



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 15 September 2014

Time: 2.30 pm

Place: Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham,
NG2 3NG

Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Acting Corporate Director for Resources

Constitutional Services Officer: Catherine Ziane-Pryor **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764298

AGENDA

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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 Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 21 July 2014 from 2.33 pm - 3.53 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Glyn Jenkins
Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice Chair)
Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Marcia Watson

Absent

Councillor Georgina Culley
Councillor Eileen Morley
Councillor Jackie Morris
Councillor Wendy Smith

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Mary-Kate Gavin	- Children in Care Council member
Heidi Watson	- Business in the Community
Sharon Clarke	- Service Manager, Children in Care
Jon Rea	- Early Intervention and Partnerships Officer
Evonne Rogers	- Head of Business Support
Kay Sutt	- Service Manager, Children's Residential and Targeted Support
Gill Moy	- Director of Housing (Nottingham City Homes)
Sonia Sandiford	- Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption
Viv McCrossen	- Head of Service, Family Community Teams Central
Kwesi Williams	- Project Officer, Children in Care
Tania McDonald	- Team Manager, CAMHS Co-ordinator, Children Looked After
Elise Ashworth	- Insight Manager
Alan Monaghan	- Senior Personal Adviser, 15 Plus Team
Caroline Riley	- Principle Manager, Quality Assurance
Bev Beatie	- Foster Carer Representative
Councillor Dewinton	- Observer
Cath Ziane-Pryor	- Constitutional Services

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Eileen Morley
Councillor Jackie Morris
Helen Blackman
Councillor Wendy Smith
Amanda Edmonds
Tanya Mackley

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

13 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

14 IMPROVING AND ACHIEVING GOOD HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY'S CHILDREN IN CARE

Tania McDonald, Team Manager of Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Children Looked After, and Viv McCrossan, Head of Service Family Community Teams Central, presented the report and summary presentation, outlining the progress to date on improving and achieving good health outcomes for Nottingham City's Children in Care.

The team, who offer guidance concerning health and social care, consists of:

- team co-ordinators
- consultant psychiatrist
- clinical psychologist
- specialist nurse
- specialist social worker
- art psychotherapist
- business support.

The following points are highlighted;

- (a) the CAMHS Children in Care Team have received positive written and verbal feedback from both the recent Care Quality Commission and the OFSTED inspections;
- (b) it is noted that 13% of Children in Care are located in other districts, so it is important to ensure that the appropriate health support is available for these children;
- (c) Nottingham University is piloting a scheme call 'Listen Up', which is focusing on the experiences of self-harm with a view to helping shape services and encourage a better understanding of the issue;
- (d) the team want to ensure that all children and young people living in care outside of the area, have access to CAMHS;
- (e) the strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) screening tool will provide indicators for the health of each child;
- (f) to enable a speedy response to issues, psychologists provide acute slots on a weekly basis for children and young people.

The Board's questions were responded to as follows:

- (g) for some of the younger children, the SDQs are completed in conjunction with their foster carers/adoptive parents or carer home workers;
- (h) before children are placed outside of the area, the Placement Board consider the services required by the child and the services available from that local authority or provider to ensure that provision in that area will meet the needs of that child. Not all local authorities have a bespoke children in care CAMH Service such as Nottingham;
- (i) the required services must be in place before Nottingham City Council withdraws from providing mental health services;
- (j) if a child is to be placed with a private organisation, as part of the commissioning, that organisation must confirm that appropriate services/provision is in place;

- (k) if a child is to be placed into a therapeutic community, it is ensured that the full range of services, including mental health, can be provided to meet the required, or potentially required, needs of that child;
- (l) where emergency placements are required, formal reviews of those placements take place at 20 days, 3 months and then 6 monthly.

The Board expressed concern that some young people are placed a long way away from Nottingham.

RESOLVED

- (1) for the CAMHS Children Looked After Team to ensure that:**
 - (i) every Child in Care has an Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) completed at the Initial Health Assessment;**
 - (ii) six monthly monitoring of SDQ scores is introduced to ensure that a robust screening process is embedded in the looked after child reviews;**
- (2) to ensure that, in partnership with the Health Teams, all Children who are placed out of the Nottingham area receive robust monitoring in relation to their emotional and mental health needs;**
- (3) for out of hours emergency appointments to continue to be seen by the CAMHS medical on-call system and for the Children In Care Team to provide acute appointments for consultations on a weekly basis;**
- (4) for a drop-in service for Post-Adoption to be developed;**
- (5) for a report to be submitted to a future meeting regarding the consideration of and process for placement of young people outside of the local authority area.**

15 SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION

Alan Monaghan, Senior Personal Adviser in the 15 Plus Team, presented the report updating the Board on the continuing work to provide suitable accommodation to Nottingham City's care leavers.

The following points were highlighted;

- (a) the partnership between the Children in Care Team of the City Council and Nottingham City Homes (NCH), is increasingly robust;
- (b) NCH offer a range of services and support to help young people leaving care to establish and maintain independence as tenants;
- (c) semi-independent supported housing is available for some 16-18 year olds although some may choose to live in shared houses with or without support;
- (d) further work is being undertaken on the 'staying put' policy for the vulnerable young people in residential homes, the Care Leavers Team can provide supported accommodation for young people who are not ready to live independently;

- (e) NCH are to investigate the possibility of operating Houses in Multiple Occupation to help support young care leavers;
- (f) work with unaccompanied asylum seekers is progressing well with a responsibility of care continuing for local authorities until the age of 21;
- (g) when young people choose not to maintain contact and do not have a NCH tenancy, it is impossible to know if they are living in suitable accommodation;
- (h) young people in custody are the responsibility of local authorities but cannot be considered to be living in suitable accommodation by the DFE.

The Board's questions were responded to as follows;

- (i) Some care leavers choose to start their adult life without referring back maintain contact with the local authority as a carer. At some point these care leavers do make contact, sometimes with problem, or even just to say that they are okay;
- (j) once young people enter into private tenancies, it is virtually impossible to trace them unless they choose to make contact;
- (k) the 'staying put' policy for children in foster care at the recently reviewed and, on individual needs basis, an allowance can be paid until the young person reaches 21 years of age (or 25 if in full-time education) so that the young person becomes a lodger in their foster home;
- (l) although a young person may wish to live independently, the agreement of the foster carer and/or child support workers is required. If one party does not agree, a contract is drawn out which can be reviewed at the request of either party;
- (m) if a young person aged between 18 and 21 years old leaves care, they are not able to return to the care system and benefit from the 'Staying Put' legislation.

Following points were made by the Board;

- (n) Some young people are not ready to live independently at 18 years old especially if they have learning difficulties, so the extension 21 years of age is welcomed;
- (o) NCH offers support to young people who are setting up home in any NCH tenancy by offering a furnished tenancy scheme which can include linen and furniture packs and a range of services to help them settle, and then to maintain their tenancy.

RESOLVED to continue to support the work undertaken to provide suitable accommodation to Nottingham City's care leavers.

16 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REVIEW PARTICIPATION

Caroline Riley of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, presented the report which examines the participation of children in looked after reviews.

The Independent Review Officers (IROs) are independent of the local authority and meet with looked after children and young people to hear in person, about how they feel about the care they receive and their life in general.

It is noted that while children aged 4 years and under are not expected to attend a review, from 5 year olds, participation of some sort, including via an advocate, is expected. For 2013-14, 95.5% of eligible young people participated in their review, compared to 92.6% in 2012-13.

Following the implementation of some recommendations previously submitted by IROs, there has been a massive improvement in service operation, assisted by the establishment of 2 extra IRO posts.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the children and young people often independently contact their independent review officers (IROs) between scheduled meetings;
- (b) the meetings are about the young person and are not school focused;
- (c) creative ways of communicating with children and young people are being considered and may include Skype;
- (d) there is an IRO representative who attends the Children in Care Council and feeds back any relevant issues the IRO Team.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the current levels of performance in relation to children and young people participation;**
- (2) to note the following improvements suggested by the Independent Review Offices in relation to performance:**
 - (i) recruitment of staff to reduce caseloads;**
 - (ii) continue to develop ways to engage children and young people making use of other media.**

17 PATHWAY PLANNING

Sharon Clarke, Service Manager for Children in Care, presented the report which outlines the legislative duty of the City Council with regard to pathway planning for children in care and the action taken to address issues raised by a recent peer review/OFSTED inspection.

It is noted that a new electronic Pathway Plan (ePP) has been developed which complies with the updated pathway planning guidance, is smoother, sharper, outcome focused and easier for the young person to understand and respond to. Once legally approved it is predicted to be in place by September 2014. It is hoped that the new format will encourage greater participation and engagement with young people in care, including setting goals and planning their futures.

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

- (a) pathway plans are reviewed and updated every 6 months;
- (b) since 2012 'looked after children' has included young people in custody. Between April 2012 and March 2013, 30 young people in the City were remanded;
- (c) a life skills programme steers young people towards independence;
- (d) there has been improvement in performance with 83.8% of eligible young people having a compliant pathway plan, and 99% of care leavers having a compliant plan.

RESOLVED

- (1) to continue to support required duties in respect of Pathway Planning;**
- (2) to support the implementation of a new revised e-Pathway Plan.**

18 REPORTING SCHEDULE 2014/15

Kwesi Williams, Children in Care Project Officer, Introduced the reporting schedule for 2014-15 and explained to the Board that the numbers in brackets beside each item referred to a Strategic Priorities Statement.

RESOLVED that subject to the following changes, the reporting schedule is noted:

- (i) Children in care placements, commissioning and sufficiency strategy, is submitted to the September meeting;**
- (ii) activity of the employability education and training focus group is submitted to the November meeting;**
- (iii) the Service Manager for Residential and Targeted Support update the board on the results of the OFSTED Children's Residential Homes Inspection.**

19 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL - VERBAL UPDATE

Mary-Kate Gavin, Children in Care Council (CiCC) member, updated the Board on the recent activities of the Children in Care Council which have included:

- (a) supporting the Youth Offending Team;**
- (b) consideration of Missing Children in Care;**
- (c) involvement with 'Have Your Say';**
- (d) discussions with NCH and looking at what placements are available;**
- (e) encouraging improvements and updates of personal Education Plans (PEPs) with schools.**

Some new members have been recruited to the Children in Care Council but there is still room for more.

The Chair reminded members of the Board that if they would like to observe a session of the CiCC, they should contact Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer.

RESOLVED to note the activities of the CiCC and thank Mary-Kate Gavin for her attendance and contribution to the meeting.

Corporate Parenting Board – 15 September 2014

Title of paper:	Support Services for Children in Care placed outside of a 20 mile radius from Nottingham City	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell Director of Quality and Commissioning	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Joy Chambers, Placement Service, Quality and Commissioning, 0115 8765025, joy.chambers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Katy Ball, Head of Early Intervention and Market Development, Quality and Commissioning, 0115 8764814, katy.ball@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Holly Macer, Lead Contract Officer, Placement Service, Quality and Commissioning, 0115 8764816, holly.macer@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: (you must mark X in the relevant boxes below)		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>Nottingham City Council (NCC) acknowledges that ensuring that our Children in Care (CiC) living in placements out of Nottingham City have equal access to support services such as CAMHS is a challenge. It is NCC's aspiration that more of our CiC (where safe to do so) live within a 20 mile radius of Nottingham City and so can readily access support services.</p> <p>This links to the Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy which has been produced to determine the way in which Nottingham City Council commissions CiC placements, informed by current and anticipated sufficiency requirements.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To acknowledge the activities undertaken to address support services for Children in Care placed outside of a 20 mile radius from Nottingham City.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 A discussion was held at the July Corporate Parenting Board, requesting information about what considerations are made when placing children outside of Nottingham, to ensure that they will have the same access to support services as those children placed locally, whether placements were planned or unplanned. It was also stated that the Placement Service be tasked with mapping the support services available against each placement provider.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Nottingham City Council defines a 'local' placement as anywhere within the boundaries of a 20 mile radius from Nottingham City Centre. Securing a local placement will take into consideration maintaining a young person's educational, health, social and cultural connections and access to services.

The Placement Service strives to secure the most appropriate placement available for each child and young person on an individual basis. This is done by taking into consideration the child's individual needs and placement requirements, as presented by the Social Worker and where possible in consultation with the multi agency team around that child. For planned placements, fuller consultation and joint placement visits with key colleagues e.g. CAMHS and Education, routinely occur. This is not always possible in emergency situations.

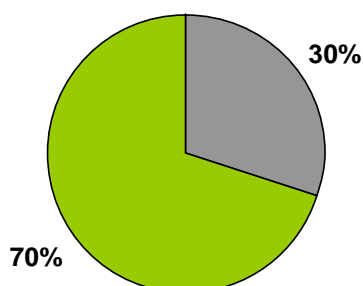
Where appropriate, the priority will be for all NCC children and young people to remain living locally. This will be achieved through short, medium and long term strategies to maximise local provision availability. Where it is not possible to secure a local placement, the remaining matching criteria for a young person will be prioritised and NCC will evidence that it has done all that is reasonably practicable to secure a suitable placement.

For each child placed out of the local area, the Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and the other associated professionals, will through the care planning processes, ensure that the services required are available in a timely manner. The frequency of social work visits to CiC placed out of area is prescribed at the child's review and is often more frequent than the minimum statutory requirements. NCC's Placement Panel routinely reviews all children and young people placed in externally commissioned placements. All aspects of a young person's placement are discussed by the multi agency Panel, including consideration and impact of their out of local area status.

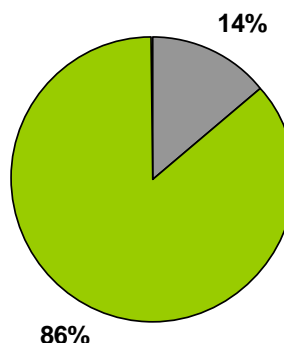
- 2.2 A recent mapping exercise was undertaken detailing all local care placement provision against availability and use. This revealed that a significant proportion of local placements are being commissioned by other local authorities. NCC is collaborating with the provider market and with regional local authorities to ensure that the use of local placements for local children and young people is maximised. In the short term, this will include improved co-ordination and advanced placement planning, alongside some retained arrangements, where appropriate. In the medium to long term this will include block contract arrangements and plans for increased local placement capacity.

2.3 Placement Location:

Residential



Fostering



 Within 20 miles of the City Centre  Outside 20 miles of the City Centre

In comparison to other local authorities, Nottingham places more young people locally. NCC strives to increase the percentage of young people placed in local foster placements to a minimum of 90% and increase the percentage of young people placed in local residential placements to a minimum of 80%.

2.4 The Corporate Parenting Board asked the Placement Service to map the support services available against each provider. Due to the volume of placement provision (the Service makes over 600 placements each year), it is not practical to achieve this. The appropriateness of each placement, including available support services, is assessed on a case by case basis, in consultation with professionals around the child, as each placement is made.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 There are no direct financial implications or value for money issues arising from this report.

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

5.1 Risk management processes will be undertaken prior to commencing any procurement or commissioning activity. There are no legal or Crime and Disorder Act implications at this stage. Any future procurement and commissioning activity will comply with EU Procurement Legislation and guidance will be sought through the relevant Legal and HR channels.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An EIA is not required at this time as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

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

- 7.1 Appendix One: Children in Care Placements - Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2014 – 2016.
- 7.2 Appendix Two: Strategic Review of the Children in Care Placements Market – Timeline

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - 15 September 2014

Title of paper:	RISE programme – Business in the Community	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman (Director of Children's Social Care)	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Jamie Shrivastava Business in the Community 30-34 Hounds Gate 3 rd Floor Nottingham NG1 7AB 0115 9247418	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	None.	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	26 August 2014	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<u>Report period July 2013-June 2014</u>		
<p>RISE has to date supported 21 care leavers and 1 YOT participant into employment. However participation of children in care (CiC) and care leavers (CLs) in RISE (Routes Into Sustainable Employment) programme has decreased overall by 15 % from the previous year.</p> <p>In April 2014 we increased programme activity in response to the council's request to have a roll on, roll off programme for all young people to access</p> <p>It should however be noted that referrals have increased significantly since June 2014, reaching a 90% attendance rate on our last programme. This is due to a change in the referral process. Based on this, we predict that we will meet our target of 40 young people attending/completing the RISE programme through to June 2015</p> <p>It should be noted that the BITC year-end differs from Nottingham City Council, subsequently the outcomes reported below are for the period 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014.</p>		

We believe the recommendations included in this report will increase participation on the RISE programme, which in turn will help the Local Authority fulfil the Strategic Priority Statement (SPS) 4 of the 'Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2014 – 2016'. SPS 4 states the Local Authority's intention to improve the attainment of children in care and ensure care leavers engage in employment, education or training, including voluntary and work experience opportunities.

It should be noted that increased participation of young people in the RISE programme and resulting employment will positively contribute to how well young people transition into independence thus helping the Authority fulfil SPS 3, which describes the it's intention to improve transition.

Outcomes for 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014:

- 16 in total through the programme
- 8 offered employment (includes 1 from YOT + 1 CL from Outside of the city) 50% into work
- 6 remain employed (includes 1 from YOT, August 2014)

Outcomes for 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013:

- 26 in total through the programme
- 8 into employment (includes 1 CL from outside the city)
- 3 remain in employment (August 2014)

Outcomes for Feb 2011 to 30th June 2012:

- 37 in total through the programme
- 6 into employment (includes 1 CL from outside the city)
- 3 remain in employment (August 2014)

Total outcomes since programme start (Feb 2011):

- 22 offered employment (4 from outside Nottingham City and 1 from YOT)
- 12 remain employed

Recommendation(s):

1	To note the activities undertaken to identify young people eligible for the RISE programme in a timely manner.
2	To note the streamlining of the referral process in order to encourage increased participation on the RISE Programme.

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Activities include the development of a database that is currently being piloted by the Leaving Care Team. The database will make it possible to identify young people eligible for the RISE programme periodically throughout the year. This should help improve the rate of referral to the programme and contribute to the Local Authority's OC3 performance figures.

1.2 In addition to the Employability Task Group meetings, monthly one-to-one meetings between the Authority and BITC are held. These meetings provide an opportunity for an exchange of information between the partners. BITC is able to keep the Authority up-to-date regarding employment and training opportunities and the Authority, in turn,

is able to pass the details on to young people who may be suited to these opportunities.

- 1.3 Contact between front line staff (e.g. Personal Advisors) and BITC is now common place. BITC are able to promote employment and training opportunities directly to staff.
- 1.4 BITC attended a CIC Outcomes Group meetings where it was agreed that promoting the programme to staff in the Fostering and Adoption Service and the IRO Service would be an effective way of increasing referrals. BITC attended team and management meetings to present the RISE programme to staff in both services. Fostering and Adoption managers agreed to discuss the programme in team meetings where social workers were instructed to ask foster carers to refer to the programme. This has contributed to a steady increase in referrals from the fostering population.
- 1.5 Through the wider City Council's membership, Business in the Community is helping to support the promotion of the Fostering service across its business membership. This was a request made to BITC from the Council in the hope that more potential Fosterers will come forward. Adding value to our partnership this will be promoted through BITC's national website in partnership with the Fostering Marketing team.
- 1.6 It is felt referrals dropped due to the amount of paper work involved in registrations (this paperwork was brought in to cover all essential client details required by businesses). From June 2014, the referral process has been simplified allowing case holders to directly call and email the clients details and BITC now complete the paperwork.
- 1.7 BITC is supporting the young people continually with 1-1 support pre-programme, involving for example: anger management and support with current issues that are creating barriers to their employability.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Business in the Community's (BITC) RISE programme works with both local and national businesses in Nottingham. This partnership makes it possible to provide a programme that offers a wide variety of opportunities in various business settings to Nottingham's children in care and care leavers. Work placements offered through the programme gives young people the chance to build their knowledge of the workplace, develop new skills, gain valuable work experience, and explore personal barriers to employment
- 2.2 In addition we also support clients with budgeting, anger management, character references, CV writing, and information on benefit sanctions and disputes.
- 2.3 We continue to see life changing results happening for Nottingham City care leavers that are supported through the RISE programme, many of who present multiple barriers to employment. However, without continued promotion and increased referrals, young people who may benefit from the opportunities provided by the programme may not access it.
- 2.4 We have now extended the programme to assist other vulnerable young people who have multiple barriers to work e.g. young offenders, those at risk of Care. We are

mindful of the link between offending behaviour and unemployment, as 23% of the adult prison population have been in care and almost 40% of prisoners under 21 were in care as children (only 2% of the general population spend time in prison)

- 2.5 The marketplace in which young people are competing for work is challenging, causing some to disengage with employment related activities before employment is secured. Those with the most complex needs and the most challenging behaviours are least likely to break through into the world of employment.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 The cost of the programme is to be funded by Children's Services (£19,000) (which has been confirmed) and the Families and Community team (£19,000) (to be confirmed).
- 4.2 The cost per young person to date of being part of the programme is £1,667 - less than the cost of 30 weeks Job Seekers Allowance.

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

- 5.1 None

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An EIA is not needed, as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

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

- 7.1 None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 8.1 UK GOV Statistics - national statistics: Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 15 September 2014

Title of paper:	NYAS Advocacy and Independent Visitor (IV) Service – Nottingham Residential Visiting	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman (Director of Children's Social Care)	Wards affected: ALL
Report author(s) and contact details:	Paul Clark, NYAS. Operations Manager, East Midlands. c/o Attenborough Suite, Mohan Business Centre, Tamworth Road, Long Eaton, Derbyshire. paul.clark@nyas.net	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Emma Dacres, Project Manager NYAS Mary Lewis, Senior Advocate NYAS Heather Walker, IV co-ordinator, NYAS	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	26th August 2014	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report summarises the activities undertaken to date of the advocacy and independent visitor (IV) services provided by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) during the first quarter of 2014/15.</p> <p>The report will also highlight the benefits of providing good quality advocacy and IV services and this contributes to safeguarding and improving outcomes for young people.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To acknowledge the advocacy and independent visitor activities being undertaken by NYAS.	
2	To recognise the importance of the advocacy and independent visitor services in safeguarding and helping children in care to get their views heard.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**1.1 To acknowledge the advocacy and independent visitor activities being undertaken by NYAS.**

It is important to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Board (the Board) has an understanding of the Authority's children in care advocacy and independent visitor arrangements and the activities being undertaken to ensure the best quality provision is being delivered. Ensuring the Board has a thorough understanding of what NYAS,

as providers of these services, are contracted to deliver and the work being conducted to deliver these services, will place the Board in a position to better scrutinise the quality of advocacy and IV provision.

1.2 To recognise the importance of the advocacy and independent visitor services in safeguarding and helping children in care to get their views heard.

Children in care have a right to have their wishes and views concerning their care heard. Ensuring that this happens improves the child's experience of care, which in turn promotes positive outcomes for them in the future.

Independent advocates play a vital role in ensuring that the wishes and feelings of looked after children are listened to and considered when making decisions that affect their care.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 NYAS was awarded the contract to provide advocacy services and independent visiting services commencing 1st April 2014. The service was awarded following a competitive tendering process. Prior to 1st April, 2014, the service was delivered by Barnardos.

The commissioned service provides –

2.3 ISSUE BASED ADVOCACY

- An issue-based advocacy service for all eligible Children and Young people.
- Advice and information for children and young people about their rights, including those contained in Sections 17 and 26a of the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This service is for children and young people up to the age of eighteen years, looked-after now or in the past, or up to twenty five for those with a disability or in higher education. This includes children and young people who are in short-term placements, in secure placements and those in out of county placements

2.4 INDEPENDENT PERSONS SERVICE

This service is for all eligible children and young people subject to current Secure Accommodation Orders and provides Independent Persons for secure accommodation review panels as specified under the current Statutory Regulations. (Section 25 Children Act 1989, Children (Secure Accommodation) Regulations 1991, Children (Secure Accommodation) Amendment Regulations 1992)

2.5 INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE

This service provides suitable appointed volunteers to visit any child or young person who is looked-after where it is deemed to be in the child or young person's best interests, in accordance with s47 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. This includes children placed out of the local authority area.

2.6 RESIDENTIAL VISITING ADVOCACY SERVICE

This service provides visits to all Children & Young People's residential children's homes and residential schools, whether provided by the Local Authority or an independent provider where a looked after child from Nottingham City or a Nottinghamshire County is placed. This is to include those placements outside the City of Nottingham or the County of Nottinghamshire.

2.7 RESIDENTIAL VISITING ADVOCACY SERVICE TO SECURE ACCOMMODATION

This service provides residential visiting advocacy to Clayfields House in Stapleford on a weekly basis.

2.8 SPOT PURCHASE

NYAS provides an independent advocacy service for the following children and young people on a spot purchase referral basis. They include those who are-

- At risk of exclusion from school or have been permanently excluded.
- Involved in an Initial/Review Child Protection Conference,
- Referred by the Youth Offending Team/Service
- Placed in a residential setting by Council Educational Services or from an SEN disability tribunal
- Deemed to be in need of this service

2.9 SERVICE TRANSFER

NYAS utilised the services of independent advocates from other contracts to ensure that the most vulnerable young people were prioritised and received a service while the service was being transferred from Barnardos to NYAS.

2.10 STAFF TEAM

The staff team is made up of a Project co-ordinator, a Senior Advocate and an IV co-ordinator. The contract is overseen by the Operations Manager for the East Midlands. In addition, NYAS currently has seven independent advocates, with a further five currently completing the final stage of their training and a further four beginning their training. We are continuing with a programme of recruitment and have for further candidates to interview in the near future.

2.11 PROGRESS TO DATE

Independent visitor service

Since the transfer in April 2014, 26 Children and young people from Nottingham City are supported by the NYAS Independent Visitor Service. 13 of which are currently matched with a volunteer; 4 matches are currently on hold due to the need for further information from the referrer. 8 young people are currently waiting for an Independent visitor's, 5 of which are out of county in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. At the end of the first quarter, 5 additional young people were referred and are currently awaiting an initial assessment.

Enquiries from individuals interested in becoming volunteer IVs is high. Since the beginning of the contract five individuals have applied to become volunteers; of these, three have been interviewed and two have been taken forward and added to ten volunteers awaiting training. Training has also been scheduled for September 6th 2014

and five volunteers have confirmed their attendance. We also have two volunteers who are in the process of being matched.

Advocacy Service

Referrals are received through our national helpline and passed through to the local co-ordinator for allocation. Initially, the allocation process has taken longer than normal due to the lack of local advocates. Advocates have been sourced from out of county contracts. NYAS normally allocates each case within 24 hours and the advocate makes contact with the child or young person within 72 hours. Whilst we have not been able to achieve this in every case during the first 3 months, we are working towards achieving this over the coming weeks as our numbers of local advocates increase.

The following charts indicate numbers of advocacy cases as well as the common issues, ages and demographics associated with the referrals.

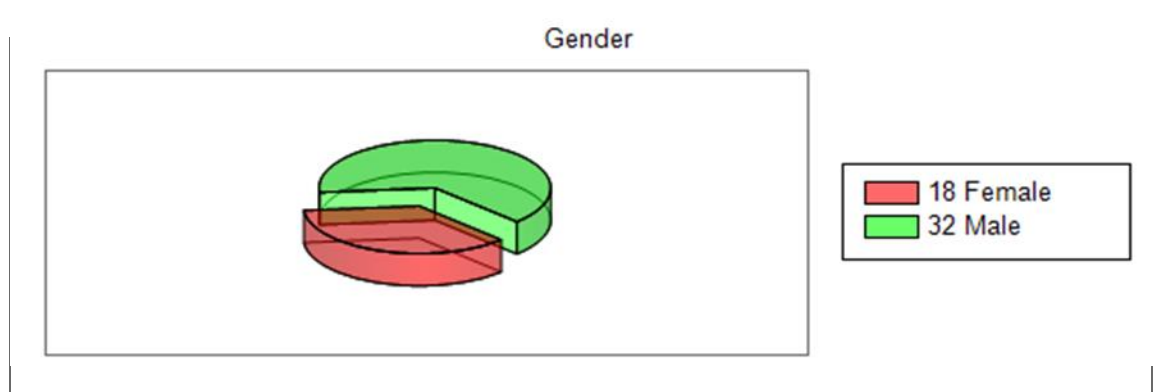
Cases Created Report

Date From : 4/1/2014 12:00:00 AM

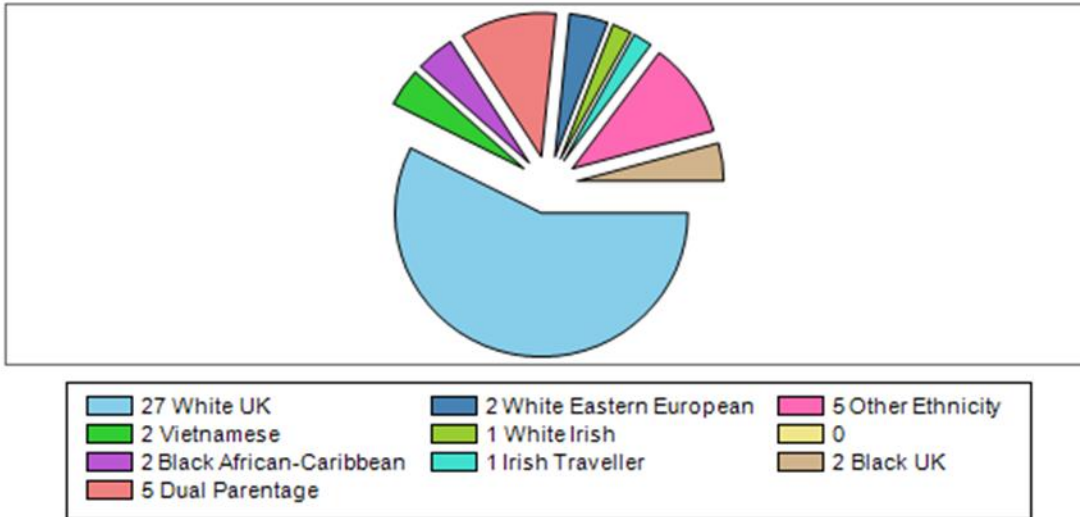
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Produced 8/14/2014 1:24:31 PM

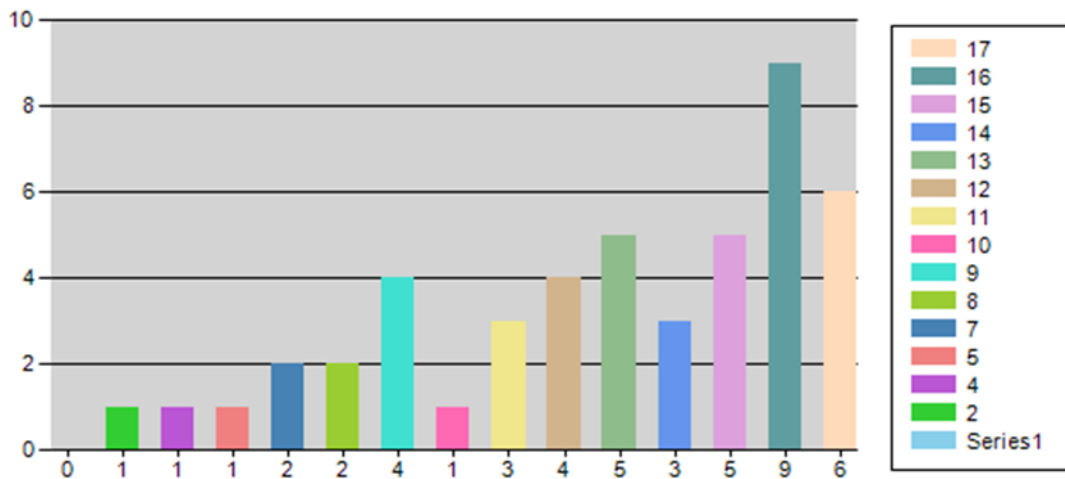
Cases Created : 50



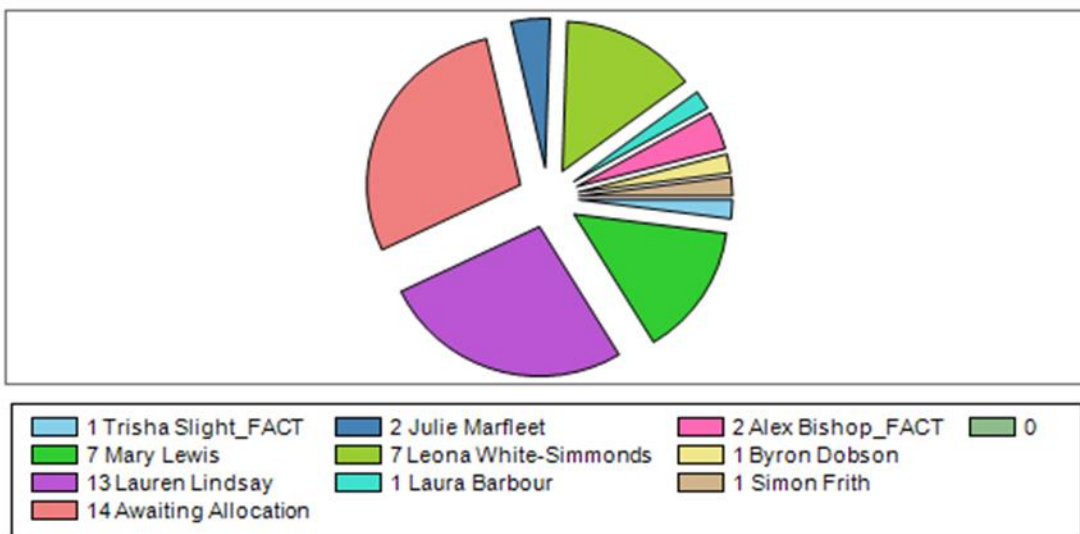
Ethnic Origin (Top 10)



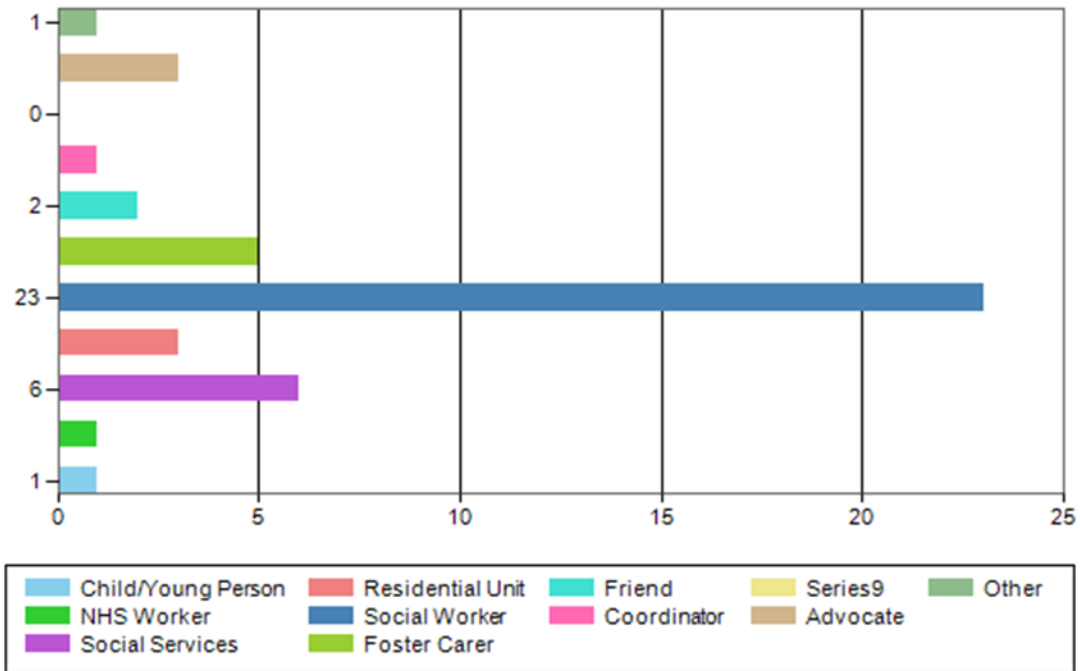
Age



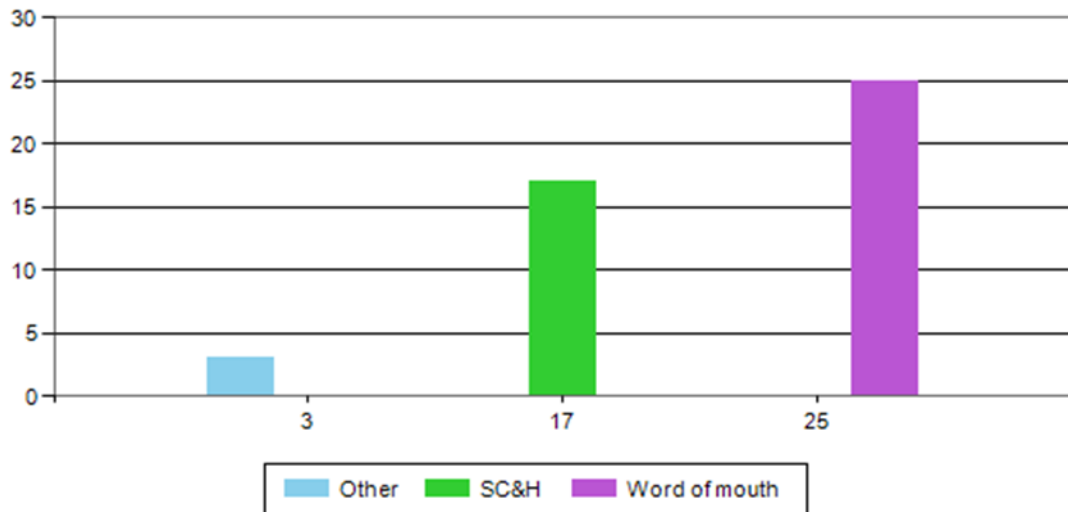
Allocated Advocate



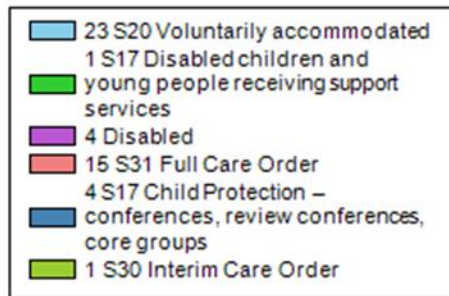
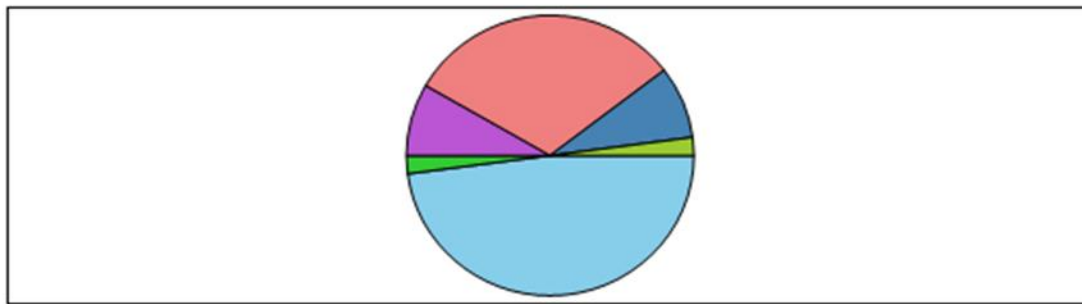
Source of Enquiry



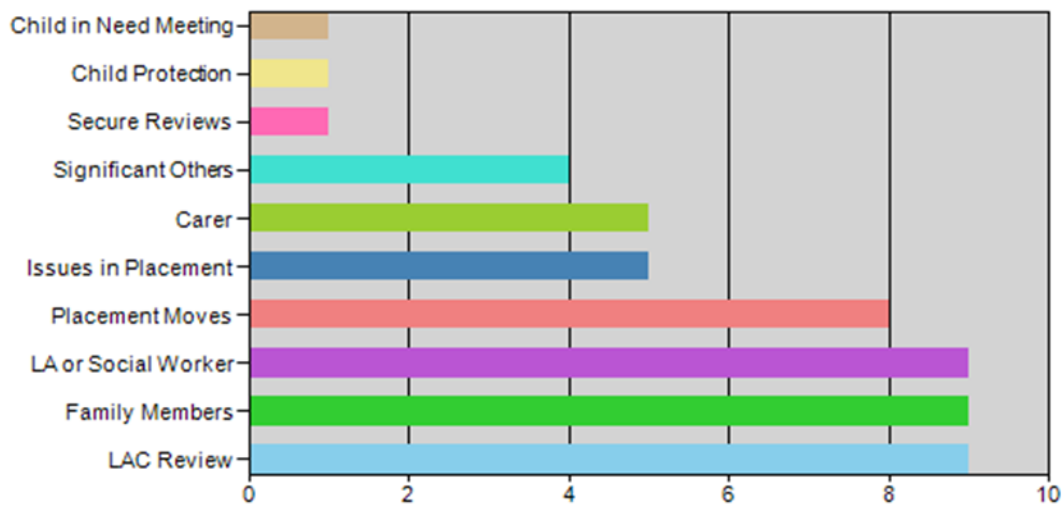
Service Found How.



Client Legal Status



Issues (Top 10)



Assigned Issues : 56 (All Cases)

Issue	Issue Path	Count
LAC Review	\Meetings\Advocacy	9
LA or Social Worker	\Relationship Problem with\Advocacy	9
Family Members	\Contact\Advocacy	9
Placement Moves	\Placement\Advocacy	8
Issues in Placement	\Placement\Advocacy	5
Carer	\Relationship Problem with\Advocacy	5
Significant Others	\Contact\Advocacy	4
Child Protection	\Meetings\Advocacy	1
Secure Reviews	\Meetings\Advocacy	1
Unsuitable Placement	\Education\Advocacy	1

Resources	\Disability\Advocacy	1
Communication	\Disability\Advocacy	1
Child in Need Meeting	\Meetings\Advocacy	1
IV Referral	\IV	1

RESIDENTIAL VISITING

In addition, Clayfields House has received weekly visits since 1st April in line with contractual requirements.

In area residential units (i.e. residential units located in Nottingham city) have also received visits.

Additional visits have been made to children and young people placed out of county. Further visits to additional units are currently booked.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 The combined (City and County) contract has a value of –

1. Year 1. £189,043
2. Year 2. £184,673
3. Year 3. £184,673

4.2 In addition, further costs will be incurred through the spot purchase arrangement. These are invoiced regularly to allow for close budget monitoring.

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

5.1 The service ensures that the wishes and feelings of looked after young people are considered when planning for their futures. Risk to the local authority is therefore reduced and managed as concerns and complaints are supported and effectively managed. Vulnerable children and young people are further supported through the residential visiting advocacy and the independent visiting service, with particular focus on minimising isolation and maintaining contact with the young person.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions) **X**

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA.

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

7.1 None.

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 None.

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Corporate Parenting Board – 15 September 2014

Title of paper:	Training, Education and Employment of Children In Care and Care Leavers	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Alison Michalska Director – Children & Families Helen Blackman Director – Children’s Social Care	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Sharon Clarke Service Manager, Children in Care sharon.clarke@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, (0115) 876 65032	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Lynn Pearce - Senior Personal Advisor Alan Monaghan - Senior Personal Advisor Tina Thurley - Principal Analyst	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	26th August 2014	

Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:

Cutting unemployment by a quarter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

- **Nottingham City Council remains committed to promoting the educational/training needs of its children in care, and access to employment for children in care and care-leavers.**
- **It recognises that the focus needs to be on children early in the process to promote attainment and achievement, in order to promote the best outcomes for children. It continues to strive to provide activities to ensure there are systems in place that enable children in care / care leavers to access opportunities that meet their individual needs.**
- **The purpose of this report is to ensure the Corporate Parenting Board remains the lead body to drive actions required to improve performance for young people accessing education, training and employment.**

Recommendation(s):

1	That the Corporate Parenting Board continues to support the work of the multi-agency Focus Group that takes the strategic lead to improve the number of care leavers in education, training and employment.
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1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 The Corporate Parenting Board ('the Board') needs to ensure Nottingham City Council continues to prioritise the needs of its care leavers in accessing opportunities for work, training and further education.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 Nottingham City Council has a multi-agency focus group that leads strategically on activities that ensure appropriate systems, processes and support are in place to promote education, training and education for children in care and care leavers.

2.2 The focus group has formulated a strategic action plan to ensure employability, education and training remains a priority for Nottingham City Council. The action plan feeds into the Children In Care Outcomes Group, the Children In Care Council and ultimately, the Board. The Employability Action Plan has been submitted to the National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) Board and has been awarded its Quality Mark. NCAS regularly review the Action Plan to ensure it remains robust.

2.3 There remains dedicated support from Futures to the Leaving Care Service who take the lead in co-ordinating employment opportunities for all care leavers. The team work together to provide career planning and maximise opportunities. Futures currently run level one and two courses for young people. This consists of a one week work preparation programme followed by two weeks' work experience, then continued support to find education, work or training opportunities, up to a total of twelve weeks. This is a rolling programme so that young people can join every fortnight. Futures are looking to start a further programme with the same principles, but aimed at entry-level opportunities which are more suited to some of the care leaver cohort.

Futures have also recently employed seven Youth Contact Advisors who will work with 18 – 24 year olds in NEET and aim to engage them into training or work in their local areas.

2.4 There remains a strategic commitment across the Council to provide a range of opportunities for care leavers into employment/apprenticeship schemes. Business Support has successfully taken through Care leavers into apprenticeships and then on to full time employment. Business Support also creates work experience for children in care and care leavers through zero hour's contracts. Due to this successful model, sports and leisure are to set up a similar casual pool.

Nottingham city has provided 101 apprenticeships in 2013/14. In terms of children in care and care leavers, the following has been implemented:

2.4.1 Three young people currently in Business Support Apprenticeships; a further young person is due to start in October. Three have completed the apprenticeship and are now in full-time employment.

2.4.2 One young person undertaking apprenticeships within the Horticultural Department.

2.4.3 One young person currently completing an apprenticeship in PATRA.

2.4.4 Five young people have completed apprenticeships with Nottingham City Homes. Two of these young people have secured full-time employment.

2.5 Nottingham City Council continues to commission the RISE programme (Business in the Community) which involves work placements, events, coaching and mentoring, to prepare young people for employment (separate report will be presented to the Board).

RISE has increased their programme from four sessions per year to six sessions.

2.6 The Leaving Care Service are planning a programme of workshops (to coincide with the OC3 window) for the NEET cohort among our carer leavers, which will include accredited training such as Sport Coaching, Food Hygiene and Health and Beauty workshops, with the aim of also supporting young parents to access these workshops.

Sessions will also include skills for applying for jobs and include peer mentoring. This is being scoped within the multi-agency focus group to enable partners to contribute.

The Leaving Care Service are also working with World Wide Volunteering (WWV) who can provide small step voluntary work which provides necessary work experience for some of our more vulnerable and hard to reach young people.

2.7 “Face-Up”, the facebook webpage aimed at providing information to care leavers, remains on-going and is being further developed.

2.8 The Leaving Care Service held a ‘Fair’ for children in care and care leavers, with partners, colleagues and agencies hosting stalls to provide information regarding all facets of transitioning into adulthood. Following feedback, it is intended to develop this into an annual event.

2.9 Current performance in relation to NEET / EET stands at :(May 2014).

CL4 (R) percentage of Care leavers in employment, training and education at 19 years of age – 80% (Target 55%)

CL5 (R) percentage of Care leavers in employment, training and education at 20 years of age – 55.5% (Target 55%)

CL6 (R) percentage of Care leavers in employment, training and education at 21 years of age – 66.8% (Target 55%)

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 Risk associated with the budget constraint of providing support to more young people coming back post 21 for support re: education, training and employment.

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

5.1 None

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA.

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

7.1 None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 None

Children in Care Outcome Group and Corporate Parenting Board

Reporting Schedule 2014 - 2015

Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement (SPS))	Corporate Parenting Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Report ▪ Have Your Say 2013 Results Summary (3) ▪ Performance Report (Q3 and Q4 2013/14) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) 	19 th May 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pathway Planning (3) ▪ Suitable Accommodation of Care Leavers (5) ▪ Looked After Child Review Participation (3) ▪ Emotional Health (1) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) 	21 st July 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational Attainment of Children in Care (4) ▪ RISE Programme (4) ▪ Children in Care Placements – Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy ▪ Advocacy and Independent Visitors (3) ▪ Children in Care Council (verbal Update) 	15 th September 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity of the Employability, Education and Training Focus Group (4) ▪ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update ▪ Adoption and Permanency (2) ▪ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2014/15) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) 	17 th November 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical Health (1) ▪ Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming (1) ▪ Reducing Offending Behaviour (6) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) 	19 th January 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulation 33 Visits ▪ Edge of Provision ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Progress Update ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) 	16 th March 2015

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