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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 17 November 2014

Time: 2.30 pm

Place: LB41 - 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

Governance Officer: Catherine Ziane-Pryor Direct Dial: 0115 8764298

<u>AGEN</u>	NDA	<u>Pages</u>
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
3	MINUTES Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2014 (for confirmation).	3 - 8
4	ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE 2014 Report of Virtual School Head Teacher and Adviser for the Achievement of Vulnerable Groups	9 - 16
5	OFSTED INSPECTION RESULTS FOR INTERNAL RESIDENTIAL HOMES Report of Service Manager, Residential and Targeted Support	17 - 22
6	PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q1 AND Q2 2014/15)	23 - 26
7	CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE Verbal update by members of the Children in Care Council	
8	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE UPDATE Verbal update by Director of Children's Social Care	

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE GOVERNANCE 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

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. ANY RECORDING OR REPORTING ON THIS MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON RECORDING AND REPORTING ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk. INDIVIDUALS INTENDING TO RECORD THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE IN ADVANCE.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 15 September 2014 from 14.33 - 15.40

Membership

<u>Present</u> <u>Absent</u>

Councillor David Mellen (Chair) Councillor Georgina Culley

Councillor Glyn Jenkins Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Sally Longford Councillor Eileen Morley Councillor Jackie Morris Councillor Wendy Smith Councillor Marcia Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Dewinton - Observer

Mary-Kate Gavin - Children in Care Council member

Heidi Watson) Business in the Community

Jamie Shrivastava)

Amanda Edmonds - Designated Nurse for Children in Care Health Partnerships

Bev Beatie) Foster Carer Representative

Tanya Mackley)

Paul Clark) National Youth Advocacy Service

Emma Dacres

Helen Blackman
 Gill Moy
 Jon Rea
 Director of CSC and Vulnerable Children
 Director of Housing (Nottingham City Homes)
 Early Intervention and Partnerships Officer

Elise Ashworth - Insight Manager

Lynn Pearce - Senior Personal Advisor, Leaving Care Team

Kwesi WilliamsProject Officer, Children in CareVirtual School Head TeacherCath Ziane-PryorConstitutional Services

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Georgina Culley Councillor Ginny Klein Evonne Rogers Kay Sutt Joy Chambers

21 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

None

22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

23 SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE PLACED OUTSIDE OF A 20 MILE RADIUS FROM NOTTINGHAM CITY

Holly Macer, Lead Contract Officer for Placement Service, Quality and Commissioning, presented the report which outlines the circumstances where children are placed outside of the City, and details the measures in place to ensure that the needs of these children are met.

It is noted that 70% of residential placements are within 20 miles of the City Centre, and that 86% of fostering placements are more than 20 miles from the City Centre.

Holly Macer responded to the Board's questions as follows:

- (a) a local placement is considered a priority, however this is not always possible. Where children and young people are placed away from the City, there is a multi-agency approach to ensure the appropriate services can be provided. Nottingham City Council will provide as many services as is feasible but where this cannot be achieved services such as Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the area that the child is placed, are commissioned;
- (b) the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), will ensure that all necessary services and support are in place for each child, and where gaps appear, services will be found:
- (c) it is in the best interest for everybody to ensure that there is local placement capacity;
- (d) block placements are being considered as an option;
- (e) Social workers generally request that school places are maintained every effort is made to find travel or volunteer driver scheme to accommodate this.

Members of the Board commented that;

- (f) maintaining school places is very important as is enabling the child to maintain friendships and relationships in their local area;
- (g) placing children as close to the City as possible is in the best interests of the child.

RESOLVED to acknowledge the activities undertaken to support services for children in care placed outside of the 20 mile radius from Nottingham City.

24 RISE PROGRAMME - BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

Jamie Shrirvastava and Heidi Watson, from 'Business in the Community' (BitC), presented an update report on the activity and achievements of the Routes Into Sustainable Employment (RISE) Programme from July 2013 to June 2014.

The following points were highlighted:

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- (a) during the period, 21 care leavers and 1 youth outreach team (YOT) participant have been supported into employment;
- (b) there has been a 15% increase in participation of children in care and care leavers from the previous year, however activity has increased following the introduction of a roll-on, roll-off programme for all young people to access;
- (c) since June 2014, referrals have increased significantly and there was a 90% attendance rate for the last programme;
- (d) it is predicted that the target of 40 young people attending/completing the rise programme through to June 2015, will be achieved;
- (e) in the 1st year of operation 15 young people were supported into work, in the 2nd year 31, and this year 50% of participants;
- (f) the programme continues to develop, building on the knowledge of what works best for the young people engaged;
- (g) there has been between a 35 and 50% dropout rate with young people disengaging from the programme although there are often complicated issues including some young people realising that they are not ready to engage;
- (h) working jointly with children in care teams, the Leaving Care Team pass details of young people to BitC then inform them of the programmes available;
- (i) if young people are not initially interested or ready to engage in the programme, the personal advisers will remind them at a later date that the option is available to them:
- (j) there has recently been in refreshed focus on young people leaving foster care;
- (k) BitC also promotes fostering to its partners in business as those who volunteer are more likely to foster;
- (I) courses including anger management and debt and financial skills, can be provided to prepare young people for engaging on the RISE programme.

Bev Beatie, Foster Carer Representative, informed the board that she was aware young man whose confidence was significantly boosted by attending the RISE programme.

The Chair welcomed the report and the opportunities which the RISE programme offers children in care.

RESOLVED to note:

- (i) the activities undertaken to identify in a timely manner young people eligible for the RISE programme;
- (ii) the streamlining of the referral process in order to encourage increased participation on the RISE programme.
- 25 NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE (NYAS) ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITOR (IV) SERVICE NOTTINGHAM RESIDENTIAL VISITING

Paul Clark, NYAS Operations Manager, East Midlands, presented the report which outlines the following commissioned services:

- issue based advocacy;
- independent persons service;
- Independent visitor service;
- residential visiting advocacy service;

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- sport purchase referral basis;
- service transfer.

The service visits all of Nottingham's residential children, wherever they are placed, including Southampton, Essex and Cumbria.

It is a challenging service which does not focus on the best interests of the child but on ensuring that the wishes and feelings of the child are heard and considered. Sometimes the service is required to support communication between decision-makers and the young people.

Independent visitors (IV) are carefully chosen and trained volunteers who have committed their services for a minimum of 2 years although some continue the match with the young person for longer. A two-year commitment ensures a level of consistency for young people.

Referrals are made through a national helpline and passed to the local co-ordinator for allocation. There is a target for an advocate allocation to be made within 24 hours of the referral and for that advocate to make contact with the child or young person within 72 hours.

Between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014, fifty referrals were made to the service. To date this has increased to 270 referrals.

Priority issues raised during visits include:

- child protection meetings;
- LAC reviews;
- relationship problem, including not feeling as though their social worker listens to them;
- · contact with family;
- placement moves.

The report provides a detailed breakdown of gender, ethnicity, referral route and legal status of the young people.

The Board's questions were responded to as follows:

- (a) the service is available to all looked after children regardless of age;
- (b) all of the city's children in care with learning disabilities are visited at least every 2 months. They are asked for their prefer communication method to ensure the service can adapt to their needs;
- (c) it is the age of 18 young people are still looked after, they are able to access the service, but are not eligible once they leave care;
- (d) when a referral is made and an advocate allocated, it is intended that the advocate continue to work with the child until the case is closed. If a new case is opened, the same advocate is not necessarily allocated that case depending on availability, however the majority of children do receive the support of the same person;
- (e) independent visitors are volunteers while advocates are self-employed and paid, but all receive the same comprehensive training and testing;
- (f) a young person can view the profile of available Independent Visitors and choose who they would prefer to support them.

The point was made that it is autumn that the young people know that a volunteer chooses to see them without financial reward.

RESOLVED

- (1) for the advocacy and Independent Visitor activities undertaken by NYAS to be acknowledged;
- (2) for the importance of the advocacy and Independent visitor services in safeguarding helping children in care to get their views heard to be recognised.

26 TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

Lynn Pearce, Senior Personal Advisor, presented the report which informs the Board of the multi-agency focus group which meets every 6 weeks, taking the strategic lead to improve the number of Care Leavers in education, employment or training (EET).

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) it is vital that young people who are considered 'hard to reach' are engaged at the earliest opportunity to ensure the best outcomes:
- (b) bespoke packages are developed to ensure that young people in specific circumstances, such as young mothers who may need assistance with child care, are able to access work or training;
- (c) all bespoke packages are monitored and evaluated, including the input of the young people, their social worker and the provider, to enable successful approaches to be shared;
- (d) a database identifies young people between the ages of 19 and 21 who are then individually encouraged to engage in EET;
- (e) initially the target was to have the database and packages in place by December 2014 but this has already been achieved and the system is progressing well;
- (f) the aspiration is to engage all Care Leavers in EET but the target of having 55% of Care Leavers in EET may appear low as this figure has been identified from the benchmarking of other Local Authorities.
- (g) as of May 2014, performance in relation to Care Leavers in EET is as follows:
 - (i) at 19 years of age, 80% (Target 55%);
 - (ii) at 20 years of age 55.5% (Target 55%);
 - (iii) at 21 years of age 66.8% (Target 55%).

Comments at the meeting included:

- (h) for the young people, employment needs to be sustainable and paying £2 per hour for a 30 hour week does not reflect a 'living wage';
- (i) work/training with the statutory agencies, including the City Council and Nottingham City Homes (NCH), has proved valuable for young people but external bodies including Rise and Futures are also able to source excellent opportunities for care leavers:

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- NCH sets targets for the construction companies it engages to take on young people. Targets small but are better than nothing and can be considered as Corporate Social Responsibility;
- (k) consideration should be given to including targets for employing/training young care leavers within a large contracts awarded by the City Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) to continue to support the work of the multi-agency focus group that takes the strategically lead to improve the number of care leavers in to education, employment or training;
- (2) for the Director of Safeguarding to contact the City Council's Procurement Team and investigate the possibility of large City Council contractors being encouraged to engage a percentage of young people from care backgrounds as apprentices.

27 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE

Jon Rea, Early Intervention and Partnerships Officer, was accompanied by Mary-Kate Gavin, member of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), who updated the Board on the activity of the children in care Council.

Members of the CiCC had taken part in the initial stages of 'Passport to Parliament' event arranged by the 'Who Care Trust' which aims to ensure that the valuable contribution of children in care councils can be considered by the all- party Parliamentary group.

One of the issues raised as the event questioned whether children in care with special educational needs received adequate care and support. In summary, one of the conclusions of the event is that is these young children and young people need a better understanding of the support which is available to them. Also debated was the pupil premium. Conclusion from the discussion will be submitted to the all-party group and members of the CiCC will be invited to attend the meeting at Westminster on 22 October 2014 to see how their work can potentially influence national policy making.

Other activities included promoting the 'have your say survey' and encouraging more children in care to register on the electoral roll.

Board members are requested to encourage children in care and care leavers to consider joining the CiCC to ensure the views, experiences and perspectives of looked after children and young people can be available to inform partner organisations and policymakers in issues relating to the care system and the young people involved. The CiCC also host events and activities for its membership. A taster event is to be held on 29 September people in care aged 14 years and older.

28 REPORTING SCHEDULE UPDATE

Subject to 'educational attainment of children in care' being submitted to the next meeting, the reporting schedule is noted.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Title	e of pa	iper:	ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE 2014											
Dire	ctor(s)/	Alison Michalska	Wards affected:	ALL									
	• •	Director(s):												
		thor(s) and	Malcolm Wilson, Virtual School Head Teacher and Adviser for the											
	tact de		Achievement of Vulnerable Groups											
			• 											
Othe	er colle	eagues who	Daniel Sturok, Principal Analyst, Early	Intervention Directorat	e									
have	e provi	ided input:												
Date	of co	nsultation wit	th Portfolio Holder(s)											
(if re	elevan	t)												
			Strategic Priority:											
		employment by												
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			luding benefits to citizens/service us											
			ecent trends in education attainment of N											
			mance at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4.											
			esults and the barriers to achievement the	nat children in care fac	e. Fina	lly, it								
sum	marise	s the intervent	ions provided to improve attainment.											
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		ndation(s):	bat the Carparate Daranting Daard											
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	(5)		posed interventions to improve attainment the performance of CiC and that of ot		_									

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 To ensure that we identify any emerging trends in the achievement of Nottingham City Children in Care. In addition to discuss proposed interventions to improve

attainment and narrow the gap between the performance of CiC and that of other pupils in the City schools and between City CiC and our statistical neighbours.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 This report will consider the current attainment and trends at Key Stages 2 and 4. The key findings are that 2013 educational attainment outcomes for Nottingham's Children in Care are mixed. The Key Stage 2 results have improved over the last three cohort's and outcomes in Nottingham is higher across every measure. The Key Stage 4 results were down on the results in 2013. The proportion of pupils obtaining the headline 5+ A*-C passes including English and Maths in Nottingham was lower.

It should be remembered when considering the data that numbers in the CiC cohort groups are very low and the individual performance of one child (or the removal of several children from a cohort group) can have a disproportionate effect on percentages; it is prudent, wherever possible, to look at numbers and percentages.

- 2.2 Context: Achievement levels are low, but it is worth reflecting on the make up of these cohorts whilst considering effective actions to increase the rate of improvement.
- 2.3 Absolute attainment outcomes of Nottingham City's children in care (CiC) are low compared to non-CiC City pupils. This is replicated nationally and in part will reflect the troubled lives many of these children lead. Higher special education needs (school action plus and statement) are over-represented in CiC cohorts, especially at Key Stage 4. This makes attainment of benchmark educational standards particularly challenging.
- 2.4 The Virtual School has a responsibility to monitor the achievement of all school age children in care (over 350 pupils) and not just those who are included in Department for Education statistics at the end of Key Stages (those in care for at least one year since March 31st of the year that the exams are being sat in this case March 31st 2014). Since the establishment of the Virtual School, it has been working to develop practices aimed at raising attainment for individuals and groups (see 2.19 effective intervention).
- 2.5 A higher proportion of CiC have special needs than the total school population, some requiring specialist provision. These pupils often make good progress but perform significantly below nationally expected outcomes. The majority of their special needs are related to behaviour and emotional and social difficulties. A significant percentage also have physical disabilities.
- 2.6 46% (146 pupils) of Nottingham City school aged children are educated within the City boundaries with a further 32% (98 pupils) educated in Nottinghamshire. 22% (69 pupils) are educated in other Local Authorities.
- 2.7 The trauma involved with coming into care cannot be underestimated. For many young people the reasons for coming into care are disturbing and damaging. They have to adjust to a different home environment, may lose contact with family and friends and may also have to change schools.

- 2.8 Many of the Key Stage 2 pupils experienced more school changes than might ordinarily be expected. These multiple transitions are disruptive and affect academic progression.
- 2.9 For those entering care in Key Stage 4, a move of school can have a significant impact upon their outcomes. It can result in missed assessments/modules/units and changes of examination boards which all impact on the individual's chance of success, let alone the social and emotional trauma experienced. Although statutory guidelines state that CiC should not move placement during Years 10 and 11 because of the impact on provision and the resulting outcomes, this is not always possible. It can be particularly difficult to find a school place for a CiC in Year 11 and CiC who move placement at this point may have a period of time out of school which further impedes their engagement and progress. They are also more likely to be educated in an alternative provision setting which does not offer GCSE courses.
- 2.10 Some children in care in Key Stages 3 and 4 find a school environment increasingly challenging and require alternative provision to maintain their engagement. This often results in qualifications that are not GCSE equivalent but can lead onto apprenticeships and college places that prove successful. The RISE project and Education Progress Grant funding requests for post 16 pupils provides evidence that several CiC are re-engaging with education and training beyond statutory school age.

Looked after children at Key Stage 2:

2.11 **2014** attainment

According to DfE figures, Nottingham City had 18 young people in care who were eligible to sit Key Stage 2 assessments based on those who were aged 10 at the start of the academic year (31st August) and had been in care for 1 year at 31st March 2014 (there were two additional children, but both have been held back a year and so are excluded from these calculations.)

2.12 Of this KS2 CiC cohort:

- 50% (9 pupils) achieved level 4 or higher in Reading, Writing and Maths; the LA's provisional rate for all children for this measure in 2014 is 73%
- 67% (12 pupils) achieved level 4 or higher in Reading; the LA saw 83% of all children achieve level 4 or higher
- 61% (11 pupils) achieved level 4 or higher in Writing; the LA saw 80% of all children achieve level 4 or higher
- 67% (12 pupils) achieved Level 4 or higher in Maths; the LA saw 82% of all children achieve level 4 or higher
- 50% (9 pupils) achieved level 4 or higher in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling; the LA saw 71% of all children achieve level 4 or higher.
- 2.13 Compared to 2013 results the Maths, Reading, Writing and combined results were much higher and in every subject the numbers of pupils achieving expected levels were a lot higher than those of 2013. The L4+ GPS was 18% higher than 2013.

Looked After Young People at Key Stage 4:

2.14 **2014** attainment

According to DfE figures, Nottingham City had 45 young people in care who were eligible to sit Key Stage 4 (GCSE) based on those who were aged 15 at the start of the academic year (31st August) and had been in care for 1 year at 31st March 2014.

2.15 Of this KS4 CiC cohort:

- 7% (3 pupils) achieved 5+ A*-C including English and Maths; the LA's provisional rate for all children for this measure in 2014 is 43.3%.(A positive fact relating to these three pupils was that two achieved nine GCSEs and one achieved ten).
- 13% (6 pupils) achieved A*-C in English and Maths; the LA saw 45% of all pupils achieve this measure.
- 47% (21 pupils) achieved A*-G in English and Maths; the LA saw 85% of all pupils achieve this measure.
- 62% (28 pupils) achieved a pass in at least one qualification; the LA saw 96% of all children achieve this measure.

The changes made to the 2014 examination process represent such a substantial change to previous years that this year's KS4 results represent a break in the times series and as such cannot be compared to previous years results.

13 children had Fisher Family Trust (FFT) estimates giving a high (80 %+) chance of achieving 5+ A*-C grades, three children achieved this outcome, however five additional children were close (achieving either 4 grades A*-C or 4+ grades D-G).

12 children had FFT estimates giving a high (80 %+) chance of achieving 5+ A*-G grades, five children achieved this outcome with four additional children close to achieving this expectation (achieving 4 grades A* - G)

- 2.16 The KS4 examination process has seen substantial changes compared to previous years for all pupils; this has led to year on year comparisons with 2013 and previous years becoming more problematic. It may also adversely affect pupil performance against previous Fisher Family Trust estimates.
- 2.17 The fixed term exclusion rate for Nottingham City CiC is similar to the England rate and lower than statistical neighbours. A close partnership has been established with schools and alternative learning providers to ensure that the potential exclusion of Children in Care is only considered after a number of other measures. Any exclusion is closely monitored and alternative education for the student is provided where possible to minimise the disruption to education and care placements. The challenge is that absence for Year 10 and 11 CiC is higher than for other year groups, as are fixed term exclusion rates.
- 2.18 The overall attendance rate for CiC compared to England continues to be better. Overall absence rates dropped from the previous year 5.1% to 4.0% whilst

persistent absence dropped significantly from the 2012 rate. Since 2008 the overall attendance figure has increased from 93.9% to 96%.

	Overall Abs	ence Rate	Percentage of LAC classified as Persistent Absentees						
	Nottingham	England	Nottingham	England					
2007-08	6.1	6.4	11.7	9.3					
2008-09	6.5	6.2	9.1	8.8					
2009-10	4.5	5.8	4.4	7.8					
2010-11	5.4	5.5	7.5	7.3					
2011-12	5.1	4.7	7.6	6.1					
2012-13	4.0	4.4	4.2	5.0					

Effective Intervention

- 2.19 It is clear that a continued sustained effort will be needed to make a meaningful impact on the educational attainment of Nottingham's looked after children and young people. The following actions are directed at securing improvement. Some have begun and others are planned for the academic year 2014-15.
- 2.20 The collection of termly attainment and daily attendance information. This allows better tracking and analysis of data and keeps in one place information on the educational experience of children in care. Welfare Call is commissioned to collect attendance and exclusion data on all CiC placed external to the Local Authority and those in City academies and schools that do not use the Local Authority's electronic transfer of attendance information system. This was reviewed in the spring term of 2014 and has been extended to include all school aged CiC regardless of where their placement is.
- 2.21 Two tutoring agencies have been commissioned to provide high quality teaching for NCC children across the country and other LA CIC placed in the City awaiting school places. This is already ensuring young people are not without education.
- 2.22 A third year of additional 1:1 tuition was offered to Year 11 Children in Care and for a second year a similar offer was made for Year 6 pupils. Nearly twenty pupils benefited from this additional provision.
- 2.23 Education Progress Grant funding was available in 2013/14. The predominant use of this was for 1:1 tuition and therapeutic work with a stronger emphasis on educational activities and impact on educational achievement.
- 2.24 Personal Education Plan (PEP) completion rates have improved again since last year. The focus is now the quality of the education section of the PEP to ensure it identifies the actions to be taken to improve literacy and numeracy skills of children in care. A new auditing and monitoring process is being introduced this year to ensure that the quality of planning for children's learning is aspirational and kept under consistent review.

- 2.25 Closer working relationships have been developed between the Virtual School and Social Care colleagues especially regarding the educational considerations required when arranging the placement of CiC. The Virtual School represents the educational needs of CiC at every Placement Panel meeting.
- 2.26 A named officer in the Admissions team for CiC has sped up the admission process for the majority of children in care, including those placed in other local authorities.
- 2.27 Letterbox Club, which provides mathematics materials as well as literacy resources, is purchased for CiC in Years 1, 3, 5 and 7.
- 2.28 We are in the process of increasing the capacity of the Virtual School to help challenge and support schools and education providers. We will soon have two new Education Support Officers to work alongside the existing team.
- 2.29 The Virtual School will soon have the support of a strong Governing Body.
- 2.30 This year we are introducing planning meetings with schools which will analyse how Pupil Premium Plus funding is being used and assess its impact on driving up standards. The Virtual School will retain an element of PP+ funding to fund centrally driven interventions.
- 2.31 Support and advice has been provided to a range of professionals through termly training network meetings for Designated Teachers. Training is also provided for new Designated Teachers, School Governors and new Social Workers.
- 2.32 The Virtual School held the first Year 11 Achievement Awards evening in 2014. The presentations and buffet took place in Loxley House. Pupils were joined by carers and family to celebrate their success.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 There are no further options to those detailed in the report.

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

- 4.1 There are implications for the Virtual School budget, funded through DSG, regarding the staffing structure of the Virtual School and the activities it can provide to support children in care in education. The dis-establishment of one achievement consultant post has meant that the Virtual School has the opportunity to recruit two Education Support Officers, in so doing increasing the capacity of the team.
- 4.2 The Virtual School is part of the Achievement of Vulnerable Groups Team. The budget is impacted upon by schools choosing to become academies and the budget is reduced accordingly.
 - 4.3 As much of the work of the Virtual School is about enabling schools to fulfil their statutory responsibilities and supporting social workers with the identification of good quality educational provision for children in care, the opportunities to sell services are limited. Previously, the Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMA) Team supported the

Virtual School by providing income and salary savings to fund Virtual School activities. With the expected developments as a result of the recent changes to the Children and Families Directorate and School Forum decisions regarding funding, the income generated by the EMA team will be required to pay for salaries of those team members and not Virtual School activities.

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

5.1 There may be implications in the future regarding educational activities provided by the Virtual School as the budget may not be able to sustain staffing and pupil activities with the increase in school academisation and consequent reductions in DSG funding. There may be a role for EPG funding in this respect.

6. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 There are no proposed changes to this service other than increasing its capacity to help ensure that all vulnerable Children in Care close the attainment gap with their peers. It would be valuable to look at the breakdown for this cohort and carry out an Equality Impact Assessment over the next few months as a measure of good practice.

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

7.1 Information Management Team, Children in Care Provisional Results 2014

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 None



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Title of paper:	OFSTED INSPECTION RESULTS FOR INTERNAL									
	RESIDENTIAL HOMES									
Director(s)/	Helen Blackman, Director of Specialist Wards affected: All									
Corporate Director(s):	Services									
Report author(s) and	Kay Sutt, Service Manager,	Residential an	d Targeted Support							
contact details:	kay.sutt@nottinghamcity.gov									
	01158765667									
Other colleagues who	N/A									
have provided input:										
Date of consultation wit	n Portfolio Holder(s) N/A									
(if relevant)										
Relevant Council Plan S	·									
Cutting unemployment by	•									
Cut crime and anti-social										
	rs get a job, training or furthe	r education th	an any other City	\boxtimes						
Your neighbourhood as c										
Help keep your energy bil										
Good access to public tra										
Nottingham has a good mix of housing										
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs										
	Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events									
Support early intervention										
Deliver effective, value fo	money services to our citizen	ns		\boxtimes						

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

Internal Residential Children's Homes are inspected by Ofsted as a minimum of twice per year .These inspections consist of a full inspection and an interim inspection to assess if there has been any progress since the full inspection. This is part of legislative requirements under National Minimum Standards (2000). The Inspection reports set out Ofsteds judgement about the quality of the provision provided.

The Inspection judgments and what they mean:

Outstanding: a service of exceptional quality that significantly exceeds minimum requirements

Good: a service of high quality that exceeds minimum standards **Adequate:** a service that only meets minimum requirements **Inadequate:** a service that does not meet minimum requirements

We have 7 internal Residential children's homes all of which are registered with Ofsted.

Current inspection results for internal children's homes are as follows:

- 1 home is judged as Outstanding
- 2 homes are judged as Good with Outstanding Features
- 2 homes are judged as Good
- 2 homes are judged as Adequate

As a service and local authority we aim to have all of our children's homes judged as **Good** or **Outstanding**. Work within the residential service management team continues to progress this aspiration.

Recommendation(s):

- The committee notes the ambition for **all** homes to achieve **Good** or **Outstanding** ofsted gradings by continuing to strive for excellence and ensuring that national minimum standards are met and exceeded. This will be achieved by ensuring homes are managed by a highly skilled, qualified and experienced Management team and Staff team.
- The committee notes that Results of Reports are analysed and monitored by Service Manager and Registered Managers to identify trends and patterns to improve performance as well as to share good practice.

1.REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Due to the nature of the provision it is imperative that the service is scrutinised independently to ensure it is delivering a Good quality provision as well as improving outcomes for Children In Care. Ofsted Inspectors, in their reports, make requirements and recommendations to improve practice ensuring that minimum standards are being adhered to, if not exceeded.
- 1.2 Since 2011 as a local authority we have moved a way from large institutional children's homes to small group homes. This has improved our provision for children and young people as well as outcomes.
- 1.3 Ofsted have identified recent performance issues such as:
 - "Ensure all staff receives regular supervision" due to manager being off long term sick.
 - "Ensure the young peoples guide contains telephone number and address of ofsted".
 - "Ensure that full work histories of staff from leaving school are checked again by any new manager in post".
 - "Ensure that information about children is recorded clearly and in a way which will be helpful to the child when they access their files now or in the future".
- 1.4 Each Ofsted inspection report contains any requirements which need to be met by the Registered Manager and Provider with dates of when these need to be met by and evidence sent to ofsted.
 - They also contain recommendations for good practice which are checked by ofsted during their interim inspections.
 - Requirements have reduced significantly over the last few years.
- 1.5 The Ofsted reports continue to be very positive with Inspectors making the following observations from their recent inspections of the children's homes:
 - "Young People continue to make good progress, particularly in their positive relationships with staff and managers. This means that they also feel very able to talk to and receive support from staff in relation to what's happening in their life. Young people's safety and welfare has a very high priority in the home. Staff are very good at ensuring that young people understand their own safety needs. When young people go missing the management team lead the subsequent work effectively. They strive to find the young people as soon as possible and work very well with other professionals such as the police. This is illustrated by professional's comments on the homes practice in this area which include "staff have been brilliant and they do more than is required". A range of work also takes place to educate young people about the risks associated with being missing. For example, young people regularly engage with outside agencies that support and advise them on issues such as child sexual exploitation".

"The children and young people's living environment is warm, comfortable and homely. The rapport between staff, managers and children and young people observed during the inspection was warm, lively and supportive. Staff are committed, motivated and knowledgeable about the children and young people".

"The dietary needs of young people are robustly identified and catered for".

"Young people are very well supported with their behaviour. Staff are particularly good at working as a team to ensure boundaries are consistent. These boundaries work well to help the young people to progress with their socially acceptable behaviour

"Young people are fully involved in the running of the home".

"Education arrangements are maintained and some young people go to school significantly more than they did before coming to the home. As a result, their education is enhanced and improved within a short space of time. The value of education is strongly promoted and this approach benefits young people's attitude, attendance and attainment".

"This is a good service that provides positive outcomes for young people".

"Young people prepare well for moving out of the children's home and to a more independent setting. One young person who recently moved out is extremely positive about the support he has received. He reported that "staff have taught me, speak out for me and encouraged me". This demonstrates that young people receive the support they need to be independent in the future".

"All young people attend education and are making good progress. Teaching professionals report that the fact that young people are settled and happy in the home has a "massive impact" on their education".

"Staff training is well organised and along with mandatory training such as behaviour management, health and safety and first aid, there is training over and above the standards".

- 1.6 Children and young people on the whole continue to give very positive feedback to ofsted about the care they receive in the homes.Any negative comments made by children or young people to the inspectors are looked into
 - straight away and issues are addressed to further improve the service.
- 1.7 It is recognised by ofsted that a lot of hard work by the managers and staff goes into ensuring that the children and young people in our homes attend school or an alternative education provision. This impacts on children and young people being involved in positive activities and reduces any involvement in criminal activity or anti-social behaviour.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Residential services since April 2011 have been re-configured into a Small Group Homes Model which is an umbrella term. The specifics are set out below:
- 2.2 There are now 10 settled beds in 4 Children's Homes across the city, 7 emergency beds across 2 homes in the Bestwood area that take children and young people on a short term basis and an

- 11 bedded short breaks service for children and young people with complex disabilities in the Meadows. All these homes are Registered with ofsted and are inspected on a regular basis.
- 2.3 The number of internal Residential homes in Nottingham City has increased recently by a further 4 beds for children with complex disabilities.
- 2.4 Ofsted Inspections are an important legislative requirement that serve to quality assure the service provision and ensure that Safeguarding measures for Children in Care are being adhered to. Ofsted have the legislative authority to close any homes that are not demonstrating that they are keeping children and young people safe
- 2.5 The Department For Education is in the process of consulting over new regulations with regards to children's homes that will be brought out in the near future and will be in force from April 2015. Ofsted will measure all children's homes across the country against these new regulations which will have high expectations and aspirations for our children inn care.
 - As a local authority we welcome any new regulations to further improve the provision of our internal children's homes.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None required.

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

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

Polly Toynbee, wrote in her article for the he Guardian, published Tuesday 13 May 2014: "In quality, Ofsted records slightly better ratings for local authority-run homes compared with private (the non-profit sector is very small), but the grim fact is that a third of all homes across all sectors are only rated "adequate",

As a service we are ambitious to achieve **Good** and **Outstanding** for the remaining two of our homes that have been judged as adequate.

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

- 5.1 Ofsted Inspection reports include legislative requirements (amended to meet new Minimum Standards, April 2011)
- 5.2 Record and capture information in relation to young peoples offending and anti-social behaviours.
- 5.3 They also report as to whether young peoples cultural and diversity needs are being met within their identified Care Plan

	Has the equality impact been assessed?	
	Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions) Not no	eeded
	No	
	Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached	
	Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA	
7	LIST OF DACKODOLIND DADEDS OTHER THAN BURLISHED W	SDIC

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.

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

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Polly Toynbee's article in the Guardian, published Tuesday 13 May 2014:





CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT

17th November 2014

CONTEXT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the most up to date performance overview in relation to Children in Care and to highlight results from April 2014 to September 2014. Future reports will be presented to the Board bi-annually.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

From 1st April 2014, a new set of performance measures and outcomes have been reported. These measures are in line with Statutory and Inspection requirements. Where appropriate both numbers and percentages have been given to help provide context.

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

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 14/15	Out-turn 13/14	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2	YTD	Raw numbers	Service commentary
CC-1 (E)	Number of children in care (as at) (rate per 10,000)	765 (92.9)	524 (83.2)/ To be monitored	584 (93)	581 (91.0)	576 (90.2)	584 (91.5)		584 (91.5)	588 (92.1)	597 (93.5)		597 (93.5)	587	There are 597 children accommodated, of which 219 are in mainstream care. There has been an increase of 5 mainstream carers since August, during the period July-September there has been an increase of 14 carers. The demand for children to be accommodated remains high, our CiC teams are working towards supporting children exiting care through close monitoring in exit planning meetings. 21 SGO's with plans to support those carers wishing to offer permanence to children looked after. As a part of the assessment process, foster carers are being asked if they are interested in foster to adopt (concurrent planning).
CC - 1a (E)	The number of children discharged as a result of a Permanent Outcome (SGO/Residence Order/Adoption Order)	72	75	85	8	13	2	23	12	4	12	28	51		There is a steady increase in the number of children exiting care as a result of a permanent outcome. To build on current performance the plan is to work with marketing on fostering to adopt as well as recruitment in BME and faith communities. In addition to this, we are undertaking activities to recruit highly skilled foster carers who are able to look after children with complex needs, without requiring addition specialist training. We will also upskill more of our carers through appropriate training so that they are able to offer care to children with complex needs.
CC-8 (NI62)	The percentage of Children in Care that have had three or more placement moves in the previous 12 months	11.1%	11.5%	13.0%				13.9%				12.7%		75 of 592	There has been a slight reduction in the number of children that have had three or more placement moves in the previous 12 months. This is can be attributed to training of foster carer, support and improved placement matching.
CC-9 (NI63)	The percentage of Children in Care who have lived in the same placement for at least 2 years	66%	66%	63%	65.5%	63.9%	63.7%		63.6%	65.5%	63.6%		63.6%	110 of 173	 Current YTD performance is 2.4% under target. Factors that impact on our performance remain complex and include: A continued effort to move children outside of Nottingham city back to within a 20 miles radius of Nottingham city centre when it is appropriate. Positive placement moves associated with the de-escalation of our must complex children in care i.e. the movement of children from placements offering intensive care packages to more mainstream placements. Positive placement moves associated with children moving into adoption placements and other permanency options. Positive placement moves associated with children moving back to their birth families for example connected persons. There is limited availability across all placement type which at restricts choice and matching sometime leads to a placement move. Moves which are part of the child's Care Plan, for example children moving from an assessment unit to a settled care bed within the same provider.

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 14/15	Out-turn 13/14	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2	YTD	Raw numbers	Service commentary
CC-10 (R)	The percentage of Children in Care reviewed within the appropriate timescale	Not published	97%	97.6%	98.6%	98.6%	97.7%	97.7%	97.3%	97.6%	97.5%	97.1%	97.5%	854 of 876	There has been a slight decrease in the number of children reviewed within the appropriate timescale; however YTD performance remains above target.
CC-11 (R)	The percentage of reviews where the child participated	Not published	90%	95.5%	94.5%	92.2%	91.7%	91.7%	91.1%	91.2%	90.9%	89.8%	90.9%	617 of 679	While YTD performance is above target a minor fall in performance has been experienced over the first two quarters. Work is underway to ensure Independent Reviewing Officers meet with all children prior to reviews as this offers a participation opportunity.
CC-12 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date health assessment	Not published	85%	71.8%	68.0%	74.4%	77.5%		79.5%	83.0%	83.2%		83.2%	432 of 519	As highlighted in the previous report, capacity issues within the Children in Care Heath Team had negatively impacted on performance. Increased capacity of doctors and nurses within our health team, as well as the continued Service Management oversight has led to the increase in performance anticipated. Although still underperforming in respect to the target set, the steady increase in performance demonstrated during Q1 and 2 is expected to continue.
CC-13 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with upto-date dental checks	Not published	90%	82.5%	81.3%	79.0%	80.8%		84.9%	88.4%	90.0%		90.0%	467 of 519	See commentary for CC-12 (E)
CC-14 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	Not published	85%	84.1%	80.9%	76.5%	76.7%		67.5%	67.1%	68.5%		68.5%	248 of 362	Factors that have contributed to the decline in performance Work is being undertaken to establish what can be done to reduce the negative impact of factors identified. Currently the escalation process is being reviewed.
CC-30 (R)	The percentage of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan started within the last 6 months.	Not published	97%	New measure from Sept 2014	93.0%	86.1%	78.4%		78.5%	78.5%	77.8%		77.8%	259 of 333	Young people who have ever had a Pathway Plan started Eligible 93.6%, Relevant 92.9%, Former Relevant 100%. (Total 97.2%) PWP started in last 6 months; Eligible 69.7%, Relevant is 84.6%, Former relevant is 82.1% (Total 77.8%) PWP completed and authorised; Eligible 45.4%, Relevant is 76.9%, Former Relevant is49.8% (total 49.2%) Action Plan underway with all teams to address authorisation of plans
Pac-31(R) Pace 24	The percentage of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan completed/authorised in the preceding 6 months	Not published	97%	New measure from Sept 2014		New mea	asure from	n Septemb	er 2014		49.2%		49.2%	164 of 333	See commentary for CC-30 (R)
CC-25 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP)	Not published	95%	93%	93.0%	93.0 %	96.0 %		92.0 %	No data from schools	95%		95%	296 of 313	Performance is on target. Current activity will be continued in order to maintain performance.
CL-1 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 19 years old	88.4%	90%	89.6%				88.9 %				86.7%	84.6%	22 of 26	Performance in this area has improved and is the focus of fortnightly scrutiny. There is a robust protocol is in place with Nottingham City Homes to prevent eviction and homelessness. Nottingham's performance compares well to our statistical neighbourhood group.
CL-2 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 20 years old	Not published	85%	83.3%				69.6 %				81.0%	79.1%	34 of 43	See commentary for CL-1 (R)

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 14/15	Out-turn 13/14	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2	YTD	Raw numbers	Service commentary
CL-3 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 21 years old	Not published	80%	77.0%				90.9%				100%	95.8%	23 of 24	See commentary for CL-1 (R)
CL-4 (R) Page 25	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 19 years old	55.1%	55%	45.5%				28.6%				60.0%	45.8%	11 of 24	Performance continues to be a challenge currently for Nottingham City. Apprenticeships, RISE Programme and a multi-agency focus group continue to work to improve the numbers of young people accessing training, employment and education. As stated in the previous performance report, work is planned with NCAS to look at work being undertaken nationally and locally to improve this area. There has been a drop due to a number of young people being pregnant or in custody, which we cannot count. It should be acknowledged that the current economic situation and youth unemployment is continues to have a negative impact on performance. In addition to this, it is not possible to establish the EET status of some our care leavers as they are no longer engaged with the Authority's leaving care service. This has an impact on the performance recorded. The increase YTD figures according to age can in part be attributed to our young people settle into independence and acknowledging the importance of entering EET. As a result, young people are reengaging with services that facilitate entering EET, as well as being more proactive and seeking out EET opportunities independently.
CL-5 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 20 years old	Not published	55%	31.8%				39.1%				57.1%	48.8%	21 of 43	See commentary for CL-5 (R)
CL-6 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 21 years old	Not published	55%	40.5%				72.7%				46.2%	58.3%	14 of 24	See commentary for CL-5 (R)

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Corporate Parenting Board Reporting Schedule 2014 - 2015

Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement (SPS))	Corporate Parenting Board
■ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Report	
■ Have Your Say 2013 Results Summary (3)	4 oth Ba
■ Performance Report (Q3 and Q4 2013/14)	19 th May 2014
■ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)	
Pathway Planning (3)	
■ Suitable Accommodation of Care Leavers (5)	
■ Looked After Child Review Participation (3)	21 st July 2014
■ Emotional Health (1)	
■ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)	
 Activity of the Employability, Education and Training Focus Group (4) 	
■ RISE Programme (4)	
■ Children in Care Placements – Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy	15 th September 2014
Advocacy and Independent Visitors (3)	2014
■ Children in Care Council (verbal Update)	
■ Educational Attainment of Children in Care (4)	
■ Children's Homes Ofsted Inspection Results	17 th November
■ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2014/15)	2014
Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)	
■ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update	
Adoption and Permanency (2)	
■ Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming (1)	19 th January 2015
■ Reducing Offending Behaviour (6)	
Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)	
■ Regulation 33 Visits	
Physical Health (1)	
■ Edge of Provision	16 th March 2015
■ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Progress Update	
Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)	

Tags

SPS 1: Health

SPS 2: Permanency SPS 3: Resilience and Independence

SPS 4: Educational Attainment

SPS 5: Suitable Accommodation

SPS 6: Offending Behaviour

