



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 23 May 2016

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

Corporate Director for Resilience

Governance Officer: Phil Wye **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764637

- 1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 4 MINUTES** 3 - 10
Last meeting held on 21 March 2016 (for confirmation)
- 5 REGULATION 44 VISITS NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL INTERNAL CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES INCLUDING SHORT BREAKS UNIT.** 11 - 16
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 6 ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY** 17 - 22
Report of the Director of Children's Social Care
- 7 PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q3 AND Q4 2016/17)** 23 - 24
- 8 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**
Verbal update

9 FORWARD PLAN

25 - 26

10 FUTURE MEETING DATES

18 July 2016
19 September 2016
21 November 2016
23 January 2017
20 March 2017

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 Loxley House, Nottingham on 21 March 2016
from 14.33 - 16.04**

Membership

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice Chair)
Councillor Liaqat Ali
Councillor Glyn Jenkins
Councillor Sue Johnson
Councillor Wendy Smith
Councillor Marcia Watson
Councillor Sam Webster

Absent

Councillor Jim Armstrong
Councillor Sally Longford

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Jeren Artykova	- Children in Care Council Representative
Mark Ball	- Edge of Care Manager
BB	- Foster Carer Representative
Clive Chambers	- Head of Service – Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Steve Comb	- Head of Children in Care
Dr Emma Fillmore	- Paediatrician, Children in Care Health Team
Gill Moy	- Nottingham City Homes
Jon Rea	- Engagement and Participation Officer
Kay Sutt	- Service Manager, Residential and Targeted Support
Kwesi Williams	- Project Officer, Children in Care
Malcolm Wilson	- Virtual School Headteacher
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sally Longford
Councillor Dave Liversidge
TM

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

48 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

49 ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE 2015

Malcolm Wilson, Virtual School Headteacher, introduced the report explaining the recent trends in educational attainment of Nottingham City Children in Care (CiC) by analysis of their performance at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Malcolm highlighted the following:

- (a) Key Stage 2 results are promising and have improved over the past 4 years. They are higher than the national average in reading, writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling, and maths;
- (b) Key Stage 4 results are not as encouraging as at Key Stage 2, with only 6% of CiC achieving 5 or more A*-C grades in their GCSEs, including English and Maths. This is lower than the national average. There has been a year on year decline in attainment, however this is mirrored nationally;
- (c) the Virtual School has offered £500 of additional Pupil Premium Plus funding to all schools with Key Stage 4 pupils who are at risk of not achieving their full potential in GCSE English and Maths. This offer has also been extended to all schools with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. The funding will be monitored to record its impact but improvement is already predicted for this year's Key Stage 4 results;
- (d) Letterbox Club, which provides mathematics materials and literacy resources, is purchased for CiC in years 1,3,5 and 7.

The following responses were given following questions from the Board:

- (e) the reasons as to why Key Stage 2 pupils perform better than Key Stage 4 pupils are complex, however one reason may be that younger children have a stronger relationship with teachers and key workers than those who become CiC at a later stage;
- (f) the Promoting the Achievement of Looked After Children (PALAC) programme applies to all schools, even those without CiC as they may have CiC in the future. It can also be helpful for children from other difficult backgrounds.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the recent trends and current levels of educational attainment for Nottingham City's Children in Care;**
- (2) note the proposed interventions to improve attainment and secure a narrowing of the gap between the performance of CiC and that of other pupils in the city schools, and between city CiC and our statistical neighbours;**
- (3) circulate additional information on the PALAC Programme to Board members.**

50 THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN CARE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY - NOTTINGHAM CITY

Dr Emma Fillmore, Consultant Community Paediatrician and previous Designated Doctor for Children in Care, presented the report and highlighted the following:

- (a) the Children in Care Health team includes doctors and nurses working with CiC across Nottingham City. There are service specifications and identified key performance indicators which are reported on quarterly to the commissioners for Nottingham City and annually through the annual report;
- (b) every child or young person has a health assessment carried out on entering the care of the Local Authority. This is carried out within 20 working days of entering care. Review assessments are then carried out twice a year for children under the age of 5 and annually for children over the age of 5 up to their 18th birthday;
- (c) the Medical Advisors for Adoption report on the health of prospective adopters following a health check from their GP, reporting on any health issues on the adopter's ability to parent a CiC;
- (d) the Designated Doctor and Nurse will offer expert advice and be involved in any dissemination of recommendations for a Serious Case Review;
- (e) from April 2015 care leavers due their last health assessment will be offered an Important Health Information Pack, providing information about their individual and family health history as appropriate. This was designed with CiC locally, with Children in Care Council being active participants in its design;
- (f) the Children in Care Health Team has successfully received accreditation and recognition of being young person friendly, meeting the Department of Health 'You're Welcome' quality criteria.

The following responses were given in answer to questions from the Board:

- (g) there has been an increase in the amount of adult health assessments carried out due to a number of factors. More adults are coming through as prospective adopters, and in the past not all adults had the assessment that they should have. It is statutory for prospective adopters to be assessed and good practice for special guardians and foster carers;
- (h) health information for care leavers is currently collected by the team, and will be reported to the Board in future reports.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the performance of the Children in Care and Adoption Health Team;**
- (2) acknowledge the need for the development of a Leaving Care/Transition nurse post within the health team;**

- (3) recommend that the additional city funding, provided by the City Commissioners is maintained to address performance issues around initial Health Assessment timescales.**

51 NCSCB MISSING REPORT

Clive Chambers, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, presented the report setting out the local arrangements in place to respond to children who go missing from home or care. Clive highlighted the following:

- (a) there is a difference between missing children and absent children. Absent children's whereabouts are known as opposed to missing children whose whereabouts are unknown;
- (b) the police will inform the council of all missing children they become aware of, as well as all those who have returned. When they return, a return interview is carried out which identifies the reasons for going missing and attempts to address these;
- (c) where a young person is identified as particularly vulnerable, a meeting will take place, chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer, to look at how best to support and protect them;
- (d) further work is planned to develop a system to analyse the information in return interviews to provide a more qualitative insight into the local profile of children who go missing.

The following answers were given in response to questions from the Board:

- (e) return interviews should be carried out within 72 hours of the child's return. Key names and locations are noted to make connections with other missing children. Further work is planned to develop this to be more systematic and to share information with the police;
- (f) at children's homes, conversations will still be had with staff and managers, as children will not always open up to strangers;
- (g) missing children are a potential indicator of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), however this may not always be the underlying issue.

RESOLVED to consider the work being carried out by Nottingham City Council in supporting children who go missing from care and from home.

52 EDGE OF CARE PROVISION

Mark Ball, Edge of Care Hub Manager, introduced the report providing an update on the work of the Edge of Care Hub, highlighting the following:

- (a) the Edge of Care Hub was established in 2013 to address concerns following rising numbers of CiC, with the objective of diverting children and young people

from care proceedings;

- (b) over 50 families have been referred to the Hub, with no families disengaging and 90% having been kept together avoiding children becoming CiC. 23 families now also have no further social care involvement;
- (c) the Hub works on a family's capacity to change, utilising innovative ideas to ensure long-lasting change;
- (d) although supporting families is the primary objective of the Hub, it also provided net budget relief of £427,520 from 1st April to 31st December 2015.

The Board congratulated the Edge of Care team on its success, and noted that it has contributed to a stable level of CiC in Nottingham compared to national levels.

RESOLVED to note the service being provided by the Edge of Care Hub and to acknowledge the benefits offered by its existence.

53 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL - 2015 HAVE YOUR SAY SURVEY RESULTS

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead, introduced the report summarising the findings of the 2015 Have Your Say survey of Children in Care and Foster Carers, highlighting the following:

- (a) the survey findings provide an insight into the views of CiC n Care and Foster Carers, and provide an opportunity to make their voices heard;
- (b) the survey forms part of the council's strategy for engagement as some CiC don't participate in other ways such as the Children in Care Council;
- (c) 128 usable returns were received from a total of 690 surveys sent out. This is a 19% success rate which is higher than the national average of just 4.3%. However, there is still ambition to increase this number. There is also an easier version of the survey available for children under 10;
- (d) the findings of the survey help to shape Children in Care Council meetings, which goes on to help council officers to shape services. The Children in Care Council rated progress against the commitments made by the Corporate Parenting Board in the Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter, using RAG (Red, Green, Amber) ratings.

Jeren Artykova from the Children in Care Council then presented the findings of the Children in Care Council, highlighting the following:

- (e) progress against two Charter Commitments was marked red. The Children in Care Council found that more needs to be done to ensure that CiC are aware of and have access to the advocacy and complaints service, and that consistency needs to be improved to reduce the amount of unnecessary change in CiC's lives;

- (f) progress against one Charter Commitment was marked red/amber. The Children in Care Council found that more needs to be done to ensure CiC and Care Leavers have the time and help to understand and be happy with their circumstances;
- (g) progress against three Charter Commitments was indicated amber. The Children in Care Council found that more needs to be done to ensure CiC are listened to, to involve them in planning for their care, to achieve in school and elsewhere, and to help to stay in touch with their birth family;
- (h) progress against all other priorities was indicated green or green/amber. The Children in Care Council found that CiC and Care Leavers are generally happy that they have the right place to live, home life is stable and safe, and they are generally treated with respect and receive support to facilitate transition into adulthood.

The following answers were provided in response to concerns of the Children in Care Council:

- (i) there is a current challenge with consistency of social workers due to a high turnover of staff and problems with retention of skilled staff. This has been a problem nationally as agency staff is paid more than Local Authority staff. Nottingham is trying to limit movement and commit staff to 3 years of work, setting an expectation of a minimum commitment. By June the CiC Service should be without agency staff;
- (j) regarding access to the advocacy service, some work needs to be done around the channels of communication used to promote this to CiC and Foster Carers. Advocacy is an important service as it provides CiC with somebody external to talk to. Communications may need modernising, with use of social media and investment into publicising this service, with carers as well as CiC.

Board members made the following comments in the conversation which followed:

- (k) the Children in Care Health team could help to signpost young people to advocacy services as they see most of them once a year;
- (l) although a change of social worker is not ideal for any CiC, some are more vulnerable than others and so consistency should be assured for these.

RESOLVED to

- (1) use the findings from the survey results to inform relevant service and corporate action and business plans;**
- (2) recognise the hard work done by the CiCC in the planning, delivery and analysis of the Have Your Say survey, and acknowledge their vital role in the co-production of services across children's social care;**
- (3) implement the findings of the 2015 Have Your Say survey as appropriate.**

54 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED to note the forward plan

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 23rd May 2016

Title of paper:	Regulation 44 Visits Nottingham city council internal children’s residential homes including short breaks unit. Quality assurance visits of non regulated internal semi-independent homes.	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman, Director – Children's Integrated Services helen.blackman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Kay Sutt, Service Manager, Residential and Targeted Support, 0115 8765667, kay.sutt@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	N/A	

Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:

Cutting unemployment by a quarter	<input 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):

Regulation 44 of The Children’s Home (England) Regulations) 2015 require monthly visits to be completed to all children’s homes and units run by a local authority or independent registered children’s home provider by a person referred to as a Regulation 44 Inspector not employed at the home nor directly responsible for it.

The Inspector must compile a written report of their findings, which must be submitted to the Registered Responsible provider and Ofsted within 4 weeks of completion of the visit.

The purpose of the regulation 44 visits is to ensure that all children and young people within the placement are being appropriately cared for and that their individual assessed needs are being met in line with their care plans and (England) Regulations and standards 2015.

This is achieved through a combination of:

- a) examination of all appropriate written records and reports with particular reference to daily logs, significant events and notifiable incidents including any complaints or compliments received. Before an inspector can read a child or young person’s file they must have written or verbal consent from the child or young person themselves. In the case of a child or young person with complex disabilities where communication is not possible, permission must be sought from parents/carers.

b) interviewing of children/young people, parents, relatives other professionals and staff as they feel necessary to establish the standard of care being provided.

The independent person must produce a report about a visit and form an opinion as to whether the children/young people are effectively safeguarded and the conduct of the home promotes children's wellbeing.

The independent persons report may recommend actions for the registered manager to take in order to improve the general running of the home.

Colleagues and other relevant professionals including those from Human Resources, Nottingham City Homes, Placements Service and our Internal Commissioning Team are included on the Rota managed by the Service Manager.

Before people are recruited onto the regulation 44 Rota, the Service Manager establishes if they have the relevant experience, skills and qualifications to be on the Rota. Once this is established they attend a training course to look in detail at the standards and regulations and the role they are expected to perform. They are also given advice on whom to contact and liaise with should they come across a serious safeguarding concern during the course of their inspection.

Independent members of the Rota have produced some very robust reports with recommendations on improving the service further, which have been taken on board and acted upon by managers and staff teams. Currently all of our internal residential homes are rated by Ofsted as either Good or Outstanding.

Some of the recent recommendations made by Quality Assurance Inspectors for improvements to the semi-independent homes are as follows:

Staff Signing sheet should be updated yearly re H&S Fire Log Book.

Conversations with parents need to be recorded on Castle/Care first. This does not seem to be happening. Managers to discuss this in team meetings and supervision.

Minor (non Health and Safety) repairs to semi-independent homes were needed.

Check and update YP risk assessments – particularly NB with info regarding partner visiting. The garden to the side of the property would benefit from the grass/plants cutting back to enhance the look of the property from the outside.

For private providers of semi-independent accommodation for Nottingham city care leavers our internal placement service carries out quality assurance and compliance visits.

Recommendation(s):

1	To support continued involvement and recruitment of relevant independent professionals undertaking Regulation 44 visits and to welcome members' involvement in quality assurance visits of unregulated semi-independent homes for care leavers.
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1.1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the nature of the provision, it is imperative that the service is scrutinised independently to ensure it is delivering cost-effective services and improving outcomes for children and young people in care. People carrying out Regulation 44 and quality assurance visits on our children's homes, short breaks unit and semi-independent homes can make recommendations to improve practice as well as ensuring that 2015 regulations and standards are being adhered to. Thus ensuring that children and young people are effectively safeguarded and that the homes are managed in a way that promotes their well being.

In the last three months Regulation 44 Inspectors have identified recent performance issues such as:

- Manual training folder needing to be archived now that electronic database is implemented, to avoid duplication/inconsistency;
- Update Safeguarding Children's Procedures (see detail within report) in hard file and ensure that all staff sign their confirmation that they have been read and understood;
- Staff to check items taken to and from contact;
- Ensure all residents know about their PEP and what it contains;
- Training Records – The front sheet of non-mandatory individual training records need to be updated to show training that has been attended;
- Ensure all copies of Regulation 45's are available to view as paper copies in the homes file.

Each Inspector formulates an Action Plan which is completed by the Registered Manager or Senior Duty Officer and checked by the Inspector on the next visit. Recommendations/Action plans have continued to be varied due to having a good mix of Inspectors who are from different professional backgrounds which has continued to serve to improve how each of the homes operate.

Ofsted look closely at regulation 44 reports and use the content during their inspections to check that action plans have been addressed by the Registered Manager and staff team. Ofsted continue to be rigorous with their Ofsted ratings. Last April saw the launch of the new standards and regulations which aim to further drive and support improvement and raise expectations by setting even higher standards of performance and effectiveness of children's homes as well as provide a sharp challenge and incentive to act where improvement is needed.

Currently Nottingham City Council runs 7 registered homes which include a short breaks unit. Ofsted have rated all of our homes as either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

The Reports continue to describe Homes as pleasant, clean, well maintained and nicely decorated with a very homely feel.

Staff in the homes are described by the Inspectors as extremely warm, welcoming, caring and going the extra mile for the children and young people they work with.

Regulation 44 Inspectors and Quality Assurance Inspectors, as part of their role, contact parents/carers, relatives and social workers for their views on the care their child is

receiving from the home, semi-independent unit or short breaks unit. Those contacted on the whole are very complimentary about the care young people receive.

Young people too are very complimentary about the care and support they receive in the homes with very few complaints. Young people generally feel well supported by the staff. Often young people say they don't want to ever leave the children's homes or Units. Some children and young people say that although they like living in the homes and units their hearts are set on returning back home to their parents/carers. They are also aware of how to make a complaint should they not be happy about anything and have access to an independent advocate.

Managers receive regular supervision and Operational Management meetings take place on a monthly basis with Development days taking place quarterly where any current issues or relevant themes/ongoing issues are raised and discussed. The management team within residential have a vision for the next 12 months and beyond for both their individual homes and the Residential Service as a whole. As a team they are united in their strong and passionate vision to further raise the standards of care they offer to the city's most vulnerable children and young people.

Each home has an individual policy on steps to take to prevent young people from going missing in the first place in line with the children's homes amended Regulations which came into force in January 2014.

Young people's access to education and employment is improving all of which is recorded in the Regulation 44 Reports. All of the children and young people in our semi-independent, short term and long term homes are offered relevant education packages and support with getting into work or further education. The challenge for the staff teams is one of motivating young people, as many have not been in school or education for a long time before coming into the care of the local authority. Staff work very hard to stress to young people the importance and value of education and work very closely with the Virtual Head and his team to look at tailored packages for young people to enable them to transition into school or an alternative provision. The staff have high aspirations for the children and young people and achievements are celebrated as a matter of high priority. Each year the City Council holds an awards ceremony in which most of our children and young people attend and receive certificates of achievement.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

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:

There are now 13 settled beds in 5 Children's Homes including a 4 bed home for children and young people with complex disabilities, 4 Emergency beds and an increase from 16 to 18 Semi-Independence beds within the last year throughout the city.

Our Short Breaks Unit continues to offer 11 beds for children and young people with disabilities.

Regulation visits and quality assurance visits are an important quality assurance process and also serve as a safeguarding measure for children in care and care leavers. They are able to inform practice and performance and ensure young people have access to someone independent, should they need to complain or disclose information about the care and service they are receiving.

Regulation 44 visits are also a legislative requirement and completed reports are sent to Ofsted on a monthly basis. Reports will also be sent to the social worker or to the team manager of a child who lives in the home.

Quality assurance reports are sent to the Service Manager, Service Head and the managers of the semi-independent homes to aid scrutiny for further development and improvements.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None Required.

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

The re-configuration of Children’s Residential continues to be cost effective for the City Council. Internal beds remain cost effective currently in line with 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/ college and within the city they have grown up in and are familiar with.

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

Regulation 44 reports include legislative requirements (amended to meet new regulations and Standards, April 2015)

Record and capture information in relation to young people’s offending and anti-social behaviours.

They also report as to whether young people’s cultural and diversity needs are being met within their identified Care Plan.

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

N/A

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

N/A

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Title of paper:	Adoption & Permanency April 2015 – March 2016	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director of Children’s Social Care	Wards affected: ALL
Report author(s) and contact details:	Sonia Cain, Service Manager Fostering & Adoption, Sonia.cain@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Kwesi Williams (Project Officer – Children in Care), 0115 8762684, kwesi.williams@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Adoption Service	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
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>The report provides an overview of the child permanency performance of the Local Authority and the number of children placed for Adoption and Special Guardianship. We continue to be challenged by the impact of Re:BS judgement and the judicial scrutiny of adoption plans in the Courts.</p> <p>There has been a significant reduction in the numbers of children nationally being placed for adoption and a corresponding increase in Special Guardianship Orders. The City however went against the trend and in the year 2014–2015 - 70 children were adopted, and 2015–2016 - 47 children were adopted.</p> <p>The national review of Special Guardianship Orders was concluded earlier this year and came into effect on the 29 February 2016. As a result there is now a clear expectation that the assessment of prospective special guardians is thorough and demonstrates the carer’s ability to parent the child not only in the present, but also into adulthood.</p> <p>The Government have directed that Local Authorities and Voluntary Agencies nationally, should come together and form Regional Adoption Agencies: by 2020 there should be RAA in operation. Work has commenced within the East Midlands to establish the East Midlands Regional Adoption</p>		

Agency. We are one of 9 Local Authorities and 3 Voluntary Adoption Agencies that have commenced working to form the EMRAA. It is expected that collaboratively working together as a region in the area of Adopter Recruitment, Training, Home finding and Post Order Support will improve the recruitment timescale of Adopters. It will also improve outcomes for children and minimise adoption delays.

Recommendation(s):

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board notes the performance to date in Adoption and Special Guardianship and the activities being undertaken to minimise delays. |
| 2. | It is recommended that the Adoption and Permanency Report is presented to the Corporate Parenting Board in May in future as this will enable the Adoption Leadership Board data to be considered for the previous year and provide accurate data for the year end to be collated. |

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is important that members of the Corporate Parenting Board are kept informed of the activities being undertaken to achieve permanency for those who the Board have corporate parental responsibility for. It is also imperative that the Board is given the opportunity to comment on current activity.
- 1.2 The report also makes reference to the actions relating to Strategic Priority Statement (SPS) two of the 'Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2014 – 2016: Valuing the future of our Children in Care and Care Leavers' and provides a brief update on progress made against these actions – see section 2.19.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Nottingham City continues to make adoption plans for a significant number of children in its care. Many of these children have complex medical conditions, a number of the children are part of sibling groups or children with disabilities, or have birth parents with complex histories. Adoption plans are made knowing that many of these children are considered 'hard to place' but with a strong belief that if children cannot live with their birth family, adoption will provide the permanency and the security they need to achieve positive outcomes.
- 2.2 The Adoption Scorecard (introduced in 2012) allows local authorities and other adoption agencies to monitor their own performance and compare it with that of others at critical points in the child's journey towards adoption.
- 2.3 The government continue to incrementally reduce the timescale by which children should be adopted year on year.
- 2.4 Successfully placing more complex children can negatively affect our timeliness as the complexity of these cases brings more days to our scorecard pro-rata.

2.5 The service continues to function from have a stable base and is moving forward to establish standards and provide a robust service to both children and adopters. Three separate teams have been established within the Fostering and Adoption Services, these are;

- Fostering
- Adoption
- Post Order

Adoption Data from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

2.6 In Nottingham City currently there are 91 children with adoptions plans:-

- 62 Children's Best Interests Decision for adoption have been made
- 47 Children with Placement Orders
- 43 children Matched with adopters
- Nottingham City is supporting 288 children by means of a Special Guardianship Allowance's and this is going to increase over time.

2.7 There have been 47 children adopted during the last financial year. This is a decrease on our performance in 2014/15 where we achieved 70 adoptions for the whole year, but a number of these adoptions were made in the first quarter, the children having been placed during the previous reporting year and the Orders being granted in 2014/15. The reduction in projected numbers of children being placed for adoption reflects a national trend, whereby the increasing use of Special Guardianship Orders and Court decision making has had a negative impact on the plans for adoption.

2.8 There are 47 children with placement orders:-

- 4 matched waiting for ADM
- 10 booked into Panel for their match
- 2 children placed with foster to adopt carers
- 5 Placement Orders granted in the last 3 months.
- A sibling group of 2 children have been waiting over 11 months

2.9 There are 11 children whose plans for adoption are to be rescinded which are currently underway through the Courts.

2.10 The Authority is currently home finding for 25 children. Data relating to this activity are presented as followed;

Gender

14 of these children are male

11 of these children are female

Age

Under 1 x 2

Aged 1 x 5

Aged 2 x 4

Aged 3 x 1

Aged 5 x 3

Aged 6 x 4

Aged 7 x 4

Aged 8 x 2

Ethnicity

White British x 9

Black African x 2

White British/Black Caribbean x 12

Serbian x 1

Gypsy/Roma x 1

Sibling Groups

Single children x 12

Sibling group of 2 x 5

Sibling group of 3 x 1

For children who we are unable to place with our internal adopters, we make use of our Interagency Adoption budget, however a year ago the Government announced that they are providing funding for hard to place children, sibling groups, children with disabilities and BME so that Nottingham can reclaim any inter-agency fees paid this year to place children with other agency adopters.

2.12 Recruitment

We currently have 36 adopters who are in the process of being assessed, but the challenge which we share with a number of local authorities is to recruit enough adopters to match the complexity of the children with whom we would wish to place. We have close links with neighbouring authorities as a member of the East Midlands Adoption Consortium and regularly share profiles in relation to adopters who are waiting and children with adoption plans. Along with other Adoption Agencies we are finding that adopters are waiting longer for placements as the number of children with a plan for adoption dwindles. We have therefore refreshed the Adoption Recruitment Strategy to

target our recruitment activity to older and hard to place children and as a result we are aligning ourselves with other local authority neighbours, by not accepting applications from those interested solely in a child under the age of 2 years.

2.13 Adoption Support Fund

The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) was established and went live in April 2015 for an initial one year period. The adoption support fund is a government initiative aimed at offering support to adoptive families by enabling them to access bespoke therapeutic support for the adoptive child and their family. In January of this year the government announced that funding for the ASF would continue, for the next 4 years. From April 2015 to March 2016 Nottingham City have made 19 successful applications, which equates to a total fund of £172,346. More importantly it has been welcomed by adoptive families who are now able to access the correct type of support as and when needed. The success of the fund prompted the government to state that the ASF would be extended to support children from the point of being placed for adoption.

Additionally, the fund has been extended to support children being cared for under Special Guardianship Orders.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

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

4.1 As stated earlier Special Guardianship Orders are increasingly being applied for and it is clear that this will have significant impact on the service, as they do attract additional cost in the form of allowances, which we are obligated to pay until the child reaches adulthood (18). There is potential that statutory responsibilities are likely to impact the Post Order service as the role out of the Support Fund to Special Guardianship will undoubtedly require resourcing.

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

5.1 None

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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.

Up dated 05.05.2016

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT
MAY 2016
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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 October 2015 to March 2016. Performance commentaries have been provided by the service.

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 15/16	Out-turn 14/15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Q3	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Q4	YTD	Raw numbers	Service commentary
Page 23 CC-1 (E)	Number of children in care (as at) (rate per 10,000)	797.3 (96.3)	575 (90)	578 (89.7)	592 (91.1)	595 (91.6)	589 (90.6)		579 (89.1)	587 (90.3)	588 (90.5)		588 (90.5)		Demand for Social Care services remains high with a significant number of requests for children to become Looked After in Q4, High quality support interventions with identified families are supporting some of our children on the edge of care to remain at home with their families. Exit planning continues to be a focus. Performance re CiC per 10,000 population has improved in this quarter against the average of our statistical neighbours at 90 per 10,000 population compared to 96 per 10,000 in statistical neighbours. The monthly looked after children analysis meeting provides further focus of our looked after children cohort, in terms of exit planning and monitoring. Our weekly placement panel also continues to examine all purchased placements; we have reduced high cost external residential placements by nine over the financial year.
CC - 1a (E)	The number of children discharged as a result of a Permanent Outcome (SGO/Child Arrangement Order/Adoption Order)	100.5	75	116	7	11	6	24	6	6	6	18	86		The discharge target for 2015/16 has been surpassed. While this should be regarded as a success for corporate parents, our year end figure represents a decline on our previous year performance, which was a record high for the Authority. We also recognise that timeliness in completing adoptions remains a challenge. This is in part due to the complexity of our adoption cases. Over 60% of our adopted children are defined as hard to place by Department for Education criteria.
CC-8 (NI62)	The percentage of Children in Care that have had three or more placement moves in the previous 12 months	10.3%	11.1%	10.5%				11.8%				12.9%		76 of 591	We are disappointed that we have been unable to meet this target; however the lack of availability of placements does mean that some children and young people are placed in the first instance on a place of safety basis whilst best matches are found. It is also worth noting that carers both in fostering and residential settings are less likely to try and manage very challenging behaviours in the early stages of a placement, when referral requests being made for placements are at an historical high.
CC-9 (NI63)	The percentage of Children in Care who have lived in the same placement for at least 2 years	67.2%	66%	64%	69.1%	72.4%	70.3%		69.2%	69.8%	70.0%		70.0%	126 of 180	This is a positive outcome that has surpassed our target and the achievement of our statistical neighbours; we will continue to work with carers and providers to sustain long term placements for our children and young people.
CC-10 (R)	The percentage of Children in Care reviewed within the appropriate timescale	Not published	97%	98%	99.0%	98.9%	98.8%	98.7%	98.3%	98.4%	98.4%	97.4%	98.4%	1776 of 1805	Performance in 2015/16 has been maintained at the previous level. This is a consequence of ongoing scrutiny and a committed, flexible approach from Independent Reviewing Officers, other key staff, e.g. social workers/team managers, residential care staff and foster carers.
CC-11 (R)	The percentage of reviews where the child participated	Not published	90%	94%	95.2%	95.2%	95.5%	98.3%	95.9%	96.7%	96.6%	98.1%	96.6%	1380 of 1429	Performance is above target which is reflective of the ongoing embedded practice to actively engage children and young people in their reviews. Whilst 100% is always the target, young people can exercise choice by actively avoiding or refusing to participate at times. This is in a small number of occasions and does not change practice to encourage participation.
CC-12 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date health assessment	Not published	90%	85.9%	81.3%	81.7%	76.2%		73.5%	75.0%	76.9%		76.9%	405 of 527	Performance has dipped after we improved the number of assessments undertaken in October 2015 to 81.3%. The Children In Care Service since October has experienced significant issues in establishing robust Business support capacity and process to ensure assessments are booked in a timely way which is impacting on performance. This has been raised with Head of Business Support as an ongoing issue

CC-13 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with up-to-date dental checks	Not published	90%	76.5%	81.3%	77.6%	74.9%		71.1%	67.9%	80.1%		80.1%	422 of 527	Performance dipped following issues regarding Business support capacity and turnover of social workers from November 2015 to a significant dip in February 2016. A concerted drive from staff has led to a significant improvement in March 2016. Work is being undertaken to ensure robust consistent processes are put in place to improve performance.	
CC-14 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	Not published	90%	70.8%	59.5%	54.7%	53.9%		54.6%	58.5%	65.3%		65.3%	267 of 409	Dedicated support to the SDQ process was moved to the generic Business support within the teams which due to capacity was not driven appropriately which led to a significant dip in performance. Dedicated Business support has now been re established which has led to a rise in performance. Meetings are now established to look at children's emotional well being and data is available to ensure we capture those young people with high scores and ensure appropriate intervention is in place. Profiling Meetings also continue to take place to look at those young people presenting complex challenges.	
CC-31(R)	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%	62.9%	76.4%	78.3%	58.8%		87.4%	86.1%	80.8%		80.8%	261 of 323	Performance is below our tough annual target but a significant improvement on the previous year's outturn of over 17%. The team is focussed on meeting this important target in the new financial year and monitoring systems have been improved accordingly. Performance regarding the percentage of applicable young people with a Pathway Plan started in the last six months is good, with a figure of 94.7%.	
CC-25 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP)	Not published	95%	95%	89%	92%	90%		95%	95%	95%		95%	354 of 373	Target achieved the Virtual School Head, the governing body and the Virtual School PEP co-ordinator continue to hold regular meetings with the Children in Care management team to discuss the PEP completion rate and identify where they are incomplete. Under the latest Department for Education conditions of offer, the Virtual School Head will expect all schools to demonstrate how they will use the new Pupil Premium funding to close the gap for all LAC pupils. One-to-one tuition for pupils in Year 6 and Year 11 will continue, with an increased focus on analysis of impact. The Virtual School Head continues to drive PEPs and we are confident that we will continue to make progress towards all children having their PEP.	
CC-29 (R)	The percentage of placements that are over 20 miles from Nottingham	11.6%	15%	16%				16.7%					17.4%	17.4%	95 of 547	We continue to work with placement providers to develop local solutions to the challenge of finding appropriate local placements for our children and young people. Whilst as a Council we have managed to keep the numbers entering our care stable, numbers entering care nationally and regionally have increased against record numbers recorded last year. This has resulted in significant pressure in finding placements within 20 miles of our boundary. We continue to focus on recruiting local foster carers for our children, and working with providers to develop capacity in the residential sector locally.
CL-7 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (17-21 years old)	81.1%	80%	80%				87.7%					86.4%	89.6%	242 of 270	Positive performance 10% above target, and above stat neighbours, The focus on preparing our young people for independence continues. Challenges in the wider housing market do impact on availability of suitable homes for our young people but our strong links with Nottingham City Homes help in reducing the challenges. Our performance is very positive against target and statistical neighbour.
CL-8 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training (17-21 years old)	48.8%	55%	50%				65.8%					64.2%	65.9%	178 of 270	The Q4 outturn achievement of 66% exceeds the target and is a testament to the efforts of staff. However, I do think we need to challenge ourselves more with the target and consider increasing it by 5% to 60% to illustrate more aspiration for our young people, as we move forwards in this financial year.



Corporate Parenting Board Reporting Schedule: Forward Planner 2016 - 2017

Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement)	Report Lead	Draft Report submitted for Advice	Draft Report Submitted for Departmental Sign-off	Draft Report Submitted to Constitutional Services	Chair's Briefing	Final Report Submitted to Constitutional Services	Corporate Parenting Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality Assurance Visits of Regulated and Non-regulated Residential Provision ▪ Adoption and Permanency (2) ▪ Performance Report (Q3 and Q4 2015/16) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kay Sutt ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Steve Comb ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	25 th April 2016	29 th April 2016	4 th May 2016	10 th May 2016	11 th May 2016	23 rd May 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report (3) ▪ Pathway Planning (3) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention ▪ Report Forward Planner (Verbal Update) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Sharon Clarke ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Cllr Mellen 	6 th June 2016	13 th June 2016	20 th June 2016	27 th June 2016	6 th July 2016	18 th July 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care Leavers Annual Report (4)(5) ▪ Emotional Health (1) ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review ▪ Advocacy and Independent Visitor Annual Report ▪ Complaints Service Report ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharon Clarke ▪ Anna Masding ▪ Steve Comb ▪ Valarie Marshal ▪ Patrick Skeet ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	10 th August 2016	17 th August 2016	24 th August 2016	31 st August 2016	7 th September 2016	19 th September 2016

Page 25

Agenda Item 9

Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement)	Report Lead	Draft Report submitted for Advice	Draft Report Submitted for Departmental Sign-off	Draft Report Submitted to Constitutional Services	Chair's Briefing	Final Report Submitted to Constitutional Services	Corporate Patenting Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statement of Purpose Fostering Service and Adoption Agency ▪ Children in Care Placements ▪ Adoption and Permanency (2) ▪ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2016/17) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Anne Partington ▪ Sonia Cain, Sharon Clarke ▪ Steve Comb ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	12 th October 2016	19 th October 2016	26 th October 2016	2 nd November 2016	9 th November 2016	21 st November 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update ▪ Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming (1) ▪ Reducing Offending Behaviour (6) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Caroline Riley ▪ Sam Flint, Bob Uden ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	14 th December 2016	21 st December 2016	28 th December 2016	4 th January 2017	11 th January 2017	23 rd January 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational Attainment of Children in Care (4) ▪ Physical Health (1) ▪ NCSCB Missings Update Report ▪ Edge of Care Provision ▪ Children in Care Council: Have your Say 2016 ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Malcolm Wilson ▪ Kathryn Higgins ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Kay Sutt ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	8 th February 2017	15 th February 2017	22 nd February 2017	1 st March 2017	8 th March 2017	20 th March 2017

- **SPS 1: Health**
- **SPS 2: Permanency**
- **SPS 3: Resilience and Independence**
- **SPS 4: Educational Attainment**
- **SPS 5: Suitable Accommodation**
- **SPS 6: Offending Behaviour**

ATTENTION: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO REPORT SUBMISSION

All* reports scheduled to be presented to the Board must be produced and submitted through the corporate report management system – see link to access the system and for guidance

<http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/index.aspx?articleid=10263>.

When submitting the report for advice, you will be prompted to select reviewers. The following reviewers should be selected;

- **Steve Comb**
- **Clive Chambers**
- **Kwesi Williams**

When submitting the report for departmental sign-off, you will be prompted to select reviewers. The following reviewer should be selected;

- **Helen Blackman**

(* This only applies to reports produced by local authority staff. External partner should continue to submit reports via email to kwesi.williams@nottinghamcity.gov.uk no later than 10.00am on the date stated.)

Please note that additional reports may be added to the schedule by request of the Chair or other Board Members. Reports are also subject to schedule changes.

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