



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 10 October 2016

Time: 2.30 pm

Place: LB 31 - 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 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 3 MINUTES** 3 - 8
Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 July 2016 (for confirmation)
- 4 CARE LEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT** 9 - 16
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 5 IMPROVING AND ACHIEVING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH
OUTCOMES FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY'S CHILDREN IN CARE** 17 - 28
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 6 CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2016 – 2017
(ONE YEAR REFRESH)** 29 - 74
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 7 CHILDREN IN CARE SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS REPORT** 75 - 80
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 8 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**
Verbal update

9	NYAS ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITOR (IV) SERVICE Report of the Director of Children’s Integrated Services	81 - 88
10	FORWARD PLAN	89 - 92
11	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC To consider excluding the public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining item(s) in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	
12	NYAS ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITOR (IV) SERVICE - EXEMPT APPENDIX	93 - 98

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 22 July 2016
from 14.35 - 15.57**

Membership

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Liaqat Ali
Councillor Sally Longford
Councillor Sam Webster

Absent

Councillor Jim Armstrong
Councillor Glyn Jenkins
Councillor Sue Johnson
Councillor Ginny Klein
Councillor Wendy Smith
Councillor Marcia Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Sonia Cain	- Service Manager – Fostering and Adoption
Clive Chambers	- Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Sharon Clarke	- Service Manager – Children in Care
Steve Comb	- Head of Children in Care
Sarah Fielding	- Director of Education
Dino Labbate	- Registered Manager, Children’s Residential
Gill Moy	- Director of Housing, Nottingham City Homes
Marcel Reid	- Registered Manager, Children’s Residential
Jordan Whatman	- Project Officer, Children in Care
Phil Wye	- Constitutional Services Officer

11 MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED to note the appointment of Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora as a substitute member of the Corporate Parenting Board

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Jim Armstrong – personal reasons
Councillor Sue Johnson – leave
Councillor Marcia Watson – personal reasons
Councillor Wendy Smith - other council business

Helen Blackman
TM
Valerie Marshall
Jon Rea

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

15 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

Clive Chambers, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, introduced the report which summarises the work of the Independent Reviewing Service during the course of 2015-2016. Clive highlighted the following:

- (a) the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is to provide external oversight, challenge and scrutiny to local practice in child protection, fostering and children in care;
- (b) there has been a significant increase in the number of children subject to Protection Plans, with the highest category being for emotional abuse. The small number of plans for sexual abuse reflects the position nationally;
- (c) on 31st March 2016 there were 589 children and young people in care of Nottingham City, the majority of whom were placed within 20 miles of Nottingham. There were slightly more boys than girls with the majority being from a white British background;
- (d) there were 156 causes for concern in Q1-Q3 of 2015/16. These included insufficient engagement with children and their families, failing to progress contact arrangements, work not being progressed and completed in a timely way, and care plans not being submitted in advance of meetings. This is a relatively small number of concerns and shows a healthy system;
- (e) contact between children in care and their family is an increasing challenge due to social media and the internet;
- (f) moving forward, the council will maximise the opportunities for children and young people to contribute to plans and meetings about them, support the implementation of a new case recording system and ensure that this meets the needs of the wider service area, work with the Child Sexual Exploitation Coordinator to provide information and intelligence to further strengthen the local response to sexual exploitation, and refine the Causes for Concern process and the Efficacy Framework;
- (g) there have been a number of government documents published recently about children's social care with interesting implications on the council and the IROs. A feature of some of these is a focus on partnership arrangements for delivering services for children.

RESOLVED to note the activity of the Independent Reviewing Service over the 2015-2016 financial year.

16 PATHWAY PLANNING

Sharon Clarke, Service Manager, Children in Care and Leaving Care Service, introduced the report, which includes the current issues in relation to the legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council, in respect of those children eligible for a Pathway Plan. Sharon highlighted the following:

- (a) new government guidance, entitled 'Keep on Caring' will be looking at how the government may implement laws regarding corporate parenting to care leavers;
- (b) the council has a duty to ensure that all Pathway Plans are robust so it has implemented a new E-Pathway Plan to ensure plans are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely;
- (c) Pathway Plans do support young people from the ages of 15 -25, up to 25 if in full time education. All care leavers should have all their important documents available in case they need them. There is also a transitional social worker to assess as to whether they are eligible for adult services;
- (d) the percentage of applicable young people with a Pathway Plan started during the last quarter is 91.6%, which is below the target of 97% but this is improving;

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (e) all young people in care have a right to stay in care post-18 and there is a government grant for this. There are about 19 young people currently doing this, mostly in semi-independent provision. If a young person remains in foster care they will have a clear contract and are paid an allowance. The carer and young person negotiate their contribution;
- (f) the set maximum age for a young person to remain staying out is 21 but some young people may leave before this;
- (g) young people should be encouraged to save up money whilst they remain in care in order to afford accommodation when they leave care.

RESOLVED to continue to support and understand the required duties of Corporate Parents, in relation to Pathway Planning for children in care and care leavers.

17 FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Sonia Cain, Service Manager – Fostering and Adoption, introduced the report addressing strategies for the recruitment and retention performance of the Fostering Service, and the activities undertaken by the Service to recruit and support Foster Carers. Sonia highlighted the following:

- (a) nationally there is a shortage of foster carers with 9000 required each year to meet demand and a child coming into care every 20 minutes. In Nottingham there are a range of activities and promotional materials to help recruit them, and it was part of the labour group's manifesto to increase the number by 20%;
- (b) the council aims to place the majority of children in care into foster care because it mirrors a family setting. It is better if they are placed with in-house foster carers as they tend to live locally, so support services can work with them more easily;
- (c) the recruitment strategy includes advertising on the council website, monthly information sessions, promotion at local events and local markets. This is supported by two dedicated customer services officers;
- (d) research commissioned by Nottingham Trent University has shown that one of the best sources for recruitment is from existing foster carers promoting to their own family and friends. The council has therefore set up a scheme where existing foster carers can refer a friend and receive a financial incentive;
- (e) there is also a retention strategy for existing foster carers, which involves experienced social workers regularly visiting and looking at training and development needs. There are also support groups in Bulwell, Clifton and Lenton and a 6-weekly business meeting. Last year foster carers received GEM awards for the first time;
- (f) a number of foster carers are lost each year due to a variety of reasons such as retirement or significant changes in circumstances;
- (g) the council does also make use of independent fostering agencies where in-house foster carers are not available. There is significant cost to this so it is avoided where possible;

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (h) independent fostering agencies also have problems to recruit and retain foster carers;
- (i) big poster campaigns do help to keep the idea of fostering in the public eye, as many don't make an instant decision and come to the decision to become a foster carer over a longer period;
- (j) other cities in the East Midlands experience the same problems with recruitment as Nottingham. Rural areas tend to find it easier to recruit;
- (k) as well as general campaigns, recruitment is targeted where feasible to sectors such as health, the police and local schools. Other targets suggested by the Board included Neighbourhood Development Officers, Teaching Assistants and Head Teachers through the relevant networks. The council could also advertise at Nottinghamshire events outside the city boundary;
- (l) the fostering team is small and further marketing needs the wider council and local councillors to promote fostering through their networks.

RESOLVED to note the recruitment and retention performance of the Fostering Service, and the activities undertaken by the Service to recruit and support Foster Carers.

18 UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN

Steve Comb, Head of Children in Care, gave a verbal update on the dispersal process for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and its impact on Nottingham, highlighting the following:

- (a) there is likely to be an increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) in Nottingham. At the moment Nottingham's position has not gone through the formal approval process and Nottingham won't be engaging with the process until this has happened;
- (b) in the last two years, Nottingham has increased its number of UASCs from 9 to 19 children. They may be required to take an additional 30-40 who will all have the rights of a child in care so Nottingham must ensure that it has the resources to cope with this increase;

Board members suggested placing UASCs with foster carers from refugee communities, however this would be difficult to approve due to their legal statuses and health checks.

19 VIRTUAL SCHOOL (VIRTUAL HEAD CHANGE)

Sarah Fielding, Director of Education, informed the Board that she has replaced Malcolm Wilson as Virtual School Head. An operational lead to support Sarah is currently being recruited.

20 RESIDENTIAL SERVICES UPDATE

Dino Labbatte and Marcel Reid, Registered Managers of Children's Residential Homes updated the Board on children's residential services in Nottingham, highlighting the following:

- (a) all of the 7 homes in the city received a good or outstanding in their Ofsted inspections last year. There are regulatory visits twice a year as well as internal inspections;
- (b) there may be changes and recommendations for children's residential as a result of the Narey report commissioned in October 2015;
- (c) outcomes for children have improved with the introduction of smaller homes. They are more homely and make it easier for positive relationships to develop between children and staff, and the negative behaviour associated with the larger children's homes have now been largely eradicated;
- (d) the introduction of a home specifically for emergency care has helped to stop children from leaving the city and not returning;

Councillor Mellen recently visited a children's residential home and extended an invitation for other Board members to do the same.

21 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED to note the forward plan

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – SEPTEMBER 2016

Title of paper:	Care Leavers Annual Report	
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:	<p>Sharon Clarke, Service Manager, Children in Care and Leaving Care Service sharon.clarke@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8765032</p> <p>Lynn Pearce, Team Manager, Leaving Care Service lynn.pearce@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8762464</p> <p>Alan Monaghan, Senior Personal Advisor, Leaving Care Service alan.monaghan@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8762508</p>	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Tina Thurley, Principal Analyst, Analysis and Insight tina.thurley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8764846	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report outlines the work undertaken and progress made by the Leaving Care Service since the Ofsted Inspection in March 2014. It is the Annual Report on the Service, to update the Board on services provided to young people transitioning from care into adulthood.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board continues to support and understand the duties required by the Leaving Care Service.	
2	The Board needs to be aware that in the recent Government document ‘Keep On Caring – Supporting Young People from Care to Independence’ (July 2016), it is intended to implement a legal framework setting out for the first time what it means to be a good Corporate Parent.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Nottingham City Council has a duty to provide services to those young people defined as Care Leavers under the Statutory Guidance; The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations; Volume 3, Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers, The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

1.2 Research and practice shows that young people who have been looked after will have the best chance to succeed as adults if those providing transitional care and support take the following principles into account:

- Is this good enough for my child?
- Provide a second chance if things do not go as expected.
- Is the support package tailored to a young person's individual needs?

These are the principles which Nottingham City Council's Leaving Care Service uses to underpin the service they deliver to our Care Leavers. The Service endeavours to ensure each young person is provided with a service that is tailored to meet a young person's needs, which is reviewed to ensure their transition into adulthood is successful.

1.3 The Leaving Care Service provides services to those young people as defined under the Act as Eligible, Relevant or Former Relevant. Recent amendments to the Guidance also determine that services must be provided to persons qualifying for Advice/Assistance.

- Eligible young people are those young people currently looked after and have been looked after for a period of 13 weeks or periods amounting to a total of 13 weeks which began after age 14 and ended on reaching 16.
- Relevant young people are those young people who are:
 - o Not looked after.
 - o Aged 16/17 and before this, ceased to be looked after as an eligible child.

This includes those young people (16/17) who were detained/secured or detained under the Mental Health Act in hospital and had been looked after for a period or periods amounting to 13 weeks after reaching age 14.

Regulation 3 (of 9.1) also states that a child who has lived continuously for six months or more with a parent/carer whom the child now ceases to live with be treated as a Relevant child.

- Persons qualifying for Advice/Assistance are defined as persons aged between 16 and 21, whereby a Special Guardianship Order was in force.

1.4 Nottingham City Council has a duty to provide and sustain young people defined as Care Leavers with suitable accommodation. The Act defines suitable accommodation as the following:

- That which is reasonably practical and suitable for the young person with regards to their needs.
- That which the responsible Authority finds satisfactory with regards to the character and suitability of the landlord/provider.
- Accommodation that complies with Health and Safety legislation.

- That which takes into account young people's views, training, education and employment needs.

The Act also places a duty on the Council to take steps as far as is reasonably practical, to identify sufficient accommodation within its area to meet the needs of Care Leavers.

Current performance with regards to Care Leavers and suitable accommodation continues to be good. The only issue affecting performance is that the Department of Education will not accept custody as suitable. Performance currently stands at 90.5%. Nottingham City Council exceeds its target, and is in line with comparative neighbourhood cities. The figure is dependent on the cohort of young people within the OC3 data return, with regards to the number of young people in custody.

- 1.5 The Placement Service commissions accommodation from private providers for semi-independent living and Nottingham City Council also has a range of semi-independent provisions within its residential estate. We do therefore provide a range of accommodation which reflects the diverse needs of its Care Leavers. This includes:
 - Enabling young people to remain in the accommodation in which they lived whilst in care i.e. staying put.
 - Foyers – supported housing.
 - Small group homes.
 - Independent accommodation with support.
 - Shared accommodation with/without support.
- 1.6 As the majority of young people approach their 18th birthday, they will be working towards gaining their own tenancy. The Leaving Care Service works closely with Nottingham City Homes (NCH) who are extremely supportive of Care Leavers. There is a robust housing protocol in place which enables Care Leavers to be a priority for housing, with the aim being to ensure our young people are provided with good, safe, quality accommodation.
- 1.7 Personal Advisors work closely with NCH Housing Patch managers to ensure young people are provided with the necessary support to sustain their own tenancies. NCH will share information if young people are struggling and there may be a risk to their tenancies. NCH provides support to young people regarding finances and this is well accessed by young people. They have also provided apprenticeships to Care Leavers.
- 1.8 There remains a national focus on young people 'Staying Put'. The Leaving Care Service has recently reviewed its policy and financial arrangements to make a complicated system easier for carers/young people to understand. The number of young people 'Staying Put' pertains to those in foster placements, residential homes (if appropriately registered) and within our residential semi-independent estate.

This allows young people to stay in placement post-18 if they wish to, if assessed as not yet ready for their own tenancy, particularly vulnerable or in appeal with respect to their immigration status. This includes a dedicated Personal Advisor to help those young people exiting residential care.

We currently have 19 young people 'Staying Put' which is a significant increase since the Ofsted Inspection.

- 1.9 Making the transition to adulthood can be difficult for children in care, but one that can also help young people assert their own identity. The Leaving Care Service provides support to enable young people to choose how they furnish their own homes by providing a 'Setting Up Home' grant to ensure they have appropriate equipment and household items. This is assessed on an individual basis so that resources are allocated appropriately.
- 1.10 The Leaving Care Service has embedded the use of the 'Life Skills Booklet'. This tool helps to identify gaps in independent skills, so that appropriate support can be put in place.
- 1.11 The Leaving Care Service employs a qualified Social Worker, whose role it is to identify those young people who would qualify for Adult Services. The Transitions Worker has proved very beneficial in ensuring that our most vulnerable Care Leavers access the appropriate Adult Services in a timely manner, and if they are not eligible, identifying support such young people may require.
- 1.12 The Leaving Care Service is required to review Pathway Plans and support Care Leavers as they make their transition to adulthood, which is irrespective of other services provided i.e. if they are disabled, in custody or an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC). The Act required Pathway Plans be implemented and reviewed for all Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant young people.
- 1.13 Each young person's Pathway Plan sets out the actions to be undertaken by the Local Authority, young person, their Carers and the full range of Agencies so each young person is provided with the services they need.

The Leaving Care Service, following the Ofsted Inspection, reviewed its Pathway Plan and has changed the format to produce a plan which is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely which incorporates the wishes and feelings of young people. Performance with regards to Pathway Plans for Care Leavers is monitored closely and a monthly report is issued. The figure, as of 1st June, for Pathway Plans completed or authorised in the last 6 months is 81.3%.

- 1.14 All young people eligible for a Pathway Plan must be allocated a Personal Advisor (P.A.). These are not necessarily qualified Workers but must possess the necessary skills and expertise to work with Care Leavers. Regulation 8 (of 9.1) sets out the function of a P.A. This includes providing information, support in relation to finances, housing, health, education, training and employment. They are the key professionals for co-ordinating Care Leaver support. They remain allocated to a young person until they are 21 or 25, if in full time education. P.A.s are required to visit young people statutorily every 8 weeks.

The Leaving Care Service has recently been reconfigured to have a Team Manager, Senior Personal Advisor and 10 Personal Advisors.

- 1.15 The Leaving Care Service recognise that the number of young people engaged in training, education and employment is crucial in ensuring young people succeed in transitioning successfully into adulthood.

Previously, RISE (Routes Into Sustainable Employment) was commissioned to provide opportunities for young people, however both Nottingham City Council and Ofsted recognised this as a poor investment in terms of outcomes and the contract ceased in April 2015.

The Service is piloting an EET P.A. role for a year. The role of this P.A. is to work alongside Personal Advisors, EET Providers, voluntary organisations, Futures and internal Departments to work with young people to ensure they are engaged with education, training or employment.

The EET P.A. will offer ASDAN qualifications, timetables and opportunities based on young people's needs, particularly those young people who are further disadvantaged regarding opportunities such as young mothers, young people coming out of custody and those young people who struggle emotionally.

The EET P.A. will also work closely with the Youth Offending Team to share resources, learning and practice. Signs show that this has been highly successful amongst some of our more disengaged young people, exemplified by EET figures currently standing at 50.7% as of 1st June.

The Nottingham Labour Manifesto 2015 includes the following pledge: 'It will offer permanent jobs or apprenticeships within the City Council to at least 10% of care leavers and encourage further employment opportunities for them across the city'.

- 1.16 The Leaving Care Service has an excellent relationship with Futures. There are three dedicated Futures workers who are considered part of the Team. They attend team meetings to ensure that the learning/training pathways of young people are captured, and work closely with the dedicated P.A. for employability, education and training.
- 1.17 The Leaving Care Service is working hard to ensure the participation of Care Leavers in delivering appropriate services.

A new Care Leavers group known as 'Your Voice' has been formed. They meet as a group to look at issues which affect them and have the opportunity to feedback about their experiences as Care Leavers. Strong liaison occurs with the Children in Care Council and members of the group feedback regularly to Corporate Members on issues which they themselves have identified.

Also a new 'Your Voice' questionnaire has been devised to gain feedback from as many Care Leavers as possible to gain their views about the Service, and how this could be improved. This survey will also feed into the annual 'Have Your Say Survey' which also captures Care Leaver's views.

- 1.18 Care Leavers are entitled to have full medical information as they leave care and this is now a Government requirement. The Health Passport (known as Important Health Information following consultation with Care Leavers) has been implemented. There have been issues in these being produced in a timely way, but the Leaving Care Service is working closely with the Looked After Medical team to improve performance. Currently 40 Care Leavers have a Health Passport, 3 Care Leavers have refused to engage and all other Care Leavers have up to date information regarding their last LAC medical.

The Service recognises the importance of ensuring young people have their necessary health information, and monthly meetings are now being held to ensure this is monitored closely.

It is also recognised that Care Leaver's emotional well-being needs must be included in their health information. Research clearly shows that loneliness/social isolation is a clear factor in determining a young person's well-being, and that children in the care system do not often engage with services offered prior to leaving care. As part of the E.E.T. P.A. role, we are now incorporating a counselling service.

- 1.19 The Leaving Care Service is responsible for safeguarding Care Leavers. They work closely with the Children in Care Police Officer, YOT, Police, Probation and other relevant agencies to ensure that if there are concerns, then the relevant support is implemented to mitigate against further risk.
- 1.20 The Leaving Care Service were also successful in bids for piloting counselling & coaching sessions to support NEET care leavers into EET, for a Care Leavers open/transitions day, for Care Leavers to design and refurbish their duty room at Isabella Street and for incentivising and rewarding care leavers with access to physical activity opportunities for engaging in EET.
- 1.21 The Nottingham City Council Leaving Care Service is an active member of the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF). There are now over 85 Authority Members from across the country within the forum, meeting to discuss best practice and policy updates.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Board has a corporate duty to understand and promote the services that Nottingham City Council has to undertake legally to promote the outcomes and opportunities of its Care-Leavers.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 None.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 None.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Not needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes



Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 The Children Act, 1989; Guidance and Regulations, Volume 3, Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.

9.2 The Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000.

9.3 Children and Young Persons Act, 2008.

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

Title of paper:	Improving and Achieving Good Mental Health Outcomes for Nottingham City's Children in Care	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children's Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Anna Masding – Service Manager, CAMHS anna.masding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Aileen Wilson - Head of Early Help Services aileen.wilson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Viv McCrossen - Interim Team Manager, CLA viv.mccrossen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAMHS CLA Team to ensure the mental health and emotional wellbeing needs of CIC are integral to their health plan and the review process. • The CAMHS CLA Team to deliver support and training to CIC networks to improve the resilience of children and young people and the stability of their placements. 		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To implement the CAMHS transformation plan in line with Future In Mind to ensure appropriate and timely access to support: to include the integration of all CIC CAMHS referrals into the Single Point of Access (SPA), the implementation of The Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA), and the completion of Routine Outcome Measures (ROMs) to measure the effectiveness of the support provided.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The CAMHS CLA Team is jointly funded by Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The service provision is co-managed and delivered by Nottingham City's Children's Integrated Services Directorate and the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust. Performance oversight is provided by the CAMHS Executive Committee.

The CAMHS CLA Team has received positive written and verbal feedback from previous CQC and Ofsted inspections. To continue to improve services to children, young people and their families, the governance, structure and practice of this Team have been jointly reviewed over the past 6 months. The Team Manager job description has been amended to strengthen the management arrangements and recruitment to this post is now underway.

There is now a Nottinghamshire CAMHS transformation plan and a countywide Lead has been appointed. Progress against the plan is monitored by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) via the CAMHS Executive Board.

In line with the recommendations from the Future In Mind Report (Appendix 1), the aims of the plan are to:

- Promote resilience, prevention and early intervention
- Improve access to effective support – a system without tiers
- Provide care for the most vulnerable
- Ensure accountability and transparency
- Develop the workforce to deliver the aims

1.2 Key drivers of the Transformation Plan

Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA)

The Choice and Partnership Approach is an evidence based model that is well embedded in the community (Tier 2) CAMHS Teams via the Single Point of Access (SPA). The CAMHS CLA Team is in the process of transferring referrals to the SPA and CAPA process to ensure access to the appropriate support and treatment at the right time.

Routine Outcome Measures:

ROMs are designed to ensure that we are helping children and young people as effectively as possible and offer the opportunity to tell us how they feel they are progressing, what they are happy about and what they are not. By completing a strengths and difficulties questionnaire, children and young people can see the progress they are making in their therapy sessions and have more control by helping them to decide what to work on and goals to set.

It covers elements such as:

- How they are feeling
- What difficulties they are having
- What help do they need
- How well they think their therapy is going

- How well their therapist is doing

There are a range of measures, including the strengths and difficulties questionnaire, which may be used depending on the type of support or therapy being offered. The Team are also using a model of 'no story without data.' which means both qualitative and quantitative information is used to evidence the improvement in a child or young person's emotional wellbeing. The initial target is 65% compliance for ROM completion by 31st March 2017 where children and young people choose to complete the measures.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The last report to the Corporate Parenting Board was presented in July 2014. The CAMHS CIC Team was established in 2000, and provides a specialist service to support and maintain the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people who are looked after by Nottingham City Council.
- 2.2 The Multi-Disciplinary Team offers support and intervention based on a consultation model, to support the professional network to better meet the child or young person's emotional and mental health needs. Consultation provides a reflective space and expertise in relation to the individual emotional and mental health needs.
- 2.3 Direct therapeutic work can also be offered to those children, young people and Carers, assessed via the consultation process as able to benefit from this type of provision.
- 2.4 The Children Looked After Team is a Multi-Disciplinary Team comprising both Health and Social Care professionals supported by a full-time Business Support Officer and a full-time Team Manager.

<u>Job title</u>	<u>Number of sessions available per week</u>
Team Co-ordinator	10
Consultant Psychiatrist	10
Clinical Psychologist	3
Clinical Psychologist	6
Specialist Nurse	3
Clinical Mental Health Specialist	10
Specialist Social Worker	10
Specialist Social Worker	10
Specialist Social Worker	10
Clinical Mental Health Specialist	8
Specialist Social Worker	6
Specialist Social Worker	6
Art Psychotherapist	5

2.5 CAMHS CLA performance April 2015 to March 2016

During this performance year, there were 166 new referrals and 153 discharges. The average number of cases held over the year is 202. 1555 network consultation sessions were provided to the network of the child or young person. 753 direct work

sessions were delivered. The split between consultation and direct work sessions was 66% to 34%.

The direct work sessions delivered were:

Theraplay & Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy	50.5%
Art Therapy	12.0%
Other therapy*	37.5%

(*includes other play based approaches, cognitive behaviour therapy, counselling)

Appendix 2 demonstrated performance against the previous performance year.

2.6 **Foster Carer Group Work Training**

The Clinical Psychologist delivers a 10 week training programme to Foster Carers to develop an understanding of attachment, broaden the Carers' skills and knowledge of caring for young people with difficult early attachments, and offer practical ways of therapeutically re-parenting and supporting looked after children and young people. The programme was delivered to 3 groups over the year. Since 2014, 71 Foster Carers have attended. On completion of the course, Foster Carers have reported greater confidence in and skills to manage the presenting challenges. They also felt the young people in their care were responding more positively to their attempts to help them.

2.7 **Responsiveness to need**

The Team will provide a session to the majority of referrals within 4 to 8 weeks of the referral being made. Weekly acute slots enable cases, which need a more urgent response, to be assessed within 1 to 2 weeks.

Dr Pallab Majumder, the Consultant Psychiatrist, offers support to CIC, who are open to the Team and require further assessment following concerns in relation to deterioration in their mental health.

The wider CAMHS operates on-call services for crisis intervention which also includes children and young people who have recently come into care and are not open to the Team. In such instances CIC CAMHS would offer a follow-up appointment within no more than 2 weeks of the child or young person's initial mental health assessment.

The Team also provides onsite support to internal residential homes. There are 2 Workers allocated to each home. Support through consultations is given to residential staff within the home with regards to understanding and managing behaviours in relation to emotional and mental health difficulties.

The Assessment Homes and semi-independent accommodation are visited on a fortnightly basis whilst Small Group Homes are visited monthly or more frequently if there is a need.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The transformation plan is a statutory requirement.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 Tariff model and Traded Services

Over the past 12 months, the pilot work with cases where children are living in Nottingham City but placed by other Local Authorities has been placed 'on hold' due to a lack of capacity. There is an expectation within the Future in Mind Transformation plan that the Team have sufficient capacity to cover these requests for support. There is national tariff guidance to support this and out of city placements. The move to CAPA and ROMs will improve the prioritisation of capacity allocation.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 None.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

6.1 None.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Not needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes



Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

8.1 PH28 Looked After Children and Young People National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) October 2010 last modified April 2013.

- 8.2 Best Practice Guidance Standard 9: The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People. National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services Department of Health, Oct 2004.
- 8.3 The Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children published November 2009, (Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health).
- 8.4 Future in Mind NHS England Publication Gateway Ref. No 02939.
- 8.5 Nhs England Who Pays? Determining responsibility for payments to providers 2013.
- 8.6 Department of Health Who Pays? Establishing the responsible commissioner. September 2007.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

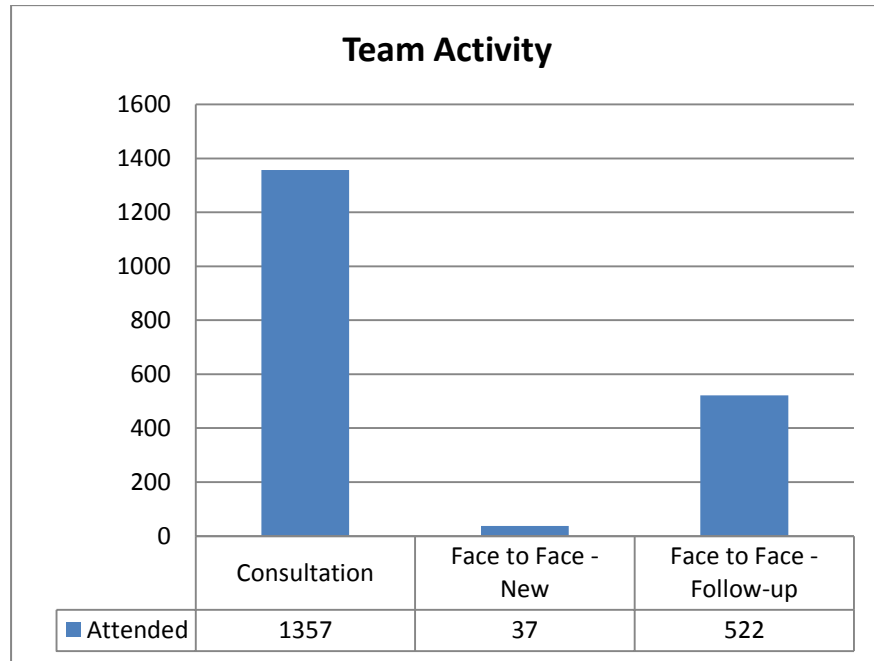
- 9.1 None.

Appendix 2

Nottingham City CAMHS Children Looked After Team

Key Team Statistics 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

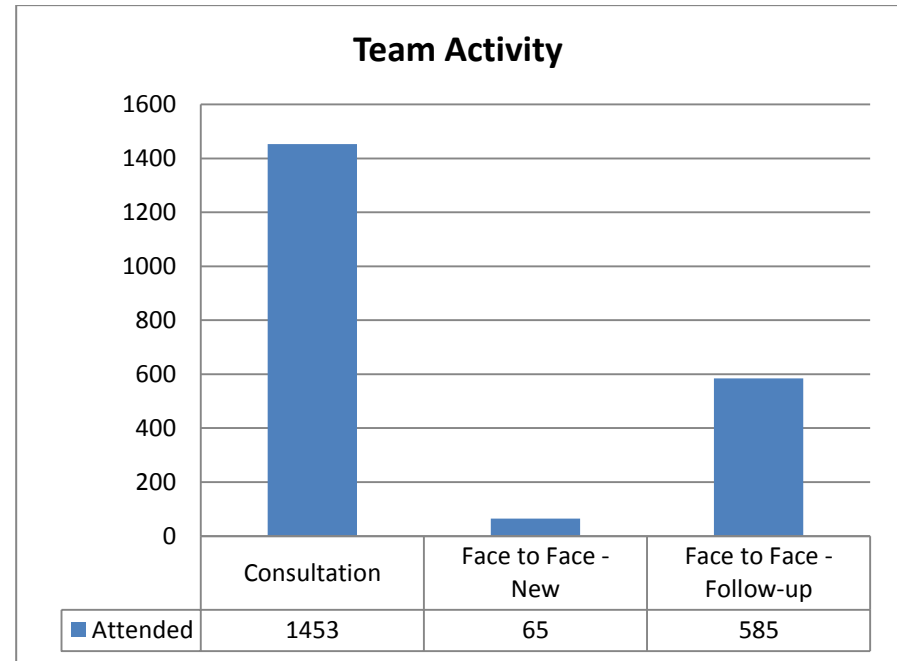
Key team statistics



Nottingham City CAMHS Children Looked After Team

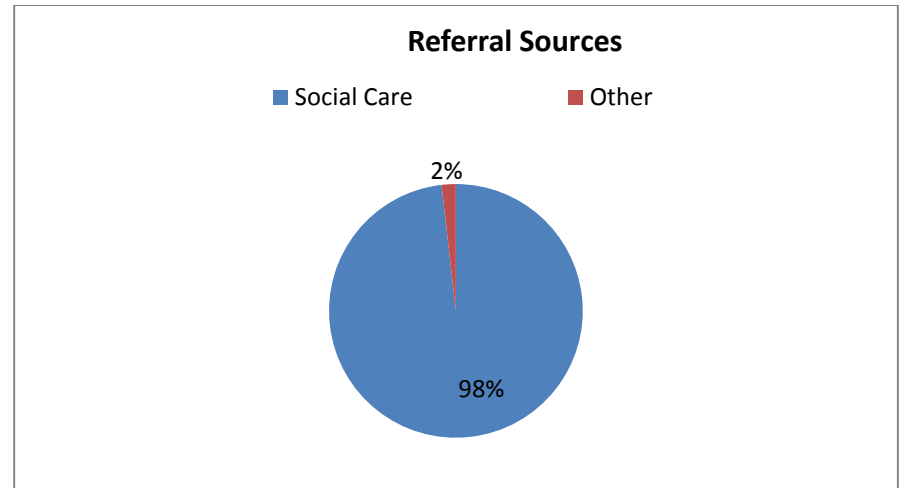
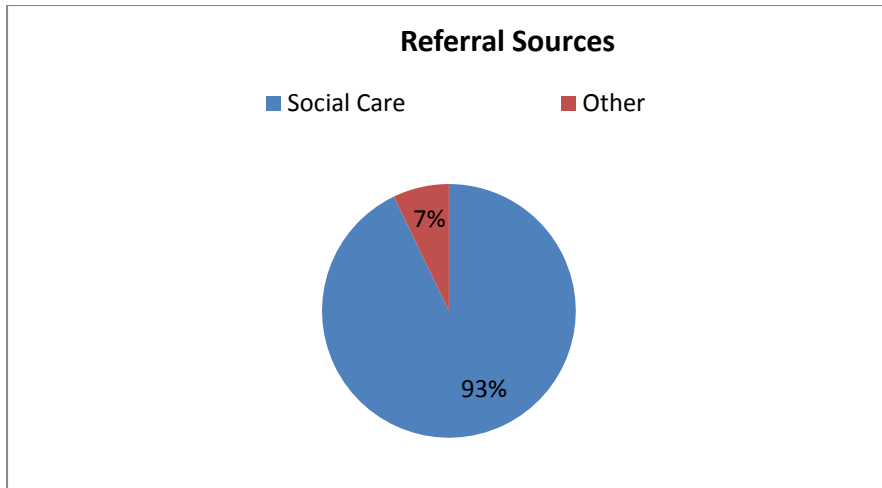
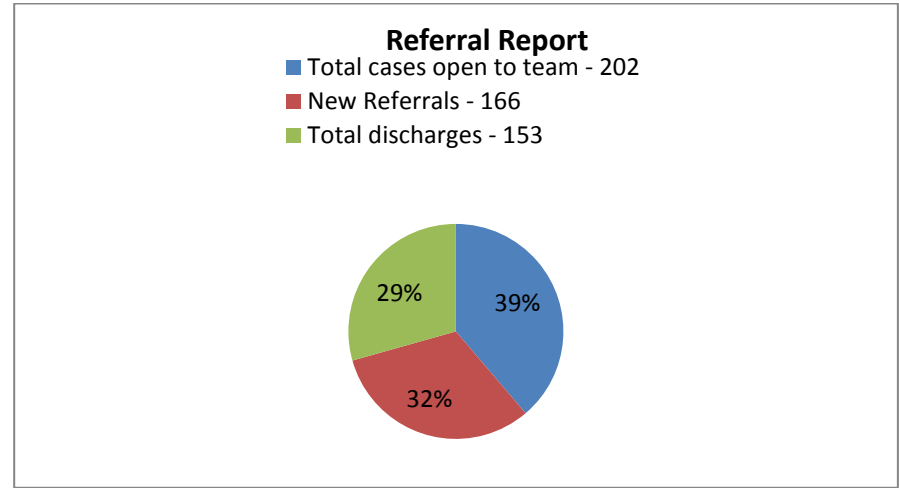
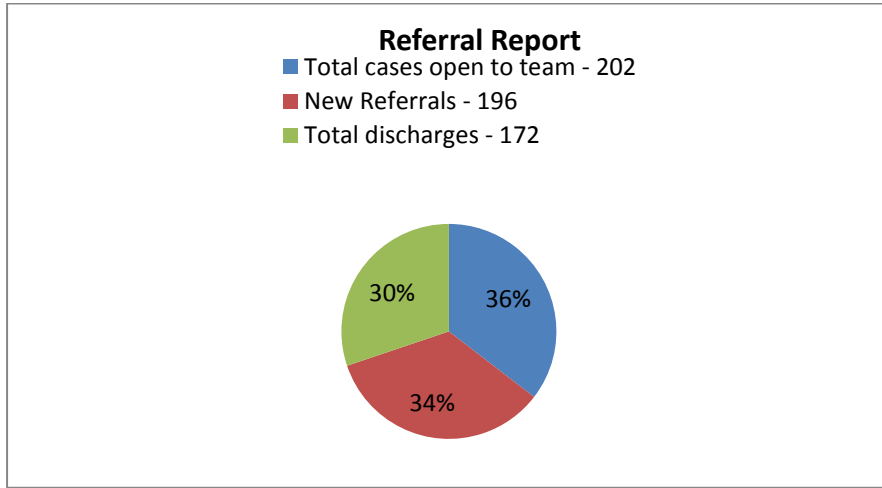
Key Team Statistics 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

Key team statistics

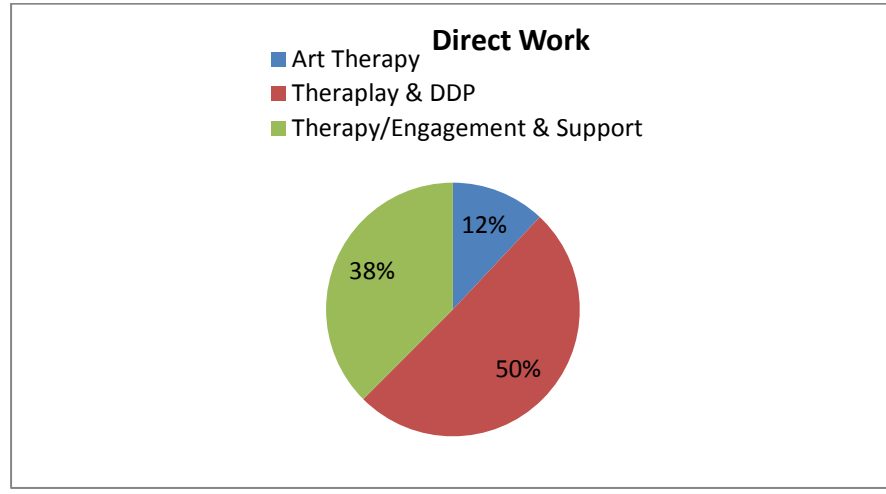


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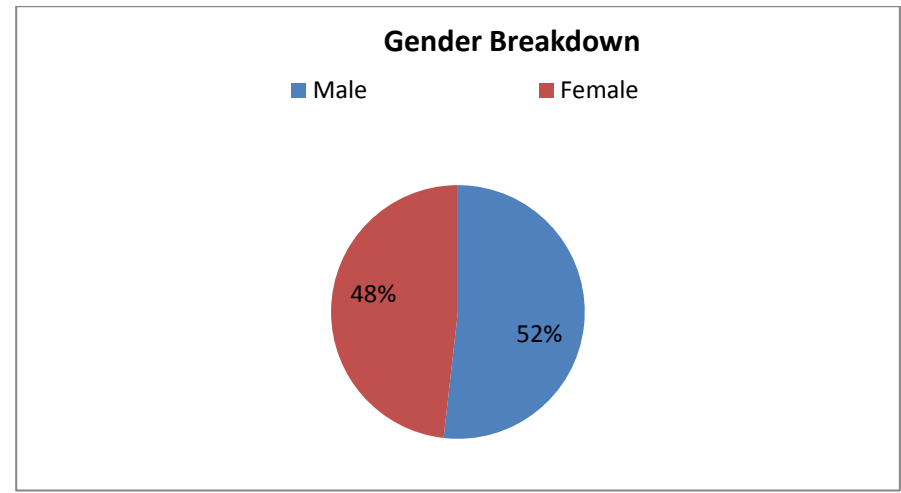
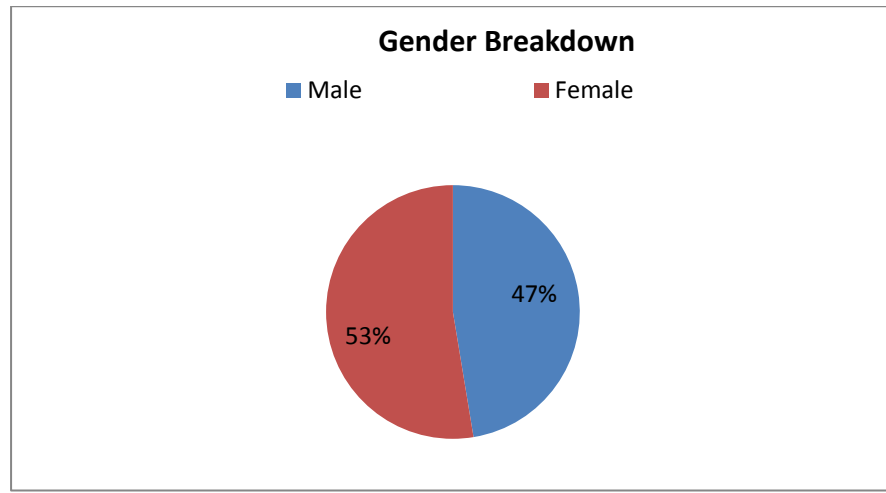
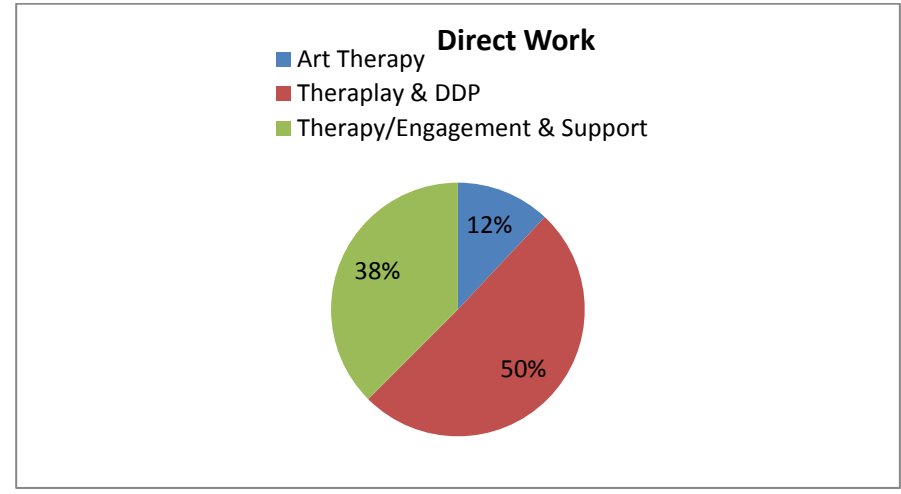
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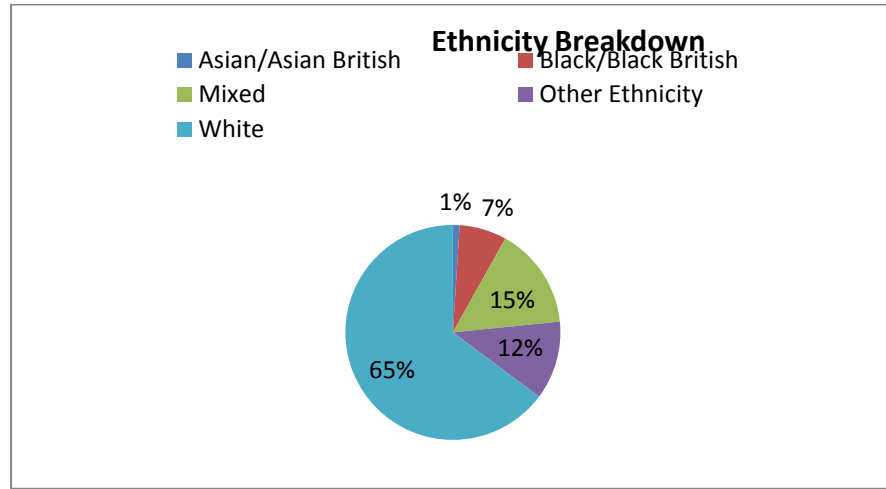
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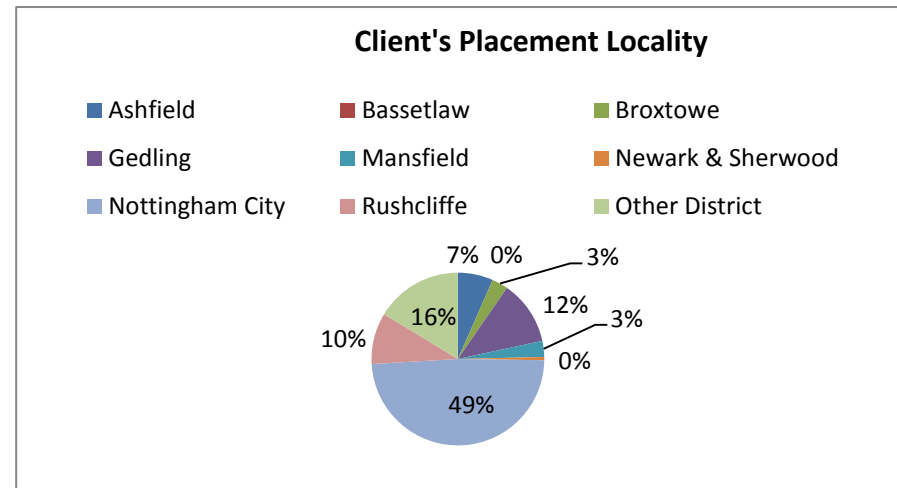
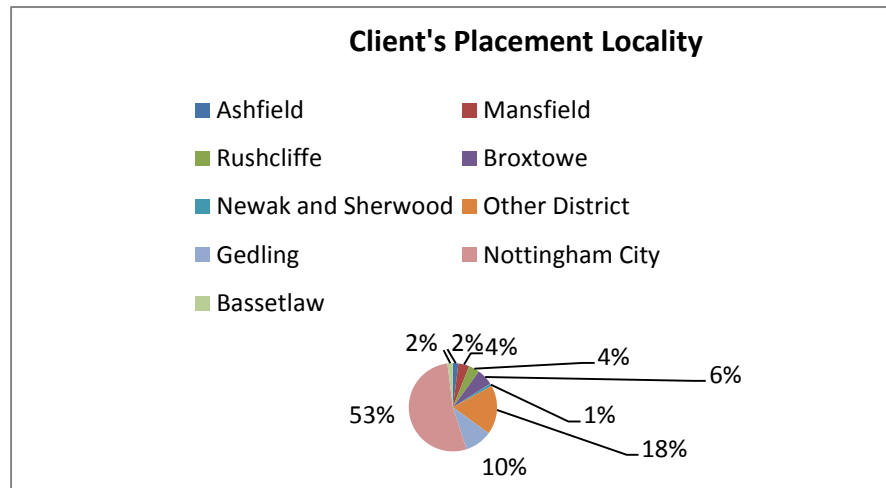
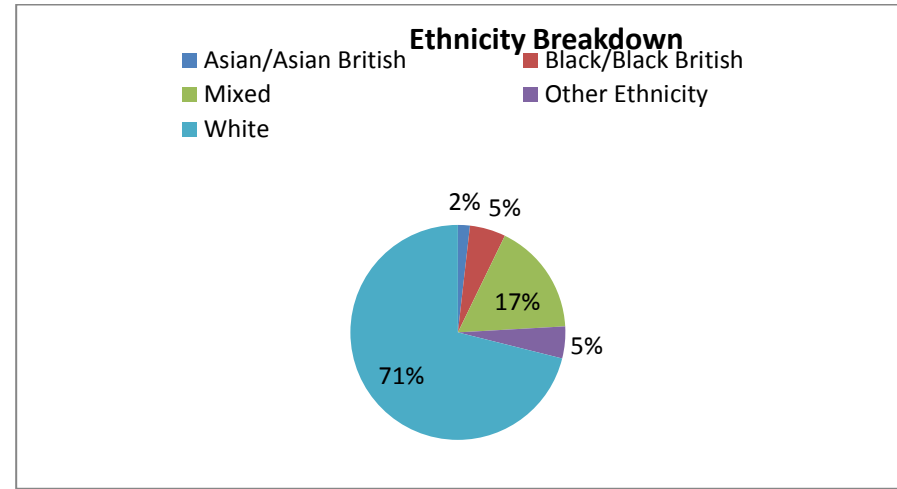
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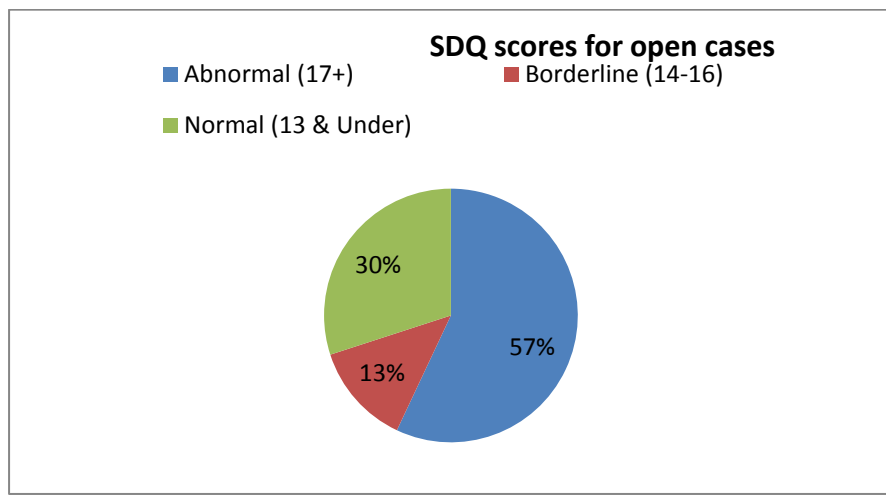
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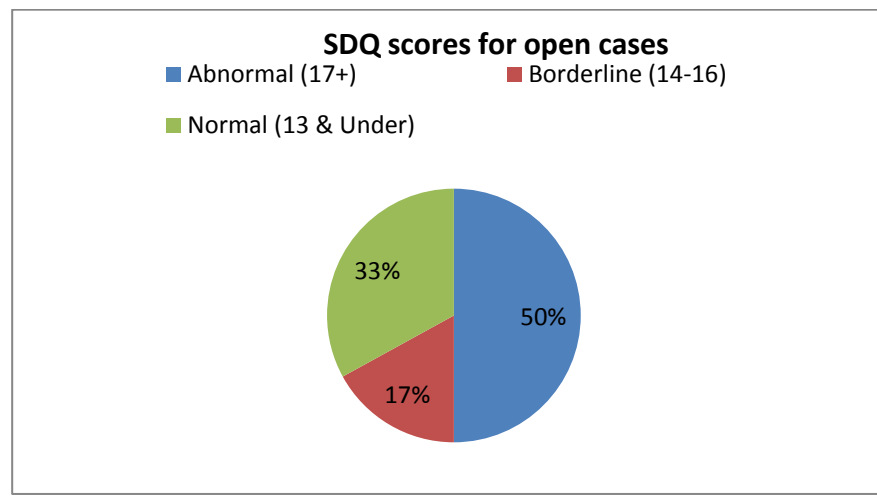
Key Team Statistics 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



Key Team Statistics 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015



Key Team Statistics 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 10th October 2016

Title of paper:	Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2016 – 2017 (One Year Refresh)	
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:	Kwesi Williams (Support and Development Project Manager – Children’s Strategy and Improvement) kwesi.williams@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 876 2684	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	N/A	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	31 st August, 2016	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>In order to fulfil its obligation as set out in Annex A of Ofsted’s ‘Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards’ (2016), local authorities are required to produce a strategic plan for looked after children that includes corporate parenting objectives.</p> <p>The Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2016 – 2017 has been produced in order to meet this requirement. The strategy identifies strategic priorities. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board (‘the Board’) accepts the strategic priorities as ‘corporate parenting objectives’.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To agree the strategic priorities. By doing so, the Board will accept the strategic priorities as ‘corporate parenting objectives’.	
2	To endorse the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2016 – 2017.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 As Corporate Parents we are committed to ensuring that children who come into our care, experience safe and positive parenting, are helped to achieve their full potential, and obtain the best possible outcomes. We are also dedicated to securing permanency, as quickly as possible for children who are unable to live with their birth parents or extended birth family network, through adoption or other arrangements.

- 1.2 To achieve this, all agencies involved in caring and supporting children in care and care leavers must work together. To work together effectively, a multi-agency approach is needed. This is only possible when all partners understand and accept their respective responsibilities. This in-turn requires a multi-agency strategy that clearly states the areas that require improvement (i.e. strategic priorities), the activities that will be undertaken to achieve the necessary improvements, and the lead person or agency that is responsible for each activity.
- 1.3 A strategic plan for looked after children, which includes corporate parenting objectives, education and housing priorities, planning for permanence and children's futures forms part of the mandatory documents listed in Annex A of the 2016 Ofsted inspection framework.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to set out our strategic priorities and corresponding strategic priority statements, and to explain how they were identified.
- 1.5 To produce Nottingham's strategic plan it was essential to identify a comprehensive list of strategic priorities which fully represented the assessed and expressed needs of children in care (CiC) and care leavers (CLs).
- 1.6 The strategic priorities described in this report reflect the expressed needs of CiC and CLs as detailed in the Children in Care and Care Leavers 'Have Your Say' 2015 Survey Full Report. The strategic priorities also reflect the assessed needs of CiC and CLs as determined through the analysis of national and local performance data.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board agrees the strategic priorities presented in this report. In doing so, the Board will accept the strategic priorities as 'corporate parenting objectives'.
- 2.2 Seven strategic priorities have been identified. The priorities represent areas that require improvement in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for children in care and care leavers, and to meet the commitments set out in Nottingham City Council's 'Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter'. Paragraphs 2.3 to 2.37 provide a description of each priority and include corresponding local data and relevant feedback from our young people.

2.3

CiC and CL Strategic Priority One

To actively seek the wishes and feelings of our young people and use the information to influence the care and support they receive. We will ensure our young people are able to access the advocacy, independent visitor and complaints services. We will ensure our young people feel treated with respect and will be given enough time and help to understand and be happy with their circumstances.

2.4

Local Data

Children in care (aged 3 years and over) and care leavers are asked to take part in the annual Have Your Say (HYS) survey. Launched in 2011, responses to the survey help us gauge how well we are performing against the commitments made in our Children in Care and Care Leavers Charter. We achieved a 19% response rate in 2015. This is a slight improvement on the 2014 response rate of 18% but lower

than our 2012 high of 24%. In 2015/16 96.6% of children in care participated in their CiC review. 98.4% of CiC reviews took place within timescale.

2.5 Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

In 2015, 92% of our young people knew where to go if they had a problem or wanted to make a complaint. 84% knew where to go if they wanted to speak to an independent person apart from their social workers/personal advisors or carers (a 5% decrease from 2014). 7% said they would talk to the advocacy service; this is a decrease from 2014 (12.7%). There has been a reduction in the number of children who reported speaking to the complaints service from 2014 to 2015 with a figure of 18.6% to 12%, respectively. A reduction in the percentage of children reporting having spoken to the complaints or advocacy service should not automatically be considered a concern. Especially when it is considered that the majority of young people know where to go if they wanted to make a complaint or speak to someone independent.

2.6 93% felt that their carers had enough time for them 'All the time/ most of the time' in 2015. This is a small decrease on 2014 figures when 93.7% of young people felt their carers had enough time for them 'All the time/most of the time'.

2.7 A small proportion (7%) of our young people felt that their opinions were 'Never' heard and 'Never' made a difference to decisions made in their lives in 2015 survey; this is an increase from 2014 (4.4%).

2.8 69.6% attended their 'Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' and 23.5% did not attend their 'Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' but told their social worker/ personal advisors their thoughts before the meeting. This is an increase on 2014 and indicates an increase in involvement in CiC reviews. 2% did not attend the meeting and did not want to tell anyone their thoughts; this is a decrease on the previous year from 10.9%. 85% felt their voices were heard in their Looked after/ Pathway Plan review 'All the time/most of the time'. This is a decrease from 90% in 2014. There was an increase in those who felt that their voices were 'Never' heard in their Looked After/ Pathway Plan reviews, 10% compared to 5.7% in 2014.

2.9 14% felt that they 'Never' (9% 'Only sometimes') got help in preparing for their Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' in 2015, this is an increase on 2014.

2.10 **CiC and CL Strategic Priority Two**

To help our young people achieve educational success and to ensure those leaving care are engaged in either employment, education or training.

2.11 Local Data

93% of children in care have a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP); this is 2% below our 2015/16 target. The current educational attainment trends over Key Stage 2 and 4 are mixed. Key Stage 2 results have improved over the four academic years ending in 2015 and outcomes in Nottingham are higher across every measure (see table 2).

Outcomes for Children in Care	2013	2014	2015	2014 National Average
L4 +	53%	61%	64%	48%
L5	Not recorded	Not recorded	0%	-

Table 2: Key Stage – Reading, Writing and Maths Combined (Source: Corporate Parenting Board Report – Attainment of Children in Care (March, 2016))

2.12 Key Stage 4 results are down on the results in 2014. The proportion of pupils obtaining the headline 5+ A*-C passes including English and Maths in Nottingham was down 4% (1 pupil) on the 2014 results. However the number of pupils achieving a pass in at least one qualification improved from 62% to 84% in 2015.

2.13 65.9% of care leavers (aged 17 to 21 years) are in employment, education or training; this represents a 15.9% increase on the previous year and is 10.9% above the target set for 2015/16.

2.14 Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

61% felt that they are doing very well or well at school in 2015, the same as 2014 (53.5% in 2013, 69.3% in 2012 and 55.3% in 2011). There was a slight increase in those who felt they were not doing very well, at 4% compared to 3% in 2014. 21% did not know about their PEP, compared to 17.5% in 2014. 74% were happy with their PEP either 'All the time' or 'Most of the time'. However, 20% are not happy with their PEP – this is the largest proportion not happy since the survey began. 72% felt that they would do better with more help in 2015, a 10% increase from 2014, suggesting CiC may want more help with education than they are receiving.

2.15 **CiC and CL Strategic Priority Three**

To ensure care leavers have access to suitable accommodation and support in order to facilitate the best possible transition into independence.

2.16 Local Data

89.6% of care leavers (age 17 to 21 years) are in suitable accommodation; this represents an increase in performance of 9.6% on both the previous year and the set target. 94.7% of applicable¹ care leavers have a Pathway Plan that has been completed / authorised in the 6 months preceding the 2015/16 financial year end.

2.17 Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

In 2015 87% of our young people were 'Happy/Very happy' with the support they were getting to plan for their future. This has improved consistently year on year, from 76.3% in 2011. 80% felt that they have the basic skills to become independent but would like help with budgeting, preparing for work, further education and employment to move on their lives, similar to previous years. 51% would like help with is becoming a responsible tenant.

2.18 38% knew what was in their Pathway Plan, a drop from 44% in 2014. 1 in 5 care leavers do not know they have a Pathway Plan.

2.19 **CiC and CL Strategic Priority Four**

To keep young people safe and avoid the criminalisation of young people through strong collaborative partnership work.

2.20 Local Data

Data shows that, in Nottingham, the percentage of CiC aged 10 years old or older with convictions/cautions and reprimands are at their lowest when compared to previous years – see table 3.

06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
13.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.80%	9.00%	9.80%	8.70%	8.2%	6.0%

Table 3: (Source. OC2 Statutory Return)

¹ Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant care leavers

2.21 Fewer young people are being criminalised. This can be attributed to the high level of support from the Authority's CiC Police Officer and targeted support provided by our Youth Offending Team (YOT). The YOT have been effective in embedding the Restorative Justice approach throughout the Authority and achieved the Restorative Justice Council's (RJC) Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM). Research shows that restorative practice works. It delivers better outcomes for young people across schools, care, community and the Criminal Justice System. Done well, it has the potential to positively change the lives of young people and others.

2.22 Children in Care and Care Leavers Feedback
No relevant feedback has been collected in regards to this priority.

2.23 **CiC and CL Strategic Priority Five**
To ensure young people are healthy through the delivery of appropriate intervention and health services. This will be facilitated through the timely undertaking of health assessments, dental checks, immunisations, and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs).

2.24 Local Data
We did not meet our target of 90% in regards to young people with update to date health checks, dental checks and SDQs. Performance was 71.6%, 85.2% and 63.5%, respectively. A concerted drive from staff has led to a significant improvement in performance over quarter 3 and 4 of 2015/16. Work is being undertaken to ensure robust consistent processes are put in place to improve performance.

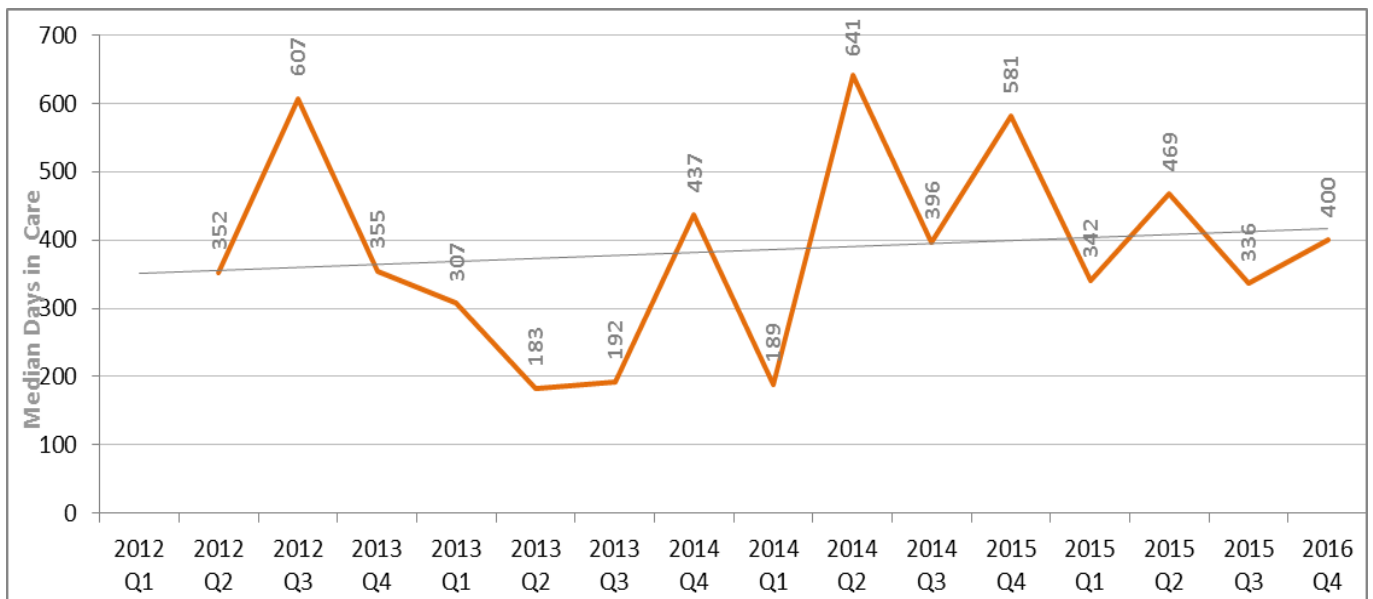
2.25 Dedicated Business support has now been re-established which has led to a rise in performance in regards to SDQ completion. Meetings are now established to look at children's emotional well-being and data is available to ensure we capture those young people with high scores have appropriate intervention is in place.

2.26 Front line practitioners are embedding health checks as party of their practice.

2.27 Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback
In 2015, 88% felt healthy (all the time or often) in 2015, the same as 2014. Before 2014 this had reduced year on year since the survey began, (92.9% in 2013, 95.4% in 2012 and 97% in 2011). Most children in care (55.4%) and care leavers worried about their family, followed by 43% about their futures, 39% about their education and 32% about finding a job/career. 'Living on my own/loneliness' was the worry which had a 10% increase when compared to the previous year.

2.28 **CiC and CL Strategic Priority Six**
To reduce delays in securing stability and permanency for our young people. We will ensure unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker or school are avoided.

2.29 Local Data
Data shows fluctuations in the median number of days in care (graph 6) on a quarterly basis from April 2012 to March 2016. During this period the median number of days in care for those who have been discharged from care has risen from 352 to 400. This demonstrates the need for effective exit planning and obtaining permanency as early as possible.



Graph 6: Median Days in Care of Discharged CiC (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)

2.30 We are committed to achieving adoption and permanency for our children. At the end of March 2016, the Authority had ninety-three children in the adoption process i.e. children who adoption was deemed in their best interest but had not been adopted. Forty-five children were adopted during the 2015/16 financial year, which represents a drop on the previous year, where 70 children were adopted. Reducing unnecessary delay in placing children for adoption remains a high priority. Recently published scorecard data shows children in Nottingham are waiting for too long to be placed for adoption. Timely adoption for our children remains as a priority.

2.31 Achieving stability is essential to achieving the best possible outcomes for our young people. Ensuring that unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker and school is avoided is therefore a priority. During 2015/16, 12.9% of our children in care had experienced three or more placement during the preceding 12 months – our aim was 11.1% or less. Data shows that 70% of children in care² had been the same placement for two or more years (our target was 66%). Performance is therefore good but needs to be maintained. Last year, 40% of children in care¹ had three or more allocated social workers. Improvements are required in this area.

2.32 Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

84% felt that 'where they are living is the right care place for them' in 2015, an increase from 2014. 85% felt safe where they lived 'All the time' compared to 76% in 2014, 81.2%. This is the largest proportion reporting they felt safe where they live since the survey began. 82% felt safe at school 'All the time', this is more than last year with 70.1% in 2014. This is the highest proportion stating they felt safe all the time at school since the survey began. 78% felt safe in their neighbourhood "All the time", this is an increase from 66.3 in 2014 and again the highest proportion since the survey began.

2.33 There has been an increase in the percentage of children stating they had experienced no changes in 2015 when compared to 2014, across all categories (home, carer, school and social worker), from 17% to 22%. However this still means

² Children who had been in care for at least 12 months

that 4 in every 5 children or young people have had a change of home, carer, social worker or school in the past 12 months. Despite these overall reductions, still more than half of respondents had a change of social worker over the previous 12 months.

2.34 For those who had a change, 61% felt the help they received to cope with the change was very good or good, a 3% increase from 2014.

2.35

CiC and CL Strategic Priority Seven

To increase use of internal foster and residential placements through the recruitment and retention of foster carers, and to explore if the types and numbers of residential placement can be increased, in order to offer more local homes.

2.36 Local Data

We use a mix of internal Local Authority recruited foster carers and Local Authority managed residential homes, as well as commissioned independent fostering agencies (IFAs) and external residential homes. At the end of March 2015/16, we had 59% of children placed in external IFA placements. Over the next year, we will be working to get a 50% of our children placed with our carers. We will also be working hard to ensure that 85% of our children are placed within 20 miles of Nottingham. Data shows that 80.7% of our young people live within 20 miles of the City (Analysis and Insight, 2016).

2.37 Children in Care and Care Leavers Feedback

Children in foster care are asked their views about the support they receive from their carer at each review and following a placement coming to an end. This information is factored into the annual fostering review which will agree what support carers need in their role.

2.38 The CiC and CLs strategic priorities are in accordance with the overarching priorities of the Directorate (as identified in the Children Integrated Services (CIS) Delivery Plan (2016)). Work undertaken to address the CiC and CL strategic priorities will contribute to the Directorate's effort to meet its priorities. For reference, paragraphs 2.39 – 2.44 describe the Directorate priorities and indicate corresponding CiC and CL strategic priorities.

2.39 **CIS Priority:** We will play an active role in supporting families to address the issues that can become barriers to learning and aspiration for children, young people and their parents/carers. We will work with education colleagues to support vulnerable learners, including looked after children. This will contribute to the successful delivery of Nottingham City's Education Improvement Strategy. We will promote a learning culture within our services that ensures our practice is informed by a strong evidence-base, emerging best practice and learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and other serious incidents. We will act on the findings of inspections, peer reviews, audit activity and our regular performance monitoring.

2.40 **Corresponding CiC and CL strategic priorities: 1 and 2**

2.41 **CIS Priority:** We will provide early help, parenting and family support, targeted interventions and specialist services to build resilience, not dependence, in the children and families we serve. We will work with our communities to build their capacity to support one another. We will work to safeguard children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and we will support children who are in

our care and their carers. We will use restorative approaches with young people to enable them to make a positive contribution to their communities.

2.42 Corresponding CiC and CL strategic priorities: 3, 4 and 5

2.43 CIS Priority: We will work with our partners to ensure children and young people have the self-esteem, confidence and knowledge to keep themselves safe in their relationships, seeking help when needed. We will, at the earliest opportunity, directly support children, young people and their families that are struggling with significant mental health issues that may result in harm to themselves or others.

2.44 Corresponding CiC and CL strategic priorities: 5, 6 and 7

2.45 A strategic action plan has been developed by members of the Children in Care (CiC) Outcomes Group – see pages 23-33 of appendix 1. The action plan provides a summary of the activities that will be undertaken by the Authority and its partners to improve the areas identified as strategic priorities. The action plan is a working document and its content will be added to during the life of the strategy as the effectiveness of activity is monitored. The action plan included in the strategy serves to provide an indication of activity and should not be viewed as a comprehensive and complete list of remedial action.

2.46 Members of the CiC Outcomes Group will be required to;

- (a) Communicate the Strategic Priorities as set out in the Authority's strategic document to their respective service areas or agency
- (b) Ensure agreed actions relevant to their respective area are undertaken

2.47 The Board is asked to endorse the strategic action plan

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 As previously stated, as an Authority we are required by Ofsted to produce a document that sets out our strategic plan for looked after children. Therefore no other options have been considered when making the recommendation presented in this report.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 None.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 Not Applicable

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

6.1 Not Applicable

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes



Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

8.1 Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 'Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards' (2016).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/544533/Framework_and_evaluation_schedule_children_in_need_of_help_and_protection_CLA_and_care_leavers_LSCBs.pdf

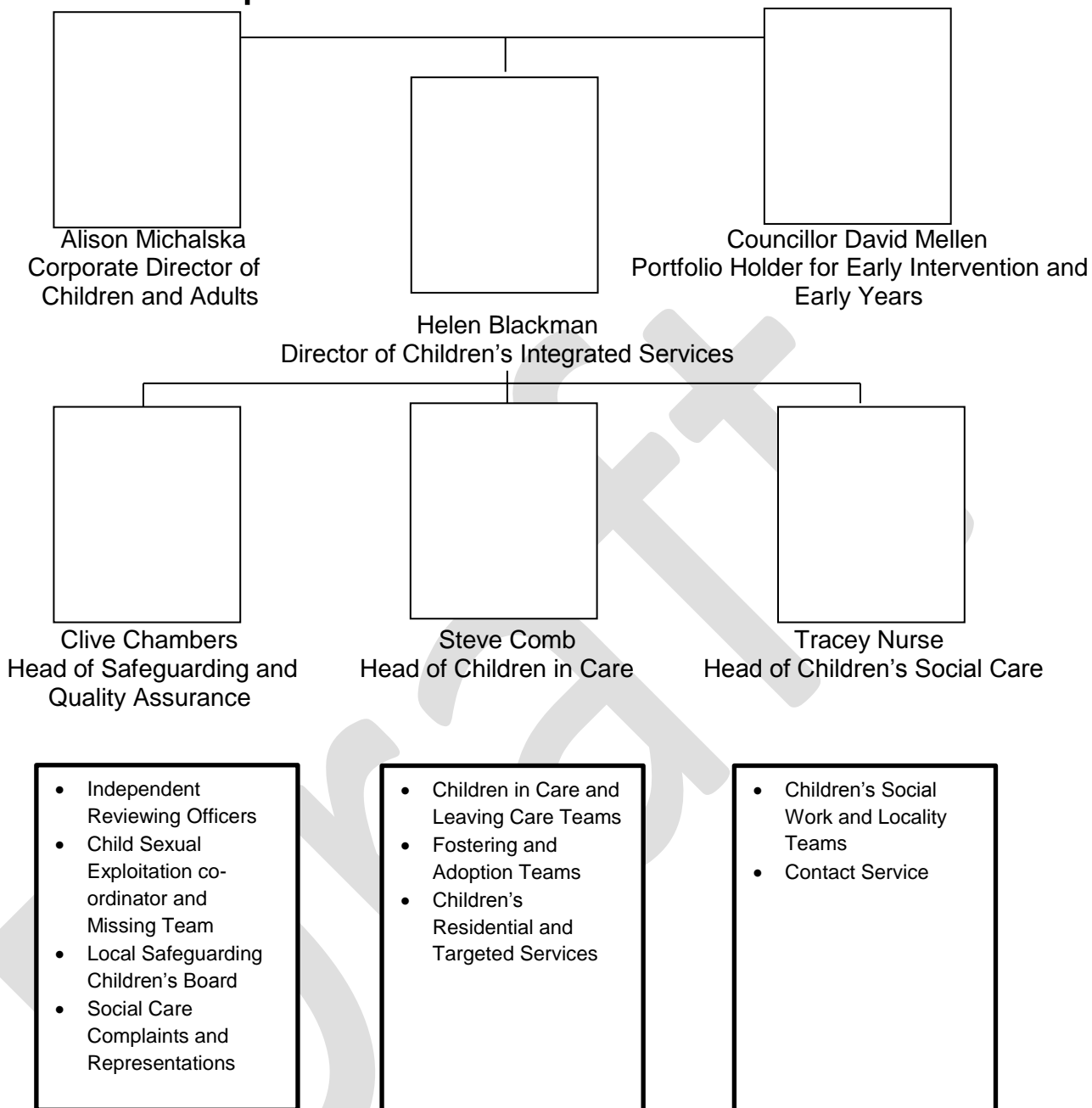
9.2 Children Integrated Services Delivery Plan (2016)

<http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=37856&p=0>

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**Children in Care and Care Leavers
Strategy 2016/17 – One Year Refresh:
Valuing the Future of Our Children in Care
and Care Leavers**

Our Leadership Team



Introduction

We and our partners recognise the value of prevention and early intervention. We work to do all we can to support children in need of help and protection, and their families. We believe that in most cases children achieve their potential and thrive best within their birth families.

Sometimes children cannot be cared for in their birth families or wider network and come into the care of the local authority. For this group of children and young people we have a responsibility, as corporate parents, to provide care and to work with partner agencies to best meet their needs and prepare them for their future.

As corporate parents, we are responsible for ensuring children who come into our care experience safe and positive parenting, are helped to achieve their full potential and obtain the best possible outcomes.

It is acknowledged that in order for our children to achieve the best possible outcomes, all agencies involved in caring and supporting them must work together effectively. This in-turn requires a multi-agency strategy that clearly states areas that require improvement or attention (i.e. our strategic priorities) and what actions will be taken to address identified priorities.

This strategy is based on seven children in care (CiC) and care leaver (CL) strategic priorities that have been identified through the analysis of local data and the views of our young people. The strategic priorities identified within this strategy have been aligned with the Directorate's priorities, as detailed in the 2016/17 [Children's Integrated Services \(CIS\) Delivery Plan](#) – see table 1.

CiC and CL Strategic Priority	CIS Priority
<p>1. To actively seek the wishes and feelings of our young people and use the information to influence the care and support they receive. We will ensure our young people are able to access the advocacy, independent visitor and complaints services. We will ensure our young people feel treated with respect and will be given enough time and help to understand and be happy with their circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will play an active role in supporting families to address the issues that can become barriers to learning and aspiration for children, young people and their parents/carers. We will work with education colleagues to support vulnerable learners, including looked after children. This will contribute to the successful delivery of Nottingham City's Education Improvement Strategy. We will promote a learning culture within our services that ensures our practice is informed by a strong evidence-base, emerging best practice and learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and other serious incidents. We will act on the findings of inspections, peer reviews, audit activity and our regular performance monitoring. We will provide early help, parenting and family support, targeted interventions and specialist services to build resilience, not dependence, in the children and families we serve. We will work with our communities to build their capacity to support one another. We will work to safeguard children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and we will support children who are in our care and their carers. We will use restorative approaches with young people to enable them to make a positive contribution to their communities. We will work with our partners to ensure children and young people have the self-esteem, confidence and knowledge to keep themselves safe in their relationships, seeking help when needed. We will, at the earliest opportunity, directly support children, young people and their families that are struggling with significant mental health issues that may result in harm to themselves or others.
<p>2. To help our young people achieve educational success and to ensure those leaving care are engaged in either employment, education or training.</p>	
<p>3. To ensure care leavers have access to suitable accommodation and support in order to facilitate the best possible transition into independence.</p>	
<p>4. To keep young people safe and avoid the criminalisation of young people through strong collaborative partnership work.</p>	
<p>5. To ensure young people are healthy through the delivery of appropriate intervention and health services. This will be facilitated through the timely undertaking of health assessments, dental checks, immunisations, and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs).</p>	
<p>6. To reduce delays in securing stability and permanency for our young people. We will ensure unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker or school are avoided.</p>	
<p>7. To increase use of internal foster and residential placements through the recruitment and retention of foster carers, and to explore if the types and numbers of residential placement can be increased, in order to offer more local homes.</p>	

Table 1: CiC and CL Strategic Priority and CIS Priority Alignment

Vision and Mission Statements

Our **vision** is a city where every child and young person can enjoy their childhood in a warm and supporting environment, free from poverty and safe from harm; a city where every child grows up to achieve their full potential.¹

Our **mission** ensure that all children and young people in and leaving our care have the right home and support to keep them safe and well and to help them grow into happy, healthy, successful and fulfilled young adults who are optimistic about their future.²

This vision will only be achieved if support services and support agencies around our children and young people work together effectively through well-coordinated collaboration. Working together in this way, should help us ensure our children and young people, and those who care for them get the **right help at the right time**. This document (and supplementary action plans) aims to provide the strategic direction needed to ensure this happens.

This document provides details on:

- Children in Care service areas
- Support Services and Partner Agencies
- Governance and Monitoring Framework
- Strategic Action Plan

¹ 'Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 1 Year Refresh for 2015/16: It Takes a City to Raise a Child' (2015)

² Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter

Background to the Strategy

Multiple sources of information have been used to identify the priorities outlined in this strategy to ensure they reflect what is important to our children in care and care leavers. This section pulls together the relevant data for each priority, in addition to providing broader contextual information. Information presented represents our position up until the **31st March 2016 unless otherwise stated**.

It should be acknowledge that at the time of writing this strategy, a number of national reviews have been recently published or programmed launched and therefore the national policy position is still emerging. Given this, actions in response to these reviews cannot be identified.

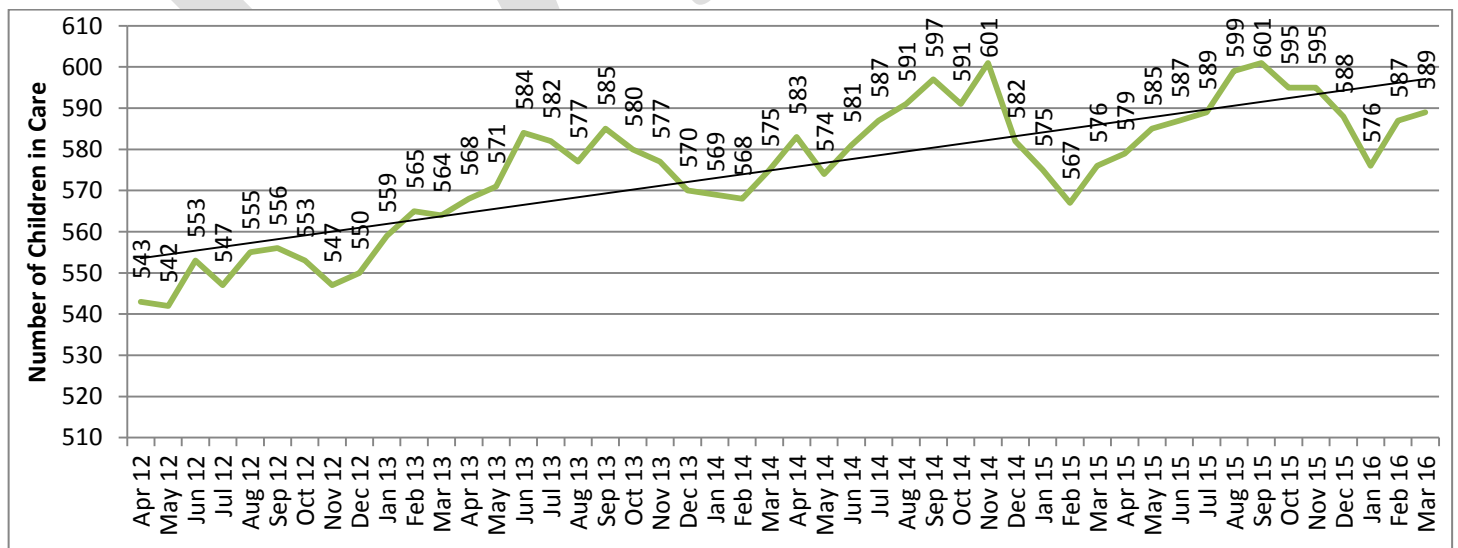
- [Residential Care in England \(Narey, 2016\)](#)
- [Review of the Youth Justice System \(Taylor, 2016\)](#)
- [Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Dispersal Programme](#)

Context

During the last financial year, the local authority spent approximately £34.5m to support the children in care (an over spend of approximately £0.6m). Reductions to available funds for 2016/17 mean that we need to focus resources where they will have the most impact. Having clearly identified priority areas is essential to making this happen.

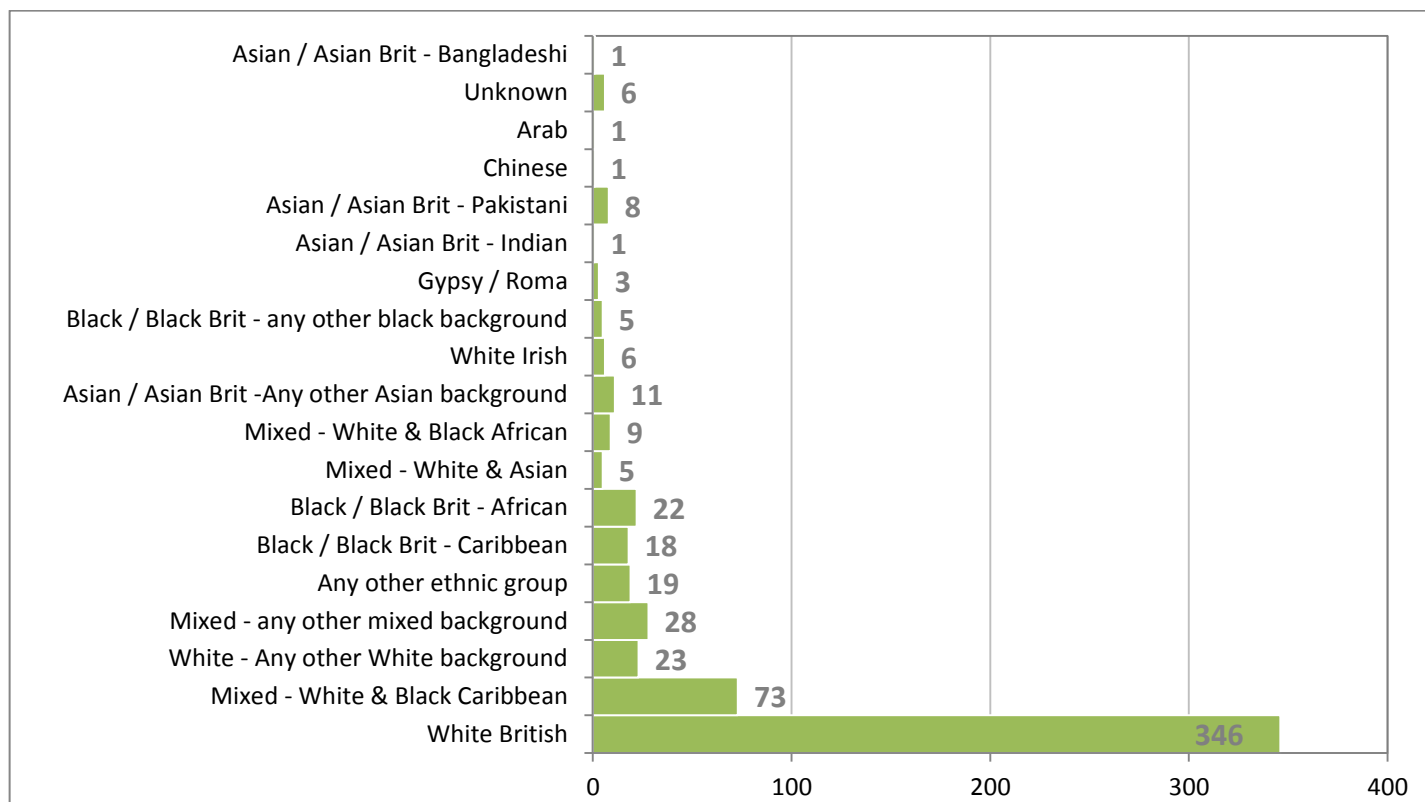
Children in Care Profile

We have 589 children in care and 203 care leavers (supported by the Leaving Care Service). Effective edge of care support services have resulted in Nottingham having a lower rate of per 10,000 of children in care when compared to statistical neighbours, with rates of 90.5 and 96.3, respectively). However, graph 1 shows that despite minor fluctuations, our children in care cohort has increased year on year since 2012. This increase creates increased demands on limited resources. We therefore need to ensure that only children, who need to enter care, enter care and that exit planning is effective.



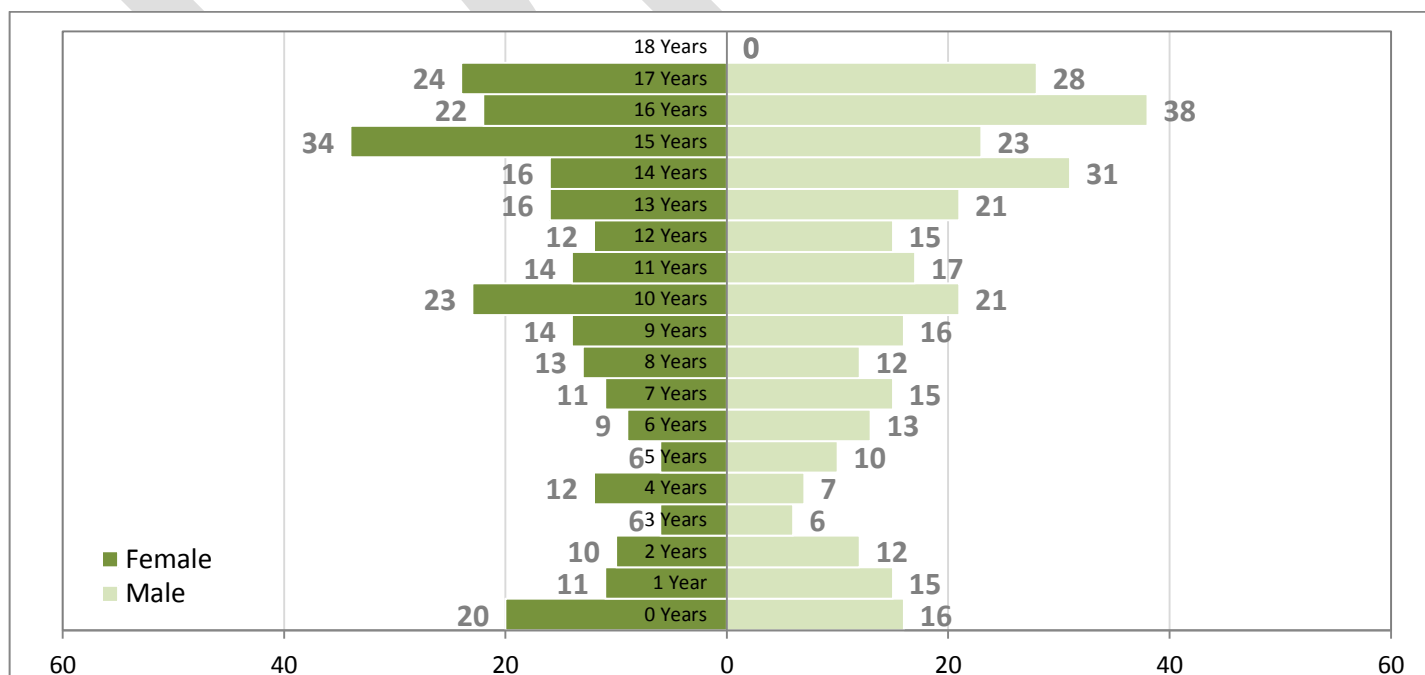
Graph 1: Number of CiC April 2012- March 2016 (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)

58.7% (346) of our CiC are of White British ethnic origin. The next largest ethnic group is Mixed – White and Black Caribbean, accounting for 12.4% (or 73) of the CiC population. (See graph 2 for full ethnic breakdown.) More males than females are in our care, with 53.7% and 46.3% respectively.

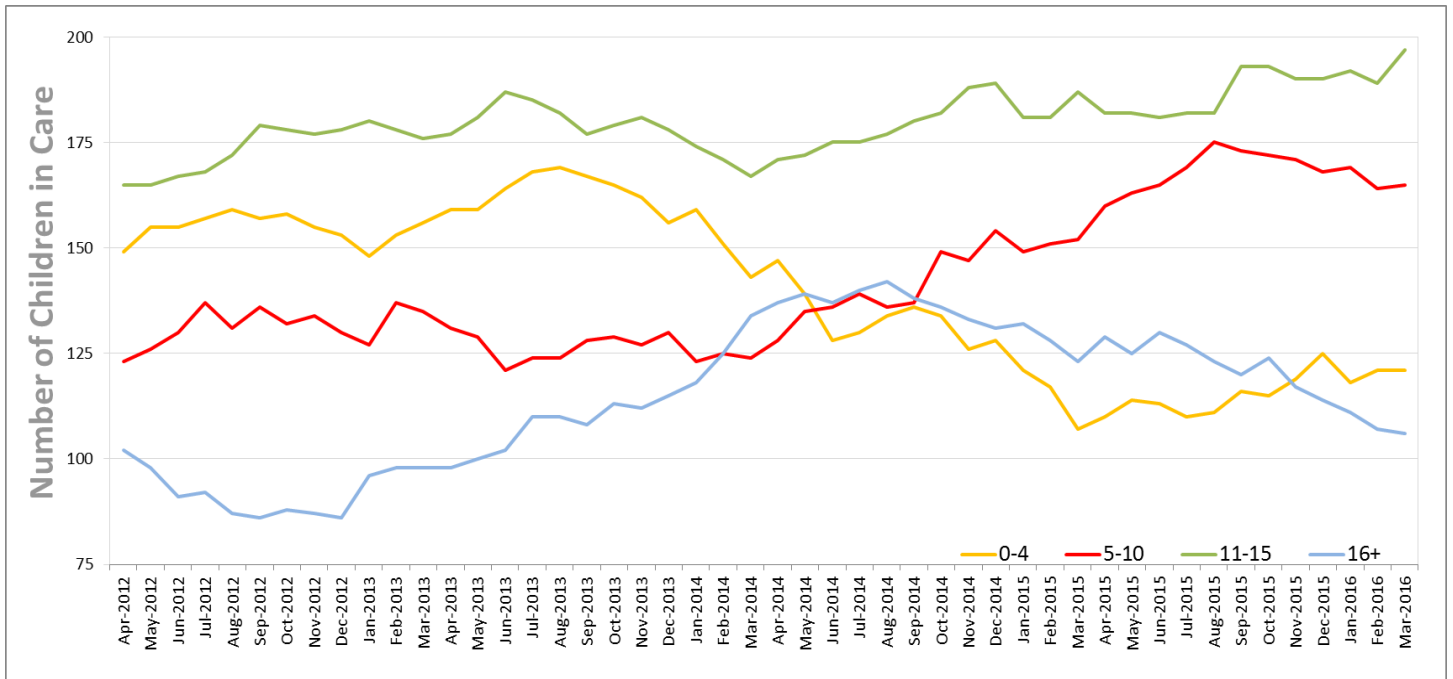


Graph 2: Ethnic Breakdown of Current CiC Cohort (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)

The majority (61.5%) of our young people are aged between 5 to 15 years (graph 3). Between April 2012 – March 2016, there has been a noticeable decrease in the proportion of children aged 0 – 4 years. Over the same period, there has been a marked increase in the proportion of the CiC population who are aged 5 to 10 years – see graph 4.

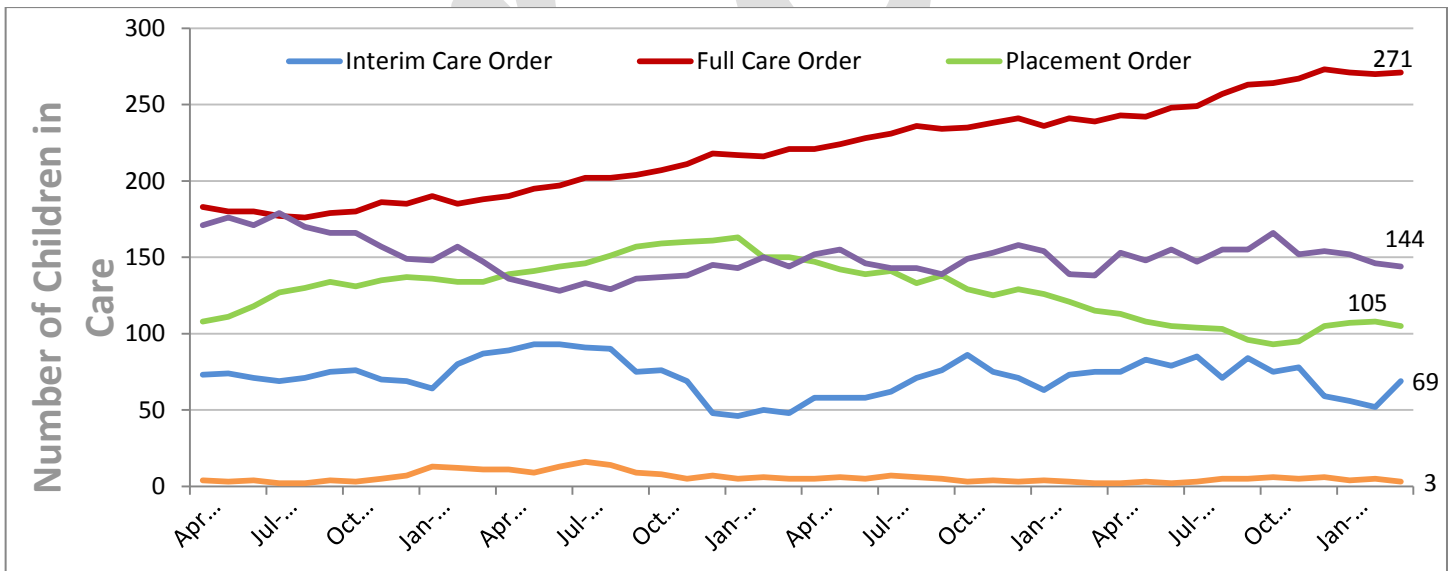


Graph 3: Age and Gender Breakdown of Current CiC Cohort (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)



Graph 4: Age Breakdown Over Time April 2012-March 2016 (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)

During the last financial year, 58% of our children were admitted into care under Section 20 of the Children Act (1989). During the same period, 4% entered under a Full Care Order. While the majority of our young people were first accommodated under this arrangement, after careful assessment and planning, the legal status of most of children in care will become a Full Care Order. See graph 5 which shows a breakdown of legal status over time.



Graph 5: Legal Status Breakdown of CiC Over Time April 2012-March 2016 (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)

Strategic Priority 1: To actively seek the wishes and feelings of our young people and use the information to influence the care and support they receive. We will ensure our young people are able to access the advocacy, independent visitor and complaints services. We will ensure our young people feel treated with respect and will be given enough time and help to understand and be happy with their circumstances

National Data

The 2015 Children in Care and Care leavers (State of the Nation: Report 1) summaries the responses to the annual survey of children in care and care leavers across England. According to the report, at any one time there are approx. 69,000 CiC. In total 2,936 surveys were collected, this represents a 4.3% response rate. The response rate may be lower when it is considered only 1,667 (2.4%) surveys were fully completed.

Local Data

Children in care (aged 3 years and over) and care leavers are asked to take part in the annual Have Your Say (HYS) survey. Launched in 2011, responses to the survey help us gauge how well we are performing against the commitments made in our Children in Care and Care Leavers Charter (see appendix 1). We achieved a 19% response rate in 2015. This is a slight improvement on the 2014 response rate of 18% but lower than our 2012 high of 24%. In 2015/16 96.6% of children in care participated in their CiC review. 98.4% of CiC reviews took place within timescale (Analysis and Insight, 2016).

Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

In 2015, 92% of our young people knew where to go if they had a problem or wanted to make a complaint. 84% knew where to go if they wanted to speak to an independent person apart from their social workers/personal advisors or carers (a 5% decrease from 2014). 7% said they would talk to the advocacy service; this is a decrease from 2014 (12.7%). There has been a reduction in the number of children who reported speaking to the complaints service from 2014 to 2015 with a figure of 18.6% to 12%, respectively. A reduction in the percentage of children reporting having spoken to the complaints or advocacy service should not automatically be considered a concern. Especially when it is considered that the majority of young people know where to go if they wanted to make a complaint or speak to someone independent.

93% felt that their carers had enough time for them 'All the time/ most of the time' in 2015. This is a small decrease on 2014 figures when 93.7% of young people felt their carers had enough time for them 'All the time/ most of the time'.

A small proportion (7%) of our young people felt that their opinions were 'Never' heard and 'Never' made a difference to decisions made in their lives in 2015 survey; this is an increase from 2014 (4.4%).

69.6% attended their 'Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' and 23.5% did not attend their 'Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' but told their social worker/ personal advisors their thoughts before the meeting. This is an increase on 2014 and indicates an increase in involvement in CiC reviews. 2% did not attend the meeting and did not want to tell anyone their thoughts; this is a decrease on the previous year from 10.9%. 85% felt their voices were heard in their Looked after/ Pathway Plan review 'All the time/most of the time'. This is a decrease from 90% in 2014. There was an increase in those who felt that their voices were 'Never' heard in their Looked After/ Pathway Plan reviews, 10% compared to 5.7% in 2014.

14% felt that they 'Never' (9% 'Only sometimes') got help in preparing for their Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' in 2015, this is an increase on 2014.

Strategic Priority 2: To help our young people achieve educational success and to ensure those leaving care are engaged in either employment, education or training

National Data

In 2012/13, there was a 43% gap between children in care and their peers in attainment of 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including English and maths, but this gap had narrowed from 45% in 2010/11. Absence from school for children in care had improved too since 2010/11 (National Audit Office, 2016)

In 2013/14, 41% of care leavers were not in education, employment or training compared with 15% of all 19-year-olds, the highest proportion since 2001-02. 6% of care leavers were in higher education compared to one-third of all 19-year-olds (National Audit Office, 2016).

Local Data

93% of children in care have a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP); this is 2% below our 2015/16 target (Analysis and Insight, 2016). The current educational attainment trends over Key Stage 2 and 4 are mixed. Key Stage 2 results have improved over the four academic years ending in 2015 and outcomes in Nottingham are higher across every measure (see table 2).

Outcomes for Children in Care	2013	2014	2015	2014 National Average
L4 +	53%	61%	64%	48%
L5	Not recorded	Not recorded	0%	-

Table 2: Key Stage – Reading, Writing and Maths Combined (Source: Corporate Parenting Board Report – Attainment of Children in Care (March, 2016))

Key Stage 4 results are down on the results in 2014. The proportion of pupils obtaining the headline 5+ A*-C passes including English and Maths in Nottingham was down 4% (1 pupil) on the 2014 results. However the number of pupils achieving a pass in at least one qualification improved from 62% to 84% in 2015.

65.9% of care leavers (aged 17 to 21 years) are in employment, education or training; this represents a 15.9% increase on the previous year and is 10.9% above the target set for 2015/16 (Analysis and Insight, 2016).

Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

61% felt that they are doing very well or well at school in 2015, the same as 2014 (53.5% in 2013, 69.3% in 2012 and 55.3% in 2011). There was a slight increase in those who felt they were not doing very well, at 4% compared to 3% in 2014. 21% did not know about their PEP, compared to 17.5% in 2014. 74% were happy with their PEP either 'All the time' or 'Most of the time'. However, 20% are not happy with their PEP – this is the largest proportion not happy since the survey began. 72% felt that they would do better with more help in 2015, a 10% increase from 2014, suggesting CiC may want more help with education than they are receiving.

Strategic Priority 3: To ensure care leavers have access to suitable accommodation and support in order to facilitate the best possible transition into independence

National Data

Most care leavers (93%) live in suitable accommodation. However, in 2013-14, 17% of 19- to 21-year-old care leavers did not have their accommodation or activity reported by local authorities. Only 8 out of 151 local authorities reported that they knew where all their care leavers were living and what they were doing. In 2014 the Department of Education introduced Staying Put, which means care leavers can stay with foster carers until they are 21, if both wish. In 2013, eight government departments published the Care Leaver Strategy. Care leavers face challenging social problems.

25% of those who were homeless had been in care at some point in their lives (2010) (National Audit Office, 2016).

Most young people leave care at the age of 18 years. However, 50% of young people, nationally, are still living with parents at the age of 22. This highlights a need for effective leaving care services.

Local Data

89.6% of care leavers (age 17 to 21 years) are in suitable accommodation; this represents an increase in performance of 9.6% on both the previous year and the set target (Analysis and Insight, 2016). 94.7% of applicable³ care leavers have a Pathway Plan that has been completed/authorised in the 6 months preceding the 2015/16 financial year end (Analysis and Insight, 2016).

Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

In 2015 87% of our young people were 'Happy/Very happy' with the support they were getting to plan for their future. This has improved consistently year on year, from 76.3% in 2011. 80% felt that they have the basic skills to become independent but would like help with budgeting, preparing for work, further education and employment to move on their lives, similar to previous years. 51% would like help with is becoming a responsible tenant.

38% knew what was in their Pathway Plan, a drop from 44% in 2014. 1 in 5 care leavers do not know they have a Pathway Plan.

Strategic Priority 4: To keep young people safe and avoid the criminalisation of young people through strong collaborative partnership work

National Data

49% of men under the age of 21 who had come into contact with the criminal justice system had a care experience (2008) (National Audit Office, 2016). This suggests a need to identify steps that can be taken to deter criminal behaviour and the criminalisation of young people within the care system. Of those children in care aged between 10 and 17 years, 6.2% had been convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year compared with 7.2% in 2011.

Local Data

Data shows that, in Nottingham, the percentage of CiC aged 10 years old or older with convictions/cautions and reprimands are at their lowest when compared to previous years – see table 3.

06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
13.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.80%	9.00%	9.80%	8.70%	8.2%	6.0%

Table 3: (Source. OC2 Statutory Return)

Fewer young people are being criminalised. This can be attributed to the high level of support from the Authority's CiC Police Officer and targeted support provided by our Youth Offending Team (YOT). The YOT have been effective in embedding the Restorative Justice approach throughout the Authority and achieved the Restorative Justice Council's (RJC) Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM). Research shows that restorative practice works. It delivers better outcomes for young people across schools, care, community and the Criminal Justice System. Done well, it has the potential to positively change the lives of young people and others.

³ Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant care leavers

Children in Care and Care Leavers Feedback

No relevant feedback has been collected in regards to this priority.

Strategic Priority 5: To ensure young people are healthy through the delivery of appropriate intervention and health services. This will be facilitated through the timely undertaking of health assessments, dental checks, immunisations, and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs).

National Data

Children often enter care with a worse level of physical health and mental health than their peers in part due to the impact of poverty, abuse and neglect (Comptroller and Audit Office, 2014).

For the year ending 31 March 2013, data shows some improvements in the health and wellbeing of children in care;

- The rate of substance misuse among children in care has fallen from 4.2% in 2011 to 3.5%
- However, there has been very little change in the emotional and behavioural health of children in care over the last 3 years when based on SDQ scores

Local Data

We did not meet our target of 90% in regards to young people with update to date health checks, dental checks and SDQs. Performance was 71.6%, 85.2% and 63.5%, respectively (Analysis and Insight, 2016). A concerted drive from staff has led to a significant improvement in performance over quarter 3 and 4 of 2015/16. Work is being undertaken to ensure robust consistent processes are put in place to improve performance.

Dedicated Business support has now been re-established which has led to a rise in performance in regards to SDQ completion. 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 have appropriate intervention is in place.

Front line practitioners are embedding health checks as party of their practice.

Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

In 2015, 88% felt healthy (all the time or often) in 2015, the same as 2014. Before 2014 this had reduced year on year since the survey began, (92.9% in 2013, 95.4% in 2012 and 97% in 2011). Most children in care (55.4%) and care leavers worried about their family, followed by 43% about their futures, 39% about their education and 32% about finding a job/career. 'Living on my own/loneliness' was the worry which had a 10% increase when compared to the previous year.

Strategic Priority 6: To reduce delays in securing stability and permanency for our young people. We will ensure unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker or school are avoided

National Data

The NOA (Comptroller and Audit Office, 2014), states that there has been no improvement in getting children into the right placement first time and close to home. One of the Department's objectives is to improve the stability of placements. It measures the number of placements a child has in a year and whether they are placed within 20 miles of home. At 31 March 2013:

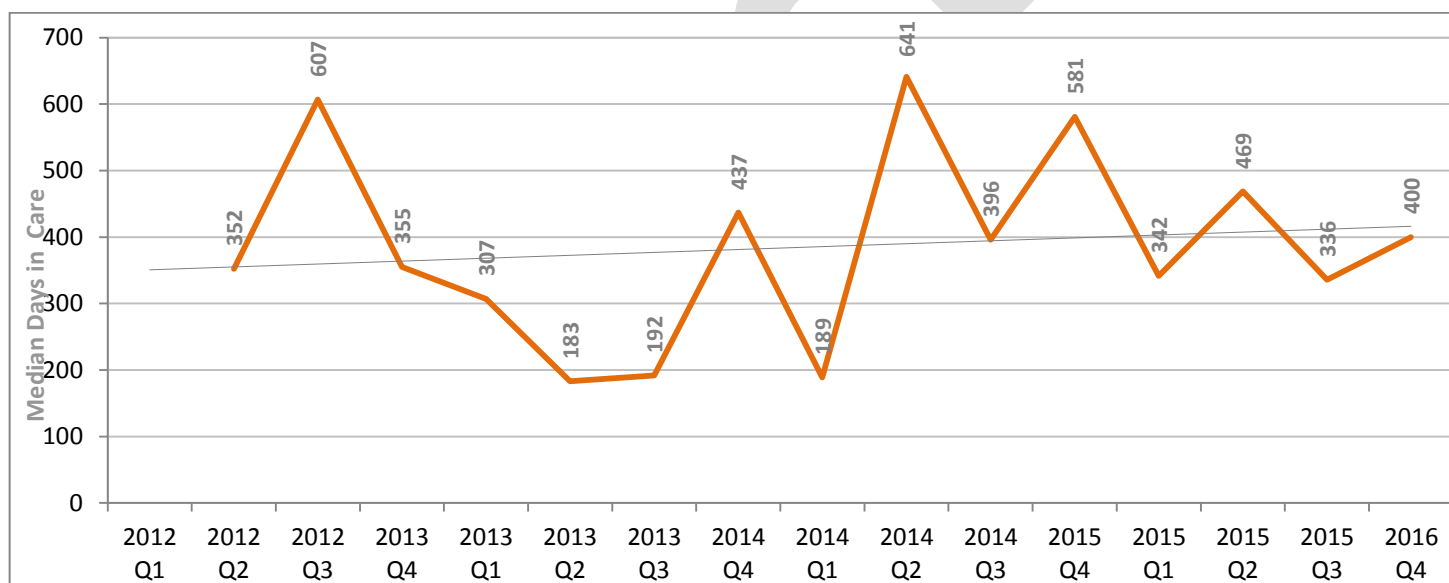
- 34% of children in care had more than 1 placement during the year and 11% had 3 or more placements. These proportions have been the same since 2009. Some 330 children had 10 or more placements during the year, and 90% of these children went 'missing' during the year.

Each time a child goes missing it is counted as an extra placement. There is evidence that, in the longer term, placement breakdowns can affect children’s progress in school and their sense of well-being and self-worth

- 14% of foster children and 34% of those in residential care were placed more than 20 miles from home. The Department accepts there is sometimes good reason to place a child at a distance from home, but the overall numbers have not improved in the last 4 years.

Local Data

Data shows fluctuations in the median number of days in care (graph 6) on a quarterly basis from April 2012 to March 2016. During this period the median number of days in care for those who have been discharged from care has risen from 352 to 400. This demonstrates the need for effective exit planning and obtaining permanency as early as possible.



Graph 6: Median Days in Care of Discharged CiC (Source - Management Information: Children in Care report)

We are committed to achieving adoption and permanency for our children. At the end of March 2016, the Authority had ninety-three children in the adoption process i.e. children who adoption was deemed in their best interest but had not been adopted. Forty-five children were adopted during the 2015/16 financial year, which represents a drop on the previous year, where 70 children were adopted. Reducing unnecessary delay in placing children for adoption remains a high priority. Recently published scorecard data shows children in Nottingham are waiting for too long to be placed for adoption. Timely adoption for our children remains as a priority.

Achieving stability is essential to achieving the best possible outcomes for our young people. Ensuring that unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker and school is avoided is therefore a priority. During 2015/16, 12.9% of our children in care had experienced three or more placement during the preceding 12 months – our aim was 11.1% or less. Data shows that 70% of children in care⁴ had been the same placement for two or more years (our target was 66%). Performance is therefore good but needs to be maintained. Last year, 40% of children in care¹ had three or more allocated social workers. Improvements are required in this area.

⁴ Children who had been in care for at least 12 months

Children in Care and Care Leaver Feedback

84% felt that 'where they are living is the right care place for them' in 2015, an increase from 2014. 85% felt safe where they lived 'All the time' compared to 76% in 2014, 81.2%. This is the largest proportion reporting they felt safe where they live since the survey began. 82% felt safe at school 'All the time', this is more than last year with 70.1% in 2014. This is the highest proportion stating they felt safe all the time at school since the survey began. 78% felt safe in their neighbourhood "All the time", this is an increase from 66.3 in 2014 and again the highest proportion since the survey began.

There has been an increase in the percentage of children stating they had experienced no changes in 2015 when compared to 2014, across all categories (home, carer, school and social worker), from 17% to 22%. However this still means that 4 in every 5 children or young people have had a change of home, carer, social worker or school in the past 12 months. Despite these overall reductions, still more than half of respondents had a change of social worker over the previous 12 months.

For those who had a change, 61% felt the help they received to cope with the change was very good or good, a 3% increase from 2014.

Strategic Priority 7: To increase use of internal foster and residential placements through the recruitment and retention of foster carers, and to explore if the types and numbers of residential placement can be increased, in order to offer more local homes.

National Data

During 2014-15, two thirds of fostered children were in placements with LA fostering agencies (57,195); the remainder were in placements with IFAs (28,695). The number placed through IFAs increased by three percent from 2013-14, from 27,980 to 28,695 in 2014-15. Over the same period the number in LA fostering agencies increased by one percent, from 56,470 to 57,195; this was a smaller increase than in previous years (Ofsted, 2015).

Local Data

We use a mix of internal Local Authority recruited foster carers and Local Authority managed residential homes, as well as commissioned independent fostering agencies (IFAs) and external residential homes. At the end of March 2015/16, we had 59% of children placed in external IFA placements. Over the next year, we will be working to get a 50% of our children placed with our carers. We will also be working hard to ensure that 85% of our children are placed within 20 miles of Nottingham. Data shows that 80.7% of our young people live within 20 miles of the City (Analysis and Insight, 2016).

Children in Care and Care Leavers Feedback

Children in foster care are asked their views about the support they receive from their carer at each review and following a placement coming to an end. This information is factored into the annual fostering review which will agree what support carers need in their role.

Children in Care Services

We know that a strong and stable relationship with professionals is vital to ensure that children in care, care leavers and carers feel well supported and are able to thrive. Children, young people and carers are likely to be supported by a number of different teams as they move through the care process. Whilst we know that this can cause some disruption we think it's important that the support on offer changes as the needs of the child or young person develop.

This section seeks to outline the roles and responsibilities of Local Authority teams that work with our children in care and care leavers.

Social Work Support for Children in Care

The Authority's social work support for children in care is provided by one of three types of social care teams. These are;

- Children in Care (CiC) Teams
- Children's Social Care (CSC) Teams
- The Disabled Children Team (DCT)

The Authority has three CiC Teams who work solely with children in care from 0 up to 18 years old. The teams strive to establish permanency through adoption, special guardianship, child arrangement or permanent fostering. Having dedicated children in care teams promotes specialism and expertise to develop within the social care workforce. This, we believe, in most cases leads to better outcomes for our young people.

While the majority of CiC are supported by our CiC teams, a small portion of our CiC cohort is supported by one of our twelve CSC teams. Cases are normally retained in order to prevent disruptions a move of social work team would cause. Like the CiC teams, CSC teams strive to secure permanency for young people through all available roots.

The DCT is an integrated service which includes social work with specialist knowledge in the area of childhood disability. The DCT undertake a number of duties, including those associated with meeting the Authority's statutory requirements in relation to severely disabled children in care. The number of CiC cases held by the DCT is relatively small.

Children's Homes

Nottingham City Council has eleven small residential homes offering care and accommodation for children and young people between the ages of 12 - 25 years. A wide range of care and support including short term emergency care and long term care including a long term home for children with complex disabilities (17 beds).

Semi-independent accommodation for young people who are 16 years and over (18 beds)
Short breaks unit for children and young people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and a range of associated challenging behaviours (11 beds).

All our homes are safe and welcoming and we are proud to provide high quality care with all of our homes judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Every effort is made to provide children and young people with the necessary support and nurture needed for them to achieve the best outcomes possible.

We quality assure all private and charitable run Residential Children's Homes and semi-independent provision in an effort to ensure all young people receive the same high quality care.

Some of our children are placed away from Nottingham city in residential children's homes and where this is the case we give our assurance to our young people and their families that we rigorously monitor the homes and extend all support and services to our children.

Fostering and Adoption (Including the Adoption Post Order Service)

The Fostering and Adoption Service aims to provide high quality family based care that ensures that children in care receive a positive experience of home and family life.

To achieve this we recruit, assess, train and support foster carers and adopters to support children to achieve the best possible outcomes in regards to their physical, emotional and intellectual development. A variety of foster carers and adopters are recruited and trained to meet the diverse needs of children and reflect the ethnic and cultural background of the community we serve. We offer a full and comprehensive training programme to equip carers to be able to meet the complex needs of children in our care

All foster carer and adoption applicants are rigorously screened thoroughly assessed and carefully trained so that they can provide safe and supportive homes for children in care, children placed for adoption and children post adoption.

Support is available to adopters after the adoption order is granted to enable them to learn and adapt to the changing needs of children. We recognise the lifetime commitment that is adoption. We offer a range of support including a designated Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA) who is there to help adopters' access adoption support, make application to the adoption support fund and other specialist services.

The Post Order team also offer a service to special guardians who can request an assessment and further support post the making of the order.

(Our full range of post order support is included in our Adoption Passport which is available from our website, <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/adopt>).

Independent Reviewing Officer Service

The Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) Service operates within the framework of the updated version of the IRO handbook, the national guidance of Working Together 2015 and the national guidance for Fostering. There is a statutory obligation to provide each child in care with an IRO to ensure their Human Rights are respected.

The Primary focus of the IRO is to critically examine and quality assure the Care Planning and interventions of the Local Authority in respect of each child or young person looked after. Central to this is ensuring that the child's wishes and feelings are given full consideration in planning and enabling by their role, improved outcomes. The primary focus therefore is to ensure;

- There is robust challenge regarding decisions, where there is underlying poor professional practice and when decisions are not being taken in the children's interests

- To challenge the quality of analysis being undertaken, to ensure it meets the children's needs
- That views of children, parents, carers and other professionals are given sufficient weight in care planning
- That informed reflection occurs on the child's progress and planning for the future

Leaving Care Service

The Leaving Care Service work with young people aged between 18 and 25 years who are eligible to receive care leaver support. The service aims to ensure all young people get the best support as they transition into adulthood.

Every young person will be given the opportunity to explore their independence with an individual support package that allows them to develop, learn, or re-learn the skills that will be needed for successful independent living.

We have supported a number of young people through further and higher education, with some going on study at a post-graduate level. We are very proud of our young people who have gone on to achieve huge educational successes.

The Leaving Care Service also incorporates a service for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. Many of these young people have had a difficult life and continue to need help to find suitable accommodation, education or training and may also need emotional or financial support.

The Placement Service

The Children's Placement Service is the single point of access for the procurement, brokerage, management and quality assurance of care placements. The Service is responsible for providing every child and young person with the best possible placement, which meets their needs, wishes and feelings and provides them with the opportunity to thrive and achieve. This could be an internal (Nottingham City Council) placement, or an external placement, commissioned through the Regional Provider Framework, or on a spot-purchased basis.

The Placement Service undertakes activities which ensure that all children and young people are accessing high quality care placements.

Youth Offending Team (YOT)

The Youth Offending Team work closely with young people who get into, or are at risk of getting into trouble with the law. The YOT (and its partners) work hard to prevent offending and re-offending behaviour. It has been effective in its efforts to do this through its use of Restorative Justice (RJ).

RJ is used to help young people who commit crime to make amends in an effort to repair the damage done and find a positive way forward. Research shows that restorative practice delivers better outcomes for young people across schools, care, community and the Criminal Justice System.

The YOT has now been awarded the Restorative Justice Council's Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM), which recognises professionalism and high standards in RJ practice.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

The CAMHS Children in Care team provides a specialist service and training to support and maintain the emotional and mental health needs of our young people. The team ensures the emotional health needs of young people are reflected in Health Plans and are part of the CiC review process.

The team multi-disciplinary offers support and intervention based on a Consultation Model. This model helps professional better meet the emotional and mental health needs of our young people and informs direct therapeutic work offered to young people and their carers.

Virtual School

The role of the Virtual School is to monitor, support and provide interventions to ensure that children in care achieve the best possible educational outcomes. The school reports on the completion of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and audits the quality of these plans. It also supports schools, or other educational institutes, to fulfil their statutory duties to children in care.

The Virtual School works with a network of Designated Teachers who are dedicated to ensuring that our children achieve the best they can in line with all other children.

Social Care Complaints Service

The Social Care Complaints Service facilitates the resolution of service user dissatisfaction and learns from complaints in order to improve service delivery. There is a concerted effort to ensure that our young people know how to make a complaint if they are dissatisfied with the support they receive. Regular monitoring of complaints mean trends can be identified and service improvements can be made.

Analysis and Insight

Analysis and Insight work to create insight, analysis and performance reports to drive service improvements. The team are responsible for statutory returns, data quality, performance reporting, inspection support and work primarily to support front line services.

The team help services test hypotheses, identify trends and trajectories with a view to bringing data to life.

Research, Engagement and Consultation (REC) Team

The Research, Engagement and Consultation team provides strategic and operational support for children's social care to ensure that children and young people's views, experiences and ideas for change are listened to and used to shape both their lives and improve services for CiC in general.

The Engagement and Participation Lead from the REC team is responsible for convening CiC Council meetings and associated youth voice activities linked to the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and Charter for Children in Care and Care Leavers. The Engagement Lead also co-ordinates the annual Have Your Say survey of all CiC and care leavers, the results of which are used by the CPB to drive up standards across all service areas.

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Support Services and Partner Agencies

The Children in Care Service works closely with a number of support services and partner agencies external to the Authority, all of which share the same vision. Support services and partner agencies include the following:

Children in Care and Adoption Health Team

It is a statutory responsibility for the Children in Care and Adoption Health team to assist the local authority in addressing the needs of children in care through effective commissioning, delivery and co-ordination of health services and through individual practitioners providing co-ordinated care for each young person.

The team is led by a Designated Doctor and Nurse and includes Community Paediatricians and Clinical Nurse Specialists who collectively are responsible for:

- Ensuring that children and young people in care receive statutory health assessments and that key performance health indicators are met
- Working with children, young people, carers and Social Care colleagues to ensure all identified health needs of children in care that are identified are met
- The Designated Professionals ensure that the health needs of children in care are raised and recognised in all appropriate forums across the health and social care community

Lifeline Journey

Lifeline Journey is commissioned by the Authority and partners to provide drug and alcohol provision for young people under the age of 18 who have a link to Nottingham City.

Their mission is to work with young people and their families to reduce the impact of substance misuse, support recovery and to challenge inequalities linked to drug and alcohol use. They are committed to providing a confidential and friendly drug and alcohol service that values young people and their families to achieve positive outcomes.

Lifeline Journey provides a comprehensive range of support packages for young people, their families and the professional around them.

National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)

NYAS are commissioned to provide issue-based advocacy service for children and young people up to the age of 18 years, looked-after now or in the past, or up to 25 years for those with a disability or in higher education.

- Advice and information for children and young people about their rights. Services include
- Independent Persons service is for all eligible children and young people subject to current Secure Accommodation Orders
- Independent Visitor service provides suitable appointed volunteers to visit any child or young person who is in care where it is deemed to be in the child or young person's best interests. This includes children placed out of the local authority area

- Residential Visiting Advocacy service provides visits to all residential children’s homes and residential schools wherever one of our young people is placed. This includes secure accommodation

Futures

Futures are a not-for-profit provider of jobs and skills advice, training, apprenticeships and support to young people and adults who need help preparing for work or training.

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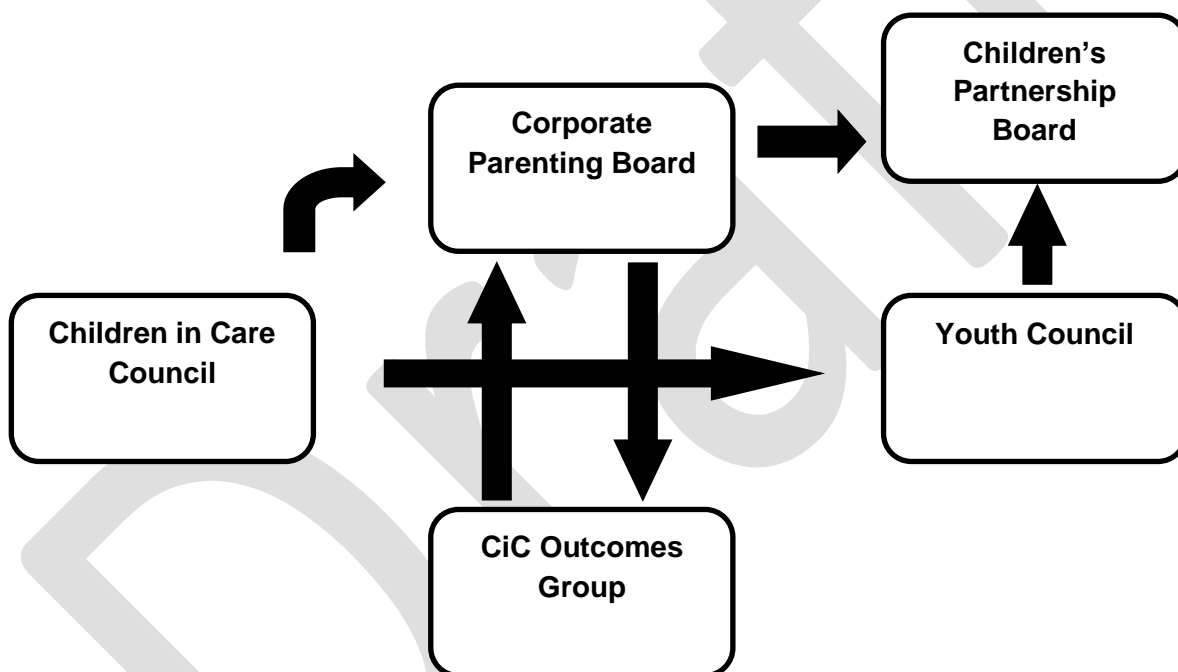
Governance and Monitoring Framework

This strategy is endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Board. Strategic Priorities (SPs) and their corresponding actions will be reviewed in response to updates of the Children in Care Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the annual children in care and care leavers 'Have Your Say' (HYS) survey, and priorities set by central government. The next schedule update of this strategy will take place in 2017.

Progress against actions outline in the action plan will be monitored by both Children in Care Outcome Group and Corporate Parenting Board members.

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) will assist in the evaluation of progress against identified priorities. The CiCC are involved in analysing performance data generated by the annual HYS survey and comparing it review result from the previous year. Priorities for future action are then recommended.

The diagram below shows the relationship between corporate parenting forums within the Authority.



Strategic Action Plan

The action plan that supports this strategy is a working document. As the effectiveness of activity is monitored and reviewed, the content will be added to. The following action plan serves to provide an indication of activity that will be undertaken to address the seven strategic priorities identified but should not be viewed as a comprehensive and complete list of remedial action.

SP1 – To actively seek the wishes and feelings of our young people and use the information to influence the care and support they receive. We will ensure our young people are able to access the advocacy, independent visitor and complaints services. We will ensure our young people feel treated with respect and will be given enough time and help to understand and be happy with their circumstances					
Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 End of Year)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
1.1. Ensure children in care have their Children In Care Reviews within the appropriate timescale	IRO Service	The % of children in care reviewed within the appropriate timescale	98%	97%	
1.2. Ensure children in care participate in their Children In Care reviews	IRO Service	The % reviews where the child participated	97%	90%	
1.3. Convene monthly Children in Care Council (CiCC) meetings thus allowing children to be consulted on service developments their support	REC Team	The number of CiCC meetings held over a 12 month period	12	12	
1.4. Increase the membership of CiCC	REC Team / CiC Team / F&A Service / Residential Children's Home / Placements Service	The number of CiCC members	18	20	

1.5. Seek the views of children and young people as part of the annual 'Have your Say' (HYS) survey	REC Team / CiC Team / Leaving Care Service / F&A Service / Placements Service / Residential Children's Home	The % return of usable Have Your Say surveys	19%	20%	
1.6. Introduction of the MOMO (mind of my own) service to staff and young people	REC Team	Identification and training of MOMO champions from appropriate service areas	Data not available (new measures)	N/A	
		Production of staff guidance document			
		Production of young people guidance document			
1.7. Ensure the wishes and feelings of children in care are recorded in all health assessments	CiC Health Team	The % of health assessments where the wishes and feelings of young people have been recorded	Data not available (new measure)	90%	

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SP2 – To help our young people achieve educational success and to ensure those leaving care are engaged in either employment, education or training

Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 Year End)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
2.1. Ensure the completion and implementation of Personal Education Plans (PEPs)	Virtual School / CiC Team / CSC Team /	The % of children in care with completed with a completed PEP	95%	95%	
2.2. Ensure children in care achieve A* - C in their GCSEs	Virtual School / CiC Team / CSC Team	The % children who have been in care for more than 12 months as at 31/03/14 achieving 5+ A* - C	6.5%	16%	
		The % children who have been in care for more than 12 months as at 31/03/14 achieving 5+ A* - C including English and Maths	6.5%	13%	
2.3. Ensure that school admission of children in care takes no longer than 20 days	Virtual School / CiC Team / CSC Team /	% of admissions not processed within 20 school days in City schools	Data not available	80%	
2.4. Monitor school attendance of children on a weekly basis	Virtual School / CiC Team / CSC Team	The % of sessions missed due to:			
		*Overall absence	4.7%	5.2%	
		*Authorised absence	3.3%	3.8%	
		*Unauthorised absence	1.4%	1.9%	
		The % of children in care classed as persistent absentees	4.3%	4.8%	
2.5. Ensure care leavers are engaged in education, employment or training	Leaving Care Service / Futures	The % of care leavers in employment, education and training aged 17 – 21 years	65.9%	55%	

SP3 – To ensure care leavers have access to suitable accommodation and support in order to facilitate the best possible transition into independence

Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 End of Year)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
3.1. Ensure Pathway Plans are completed and implemented at age 15	Leaving Care Service / IRO Service / CSC Team	The % of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan completed/authorised in the preceding 6 months	80.8%	97%	
3.2. Ensure the Independent Living Skills Programme is being used for children in care	CiC Team / IRO Service	The % of children in care with a Living Skills Programme booklet started	Data not available (new measure)	To monitor	
3.3. Work with NCH, Housing Aid and other housing providers to ensure our care leavers have access to suitable accommodation	Leaving Care Service / IRO Service	The % of care leavers, aged 17 to 21 years in suitable accommodation	89.6%	85%	
3.4. Promote use of the Staying Put scheme where appropriate	CiC Team / F&A Service	The number of young people in Staying Put placements	24	20	

SP4 – To keep young people safe and avoid the criminalisation of young people through strong collaborative partnership work

Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 End of Year)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
4.1. Convene quarterly Multi-agency Network meetings between our Youth Offending Team, Nottinghamshire Police, and private and statutory providers. Meetings are used to share good practice, information, and open up lines of communication	Police Service / YOT	The % of children in care aged 10 years and over with convictions/cautions and reprimands	6% (2014/15 End of Year)	5.5%	
4.2. Deliver training on Restorative Justice (RJ) to staff, foster carers, residential team and external providers	YOT				
4.3. Embed the Multi-Agency Protocol to avoid the criminalisation of young people	Police Service				
4.4. Deliver training regarding reducing the risk of Sexual Exploitation to staff and external providers	Police Service / CSE Coordinator	The number of training sessions delivered	27 delivered training sessions	To increase the number of training sessions	
4.5. Convene bi-monthly Concerns Network meetings where low level sexual exploitation concerns are shared and addressed	Police Service	The number of convened Concerns Network Meetings	6	6	
		The number of Child Sexual Exploitation referrals	28 (October 2015 – End of financial care)	To monitor	

4.6. Undertake return interviews to children who go missing or absent	Missing Team	The % of return interviews undertaken	64.3	80%	
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SP5 – To ensure young people are healthy through the delivery of appropriate intervention and health services. This will be facilitated through the timely undertaking of health assessments, dental checks, immunisations, and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs).

Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 End of Year)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
5.1. Ensure children have appropriate and timely health checks	CiC Team / F&A Service/ CSC Team / CiC Health Team/ Placement Service / IRO Service	The % of children in care with an up-to-date health assessment	76.9%	90%	
5.2. Ensure children in care are registered with a General Practitioner (GP)	CiC Team / F&A Service / CSC Team / CiC Health Team/ Placement Service / IRO Service	The % of children in care registered with a GP	98.8%	100%	
5.3. Ensure children have appropriate and timely dental checks	CiC Team / F&A Service / CSC Team / CiC Health Team / Placement Service / IRO Service	The % of children in care with up-to-date dental checks	80.1%	90%	
5.4. Ensure children in care over the age of two years are registered with a dentist	CiC Team / F&A Service / CSC Team / CiC Health Team / Placement Service / IRO Service	The % of children in care aged two years and over who are registered with a dentist	87.7%	100%	
5.5. Ensure children have appropriate and timely immunisation	CiC Team / F&A Service / CSC Team /	The % of children with up to date vaccinations on initial assessments reaching two years of age and reaching five years of age	Data not available (new measure)	N/A	

	CiC Health Team / Placement Service / IRO Service	The % of children with up to date vaccinations after a year of being in care reaching two years of age and reaching five years of age	Data not available (new measure)	95%	
		The % of children in care who have had their Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination reaching 18 years of age	15%	To monitor	
		The % of children in care who have had their Preschool Booster (PSB) vaccinations reaching 18 years of age	41.9%	To monitor	
5.6. Ensure children in care have an up-to-date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire	F&A Service / CSC Team / Placement / IRO Service	The % of children with up-to-date Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire	65.3%	90%	
5.7. Ensure children in care with abnormal Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire score (of 17+), who are not receiving therapeutic support, are referred to the CAMHS Children Looked After team	CiC Team / CSC Team	The % of children in care with an abnormal SDQ score referred to the CAMHS Children Looked After team	Data not available (new measure)	100%*	
5.8. Ensure children in care, referred to the CAMHS Children Looked After team are offered the opportunity to complete an outcome measure	CAMHS	The % of children in care referred to the CAMHS Children Looked After team offered the opportunity to complete an outcome measure	Data not available (new measure)	100%	
5.9. Ensure the completion of outcome measures	CAMHS	The % of completed Routine Outcome Monitoring for children in care referred to the CAMHS Children Looked After team	Data not available (new measure)	65%	

SPS 6 – To reduce delays in securing stability and permanency for our young people. We will ensure unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker or school are avoided

Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 End of Year)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
6.1. Ensure permanency is secure for children in care	CiC Team / IRO Service / CSC Team	The number of children discharged as a result of an Adoption Order	45	42	
		The number of children discharged as a result of a Special Guardianship Order	21	30	
		The number of children discharged as a result of a Child Arrangement Order	20	To monitor	
6.2. Ensure children in care with an Adoption Plan do not experience unnecessary delay	CiC Team / F&A Service / IRO Service / CSC Team	The % of adopted children who were placed for adoption within 426 days of entering care (adoption scorecard)	42.2%	75%	
		The % (who were placed for adoption or adopted in the year) who were placed for adoption within 426 days of entering care	35.4%	75%	
		The % of adopted children who were matched within 121 days of the placement order (adoption scorecard)	15.4%	85%	
		The % of children currently matched, placed for adoption or adopted in the year that were matched within 121 days of the placement order.	9.7%	85%	
		The number of children whose adoption plan has been formally revoked	8	To monitor	
		The average number of days between a Best Interest decision and an Agency Decision Makers approval of a plan	74	To monitor	
		The average number of days between an Agency Decision Makers approval of plan and an approval of a match	365	To monitor	
		The average number of days between an Agency Decision Makers approval of match and a child being placed for adoption	4	To monitor	

6.3. Ensure children in care do not experience unnecessary change in placements	CiC Team / F&A Service / IRO Service / Placement Service / CSC Team	The % of children in care that have had three or more placements in the previous 12 months	11.1%	12.9%	
		The % of children in care who have lived in the same placement for at least 2 years	66%	70%	
6.4. Ensure school placements are a priority in the event of a placement move, in an attempt to ensure the number of school placement moves is kept to a minimum	Virtual School / F&A Service / CiC Team / CSC Team / Placements Service	The % of children in care reporting a change of school in the previous 12 months	31%	27%	

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SP7 – To increase use of internal foster and residential placements through the recruitment and retention of foster carers, and to explore if the types and numbers of residential placements can be increased in order to offer more local homes

Action	Responsible Area	Performance Indicators	Baseline (2015/16 End of Year)	Target (2016/17)	Comments
7.1. Recruit and retain a broad range of foster carers who are able to accommodate older children and those with complex needs	F&A Service	The % of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements compared to the % of City Fostering placements	59%/41% (IFA/City)	50%/50% (IFA/City)	
7.2. Ensure Nottingham City Council foster carers are used wherever possible	F&A Service / CiC Team / Placement Service / CSC Team				
7.3. To explore if the number and types of Nottingham City Council residential placements available can be increased	Residential Children's Home	The number of and types of Nottingham City Council residential placements available	Placement Types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 short-term • 9 long-term • 4 complex disability long-term • 11 short breaks • 18 semi-independent 	N/A	
7.4. Ensure children in care are placed as close to Nottingham city as possible	F&A Service / CiC Team / Placement Service / Residential Children's Home	The % of placements that are within 20 miles from Nottingham	82.6%	85%	

Responsible Area	Lead Officer
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Anna Masding (Aileen Wilson)
Children in Care Health Team	Kathryn Higgins
Children in Care (CiC) Team	Sharon Clarke
Children Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Coordinator	Racheal Osborne
Children's Social Care (CSC) Team	Caroline Riley
Disabled Children's Team	Marie Halford
Fostering and Adoption (F&A) Service	Sonia Cain
Futures	Angela Whitehead
Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service	Alison Platkiw
Leaving Care Service	Sharon Clarke
Lifelong Journey	Habib Akhtar
Missing Team	Racheal Osborne
National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)	Valerie Marshall
Placements Service	Anne Partington
Police Service	PC Sam Flint
Representative and Complaints	Patrick Skeete
Research, Engagement and Consultation (REC) Team	Jon Rea
Residential Children's Home	Kay Sutt
Targeted Support Team	Kay Sutt
Virtual School	Sarah Fielding
Youth Offending Team (YOT)	Angeline Harrison

Appendices

Appendix 1 Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter



Children in Care & Care Leavers' Charter

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

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

Commitments to children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will treat all our children and young people with respect and with regard to their age and understanding
- We will give our children and young people enough time and help to understand (and be happy) with their circumstances
- We will make sure they know about the advocacy and complaints services in case they want help to have their views heard or are unhappy with us
- We will listen to our children and young people and involve them in planning for their care
- We will keep our children and young people safe and well by:
 - o Seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible
 - o Making sure that this home is stable and keeps them safe
 - o Giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible
- We will help our children and young people to enjoy themselves

Commitments concerning children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability
- We know that a change of home, carer, social worker or school can easily cause problems for a child or young person so we promise to do all we can to prevent such changes unless they are absolutely necessary to keep the child or young person safe and well
- We will make sure that a child or young person stays in touch with their birth family and friends as much as possible, considering their safety and wellbeing
- We will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood
- We will ensure that all our children and young people – and the adults working for them – know about these promises

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

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

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



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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

Title of paper:	Children In Care Social Care Complaints Report	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Patrick Skeete - Social Care Complaints Manager Patrick.skeete@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 65971	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Ian Hillier – Complaints and Mediation Officer Hayley March – Complaints and Mediation Officer	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report includes a brief summary of the statutory Social Care Complaints procedure, which ensures young people have a robust process to express their dissatisfaction. The report highlights complaints made specifically by Children in Care in accordance with the statutory Social Care Complaints procedure. This report also focuses on the nature of the complaints made and whether the complaints were addressed within the statutory timescales.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That the Board continues to support the effective complaints handling of young people in care, and understand required duties of Corporate Parents in relation to addressing the concerns of young people in care.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Nottingham City has a legislative duty to ensure all young people have a robust complaints process to address any concerns that that they are responsible for.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The aim of the Social Care Complaints Team is to resolve service user dissatisfaction, and learn from complaints in order to improve service delivery. The Complaints Service operates a statutory complaints procedure, which includes the production of an annual report on the operation of the complaints procedure (see 9.1).
- 2.2 Complaints which are made and resolved within 24 hours are not logged as complaints. This is in line with national guidance.
- 2.3 The remit of the Complaints Team is not simply to receive calls. The Team is required to check that a person who wishes to make a complaint has sufficiency of interest in respect of making a complaint: it obtains consent from the citizen / service user, where this is required; in respect of children's complaints, consideration may need to be given as to whether a child is Fraser competent; in other circumstances, consideration will need to be given to determine whether a complaint is being made in the interests of the citizen, where she or he may lack the necessary capacity, as determined under the Mental Capacity Act; Where a Power of Attorney is raised as a right to make a complaint on another person's behalf, the Complaints Team has to establish whether such a Power is registered or not.
- 2.4 It is only after these matters have been considered, that the Social Care Complaints Team asks a Service Manager or Team Manager to provide a written response to a complaint, and to respond to the complaint within the timescales as defined within the relevant statutory complaints process.
- 2.5 The Complaints Team provide advice to the Operational Teams on how to avoid unnecessary escalation of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO). Further support is provided to the Department in managing complaints from the Local Government Ombudsman, along with training for all front line staff.
- 2.6 The Complaints Team have been integral in identifying complaints that have the potential to be escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman; advice is offered to operational staff how to limit the impact of such complaints, thereby reducing any reputational damage to the Authority.
- 2.7 Where a complaint reaches the Ombudsman, the Complaints Team is highly skilled at risk assessing complaints in order to identify potential failings, so that they may be rectified and resolved, before the Ombudsman investigates the complaint. This once again helps to avoid reputational damage.
- 2.8 The Expectation from Ofsted is that the Local Authority does not operate a one dimensional view of quality & practice.
- 2.9 When investigated, a complaint may not be upheld, particularly where there is evidence that the complaint is mistaken. However, in all cases we work to improve communication and support children in care effectively.

Children's Statutory Social Care Complaints Procedure.

- 2.10 Stage 1 – the Department is asked to provide a written response within 10 working days, this may be extended to 20 working days.

2.11 Stage 2 – the complainant, usually where she / he remains dissatisfied following a response at stage 1, may request an investigation of their complaint; this is usually undertaken by an Independent Investigator, overseen by an Independent Person, both commissioned by the Department. The stage 2 outcome is provided in the form of an investigation report, which should be available within 25 working days, but this may be extended to 65 working days.

2.12 Stage 3 – if the complainant remains dissatisfied after receiving the Investigator’s findings and recommendation, she / he may request that an Independent Panel (comprised of 3 Independent People) review the complaint and investigation. The complainant and any representative, along with a representative from the Department, along with the Investigator and Independent Person are invited to the Panel too.

2.13 The relevant Director then writes to the complainant to explain if the Department accepts the findings and recommendations of the Stage 3 Panel; the Director also explains what action plan has been agreed to be put in place so as to complete any recommendations.

2.14 Complaints Received from Children in Care 2015/2016:

Complainant	Nature of complaint	Days to resolve	Outcome
1	Unwelcome or disputed decision	1	No finding
2	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	3	No finding
3	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	5	Mostly upheld
4	Attitude or behaviour of staff	7	Not upheld
5	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	9	Mostly not upheld
6	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	7	Mostly upheld
7	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	3	Upheld
8	Unwelcome or disputed decision	4	Not upheld
9	Unwelcome or disputed decision	1	Not upheld
10	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	10	Not upheld
11	Unwelcome or disputed decision	6	Upheld
12	Concern about the quality or appropriateness of the service	9	Not upheld
13	Unwelcome or disputed decision	4	No finding
14	Attitude or behaviour of staff	11	No finding

2.15 Main Points:

- Compared with the previous reporting period complaints rose 100% from 7 to 14.
- All 14 complaints were resolved at stage 1 of the complaints procedure.

- All 14 complaints were concluded within the statutory timescale of 20 working days; in fact all but one response was provided within 10 days, which is excellent.
- No strong themes were identified as no two complaints were the same; however, one theme that was common in 3 complaints was that Social Work support had been sporadic. The young people complaining felt that frequently changing their Social Worker had had a negative impact on them and that this lack of consistency has resulted in a lack of support for them.

Individual complaint synopsis

1. Complainant was unhappy in his current foster placement and wanted to move. In response to the complaint, the Social Worker held a meeting with him on the same day and the matter was subsequently resolved.
2. A meeting was held with a young person in a children's home after he had complained about the attitude of a member of staff. No finding was made in respect of the complaint but the issue was resolved.
3. A young person complained that, on moving to a new Local Authority children's home, his room had not been cleaned since the last occupant left. This was upheld and a written apology was provided to him.
4. The complainant was unhappy with a member of staff in a children's home because he felt she kept laughing at him; this was investigated by staff in the home and resolved but not upheld.
5. A fourteen-year-old complained she had been unable to get hold of her Social Worker; she also complained that her allocated Social Worker kept changing. The complaint was mostly not upheld, but the response contained an apology for the changes in Workers that had occurred.
6. A young person complained about both a lack of Social Work support and Social Worker visits; he also complained about a missing clothing allowance. The response fully upheld the complaint about poor social work support and a full written apology was provided; this also explained that the clothing allowance had been included with his living allowance.
7. Very similar to complaint 6 in that the young person complained about a lack of consistency in Social Worker and Social Work support; the complaint was upheld.
8. A young person on leaving care complained he was owed an allowance from when he was fostered: the response explained that he had received the allowance and in addition he had received an ISA too.
9. A looked after child who was still in youth custody complained he had not had his allowance. The complaint was not upheld and a written response explained what financial support he had received.
10. A young person complained she had received little contact or support from her Personal Adviser; the complaint was not upheld.
11. A young man on placement, some distance from Nottingham, complained about the lack of clarity in the message he had received from the Department in respect of whether he should travel on public transport. The response upheld his complaint and apologised for the IRO and Social Worker's lack of clarity.
12. A young person who had just left care complained about the property he had been placed in; he was also unhappy that no one had obtained a college place for him. The response did not uphold his complaint; instead it explained why a series of

private landlords had ended his tenancy as a consequence of his anti-social behaviour.

13. A young person in foster care requested that Children's Social Care pay for her cosmetic dental implants; the response explained that by consulting with medical professionals her request would be considered, but it also explained that implants might not be suitable until she was over 21 when her jaw may have fully matured.

14. A young person complained she was not being given enough support coming up to the time when she would be leaving care; a response was provided that tried to quell her anxieties and reassure her.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 None.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 The Children Act 1989 (S24D & 26[3] & The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 require each Local Authority to establish formal procedures for considering complaints in respect of services to children. Government Regulations were introduced in 2006 and the Secretary of State issued statutory guidance under the Local Government Social Services Act 1970. Failure to adhere to timescales could mean maladministration payments being made to the complainant

5.2 If the above legislation is not adhered to the Local Authority will fail to fulfil its statutory duty and this will impact on service delivery to complainants resulting in the involvement of the Local Government Ombudsman with a potential outcome of the Department being requested to make maladministration payments if the LGO feels there has been undue delay in progressing the complaint, this in turn may cause reputational risk to the Department.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

6.1 None.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Not needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes



Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure Regulations 2006.

9.2 The Children Act 1989 (S24D & 26[3] & The Local Authority Social Services.

9.3 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 1991 National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2006.

9.3 Getting the Best from Complaints National Guidance.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

Title of paper:	NYAS Advocacy and Independent Visitor (IV) Service – Nottingham Residential Visiting	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Valerie Marshall - NYAS Service Manager, Midlands c/o Attenborough Suite, Mohan Business Centre, Tamworth Road, Long Eaton, Derbyshire. valerie.marshall@nyas.net	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Senior Advocate, NYAS IV co-ordinator, NYAS Salaried Advocate	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report summarises the activities undertaken to date of the Advocacy and Independent Visitor (IV) services provided by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) during the year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.</p> <p>The report will also highlight the benefits of providing good quality advocacy and IV services and this contributes to safeguarding and improving outcomes for young people.</p> <p>An appendix to this report is exempt from publication under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to personal data which could be used in the public arena to identify an individual and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest to disclose this information. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because it may compromise the safeguarding measures implemented by the local authority and partner organisations when protecting children and young people in care.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To acknowledge the Advocacy and Independent Visitor activities being undertaken by NYAS.	
2	To recognise the importance of the Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services in	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 To acknowledge the Advocacy and Independent Visitor activities being undertaken by NYAS.

It is important to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Board (the Board) has an understanding of the Authority's children in care Advocacy and Independent Visitor (IV) arrangements and the activities being undertaken to ensure the best quality provision is being delivered. Ensuring the Board has a thorough understanding of what NYAS, as providers of these services, are contracted to deliver and the work being conducted to deliver these services, will place the Board in a position to better scrutinise the quality of Advocacy and IV provision.

1.2 To recognise the importance of the Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services in safeguarding and helping children in care to get their views heard.

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

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

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 The role of the Independent Visitor was first introduced as a statutory service for looked after children in the Children Act 1989. Nottingham City commission the provision of this Service to NYAS, and the Residential Service Manager for Children in Care is responsible for overseeing this contract. Nationally, research suggests that the importance of this role is under-recognised. For example, the Children's Rights Director reported that 80% of children who did not have an independent visitor said this was because they were never offered one. Independent visitor networks and key stakeholders have been calling for increased awareness and improved consistency across local authorities.

NYAS was awarded the contract to provide Advocacy services and Independent Visiting services commencing 1st April 2014. The Service was awarded following a competitive tendering process. Prior to 1st April, 2014, the service was delivered by Barnardo's.

The Commissioned Service provides –

2.2 ISSUE BASED ADVOCACY

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

This Service is for children and young people up to the age of eighteen years, looked-

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

The number of children and young people who can receive support from an Advocate is dependent of the contract budget.

2.3 INDEPENDENT PERSONS SERVICE

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

2.4 INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE

This Service provides suitable appointed volunteers to visit any child or young person who is looked-after where it is deemed to be in the child or young person's best interests, in accordance with s47 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. This includes children placed out of the Local Authority area. The Children Act 1989, Schedule 2 Para. 17 states a key criterion for those suitable for service: 'that communication or visits between the young person and a parent of hers/his or, any person who has parental responsibility for the young person, has been infrequent or non-existent during the last twelve months'. The Children and Young Person Act 2008 broadens the criteria, to include those young people for whom it is deemed to be in their "best interests" to have an Independent Visitor.

There is no cap of the number of looked after children and young people who can be referred to the service for an Independent Visitor. Therefore all looked after children and young people can be offered an IV if it is felt it is in their best interests. The IV Service is provided up to the age of 18.

2.5 RESIDENTIAL VISITING ADVOCACY SERVICE

This Service provides visits to all Children & Young People's residential children's homes and residential schools, whether provided by the Local Authority or an independent provider where a looked after child from Nottingham City is placed. This is to include those placements outside the City of Nottingham or the County of Nottinghamshire. Children and young people are entitled to a bi-monthly visit from a visiting Advocate.

2.6 SPOT PURCHASE

NYAS provides an Independent Advocacy Service for the following children and young people on a spot purchase referral basis. They include those who are-

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

2.7 SERVICE TRANSFER

NYAS utilised the services of independent advocates from other contracts to ensure that the most vulnerable young people were prioritised, and received services whilst the Service was being transferred from Barnardo's to NYAS in 2014.

2.8 STAFF TEAM

The staff team is made up of a Service Manager, a Senior Advocate and an IV Co-ordinator. The contract is overseen by the Service Manager - Midlands. In addition, NYAS currently has 17 independent advocates, with a further 4 currently awaiting training. We are continuing with a programme of recruitment and have 4 further candidates to interview in the near future.

2.9 PROGRESS TO DATE

Independent visitor service

NYAS have continued working hard to maintain the Independent Visiting service by; supporting current volunteers, recruiting new volunteers, delivering independent visiting training and supporting volunteers through their workbook.

This is a national issue and a useful document to consult is ***The National Independent Visitor Data Report January 2016*** – some of the key findings from this report were:

Key findings

- There are around **2,200** children currently matched with an Independent Visitor – **3.2%** of the total looked after children (LAC) population in England.
- There are currently **over 1000 children** on a waiting list for an IV; the data shows over two thirds of Local Authorities have a waiting list.
- **8 Local Authorities in England** responded that they do not have an IV Service.
- **5 Local Authorities** operate solely on a spot purchase basis.
- **38 Local Authorities** reported funding IV matches beyond 18 years old; the data shows that in these Local Authorities, there were around 130 Care Leavers benefiting from this. However many more relationships continue informally without funding. Four Local Authorities told us that they have officially extended their provision in line with the Leaving Care Act.
- **104 Local Authorities** contract out their IV Service to external organisations; **32 Local Authorities** provide their IV Service 'in-house'.
- **40%** of matches have known each other for at least 2 years.
- On average there are around **14 matches** per Service across England.

Volunteer Support

All volunteers receive support from the IV Co-ordinator over the phone and via e-mail to ensure they are fully informed of any updates and changes in the Service. The IV Co-ordinator has delivered one to one support to volunteers who are unable to attend

any of the volunteer meetings. The IV Co-ordinator continues to offer newly matched volunteers with support, by offering a checking in an out system during their first few visits. Volunteers meetings have taken place where best practice is shared, including activity ideas and opportunities for additional positive activities which are paid for by NYAS.

Looking forward into the next year

The new Service Manager and IV Co-ordinator will be meeting with key individuals within the Local Authority to look at some partnership work, This includes the Head of Service, Service Manager, for Children In Care, Head of the IRO Team which will reduce the number of referrals that are closed due to NYAS not receiving the necessary referral and Health & Safety forms.

The NYAS team will visit the children and Social Care Teams to promote the services and provide information packs. Explain the service delivery and the importance of completing the necessary referral forms.

Children and Young People waiting to be matched will be offered the opportunity to participate in interviews, Art workshops and other local and national NYAS participation work.

Advocacy Service

Referrals are received through our national helpline and passed through to the Local Co-ordinator for allocation. Advocates have been sourced from out of county contracts. NYAS normally allocates each case within 24 hours, and the Advocate makes contact with the child or young person within 72 hours.

17 NYAS self-employed Advocates supported children and young people nationally.

Looking forward into the next year

The focus will be to increase the number of Advocacy referrals by disseminating the referral information across all Social Care Teams. The NYAS Team will visit the Teams and internal homes to promote the services and provide information packs. Explain the service delivery and answer any questions.

Children and Young People also will be offered the opportunity to participate in interviews and other local and national NYAS participation work.

Children and Young People will be made of the Children in Care Council and all will be encouraged to share their views through the 'Have Your Say Survey' including those matched with an IV, receiving Advocacy support and visiting residential advocacy.

Looking forward into the next year

The focus of the coming year is to increase the number of residential visits that are undertaken. The increase in self-employed Advocates will address this. NYAS promotional leaflets and posters will be disseminated across all residential homes and information of how to make a referral. The Service Manager and teams will link in with Homes' Managers and in some instances will visit the Home especially those with

additional needs increase awareness of the support NYAS can offer by using non-instructive Advocacy approach.

Children and Young People will be encouraged to feedback on the service they receive from NYAS, verbally, via feedback cards and forms.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

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

1. Year 1. As per contractual agreement
2. Year 2. As per contractual agreement
3. Year 3. As per contractual agreement

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

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

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

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

6.1 None.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because:
(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Not needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes

Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 The National Independent Visitor Data Report, January 2016.

9.2 The Children Act, 1989.

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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	12 th July 2016	22 nd 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

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Agenda Item 10

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**
- **Jordan Whatman**

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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