. Issues of diversity are being collated in relation to the region profile of children who may be at risk of sexual exploitation. The Police lead on all CSE operations and therefore consider the implications of the Crime & Disorder Act within their work.

6. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)**

N/A

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

N/A

8. **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

N/A