



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 19 March 2018

Time: 2.30 pm

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

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

Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources

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

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| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2 | DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS | |
| 3 | MINUTES
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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

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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 15 January 2018 from 2.31 pm - 3.28 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice Chair)
Councillor Liaqat Ali
Councillor Jim Armstrong
Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Sue Johnson
Councillor Jackie Morris
Councillor Wendy Smith
Councillor Sam Webster

Absent

Councillor Marcia Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Beverley Beattie	-	Foster Carer
Clive Chambers	-	Head of Service – Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Sharon Clarke	-	Service Manager, Children in Care
Ian Crompton	-	Fostering and Adoption Practice Manager and Panel Advisor
Racheal Osborne	-	CSE Coordinator and Missing Children's Team Manager
Patrick Skeete	-	Representation and Complaints Manager
Audrey Taylor	-	Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption
Zena West	-	Governance Officer
Jordan Whatman	-	Project Officer, Children in Care

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TM, Foster Carer representative
Councillor Marcia Watson – personal reasons

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

45 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 20 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46 FOSTERING AND ADOPTION PANEL CHAIR'S REPORT

Ian Crompton, Advisor to the Fostering and Adoption panel, presented a report on the Fostering and Adoption panels to the Board, highlighting the following points:

- (a) the last year has been quite busy for the Fostering and Adoption panels.
Nottingham City is one of the few local authorities which run combined panels for

fostering and for adoption. Feedback is requested from those who attend panel, and 98% said the experience was positive, stating they had the opportunity to ask questions and felt they were listened to. In the last year the panel has started to give feedback on the quality of reports as well. 79% were of good or outstanding quality. This is the first year this has been measured so no comparisons are available to previous years;

- (b) the Fostering panel considers fostering applications, the annual review of foster carers, cases where any concerns have been raised, and connected persons hearings; where someone with a personal connection to the child or young person is considered as a potential foster carer;
- (c) the Adoption panel considers the approval of prospective adopters, as well as matches of adopters to children or young people;
- (d) all decisions of the panel go to the Agency Decision Maker for ratification;
- (e) membership of panels is constantly reviewed, this year Councillors Chris Tansley and Merlita Bryan have been appointed. Councillor panel members bring further qualities to panel through their own experiences.

The Board had a number of questions and comments, and some further information was provided:

- (f) a discrepancy matrix system is a tool for analysing reports and identifying where there is a lack of evidence that may cause the panel concern, or any issues regarding a lack of supporting information. It assists the panel members to be more analytical in their approach;
- (g) the youngest panel member at the moment is 29 years old. The panel has members who previously young people or children in care, one of whom was previously a member of the Children in Care Council. Recruiting and retaining younger people as panel members can be difficult, but the process is ongoing;
- (h) extra panels have been held recently, as there was a large number of potential foster carers waiting for approval;
- (i) nationally it is anticipated that around 33% of applicants to become foster carers would not complete the process. Nottingham City's dropout rate for potential foster carers is much lower. It is not known why this is the case,, but it is thought that it may be due to Nottingham City having a more thorough and targeted initial recruitment process;
- (j) a member of the Board fed back that, as a referee for a potential foster carer, they felt the process was very thorough, and wished to pass their compliments on to the Recruitment team.

RESOLVED to thank Ian Crompton for the update, and note its contents.

47 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Racheal Osborne, Child Sexual Exploitation Co-Ordinator and Missing Children's Team Manager, presented a report on safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation, highlighting the following points:

- (a) one of the developments since January 2017 is the new Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) toolkit, which includes Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. Nottingham City has worked with a representative from Nottinghamshire County to develop the new toolkit. Some additional risk factors have been identified, such as children who have suffered sexual abuse previously, and those with a sibling connection to CSE;
- (b) the CSE toolkit has been distributed to partner agencies, once the toolkits are sent back for review, they are assessed for which cases meet the threshold for strategy meetings. It is the same 2 people who look at the toolkits, to ensure a consistent approach;
- (c) the toolkit enables a consistent approach to be taken across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. At a regional CSE meeting, work is underway to share local knowledge, including learning about identified risk factors. The multi-agency training plan is updated annually. Bespoke training is also provided to Local Authority Children's Homes for specific individuals if an issue is identified;
- (d) a project relating to hotels and the night-time economy, helping those involved to spot signs of CSE and help to stop it, called 'Operation MakeSafe' is ongoing;
- (e) the NSPCC Protect and Respect project continues, and a service called Raise offers services for those aged 18-25 to cover the gap in over 18s provision. Raise conducts 1 to 1 and group work, in a less formal setting than Protect and Respect;
- (f) the police hold a database called CAROSE (children at risk of sexual exploitation), which was previously just police led, but now involves partner agencies, who can also request that cases are added to the database that the police may not know about;
- (g) information is beginning to be compiled regarding adults of concern, so that any patterns can be spotted of particular names or addresses which keep cropping up, so that information can be shared with enforcement and prevention services as necessary;
- (h) the assessment of sexual harm panel, which concerns young people who present sexually exploitative behaviours, has now increased to a full day each month.

There were a number of questions and comments from the Board, and additional information was provided by Rachael Osborne and Clive Chambers (Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance):

- (i) one of the council plan commitments was to increase early identification. The CAROSE database has had a significant increase on the number of children at risk identified, which is a good indicator of the impact of the work, and partnership work, that has been happening. There is always more work to do though;
- (j) GPs are the holders of universal health records; they are the only professionals who will have the overview of a child's health. Whilst they often do not spend a lot of time talking to children and young people, they are therefore very important in the professional network. Training is also being developed for nurses and GP receptionists to help them spot signs or risk factors for CSE;
- (k) the relationship with Nottingham City schools is positive, and all schools are involved in the DSL network. Schools are encourage to buy in to the LuvU2 resource, which helps raise awareness amongst young people. It is recognised that school budgets are challenged, they can work with the CSE Team to access alternative resources;
- (l) it is important that schools are having the right kind of dialogue with their pupils as part of the wider PSHE (personal, social and health education) provision;
- (m) the Missing Children's Team is very small, and conducts the majority of return interviews, but other teams may also conduct their own. All return interviews across the city are authorised by the Missing Children's Team Manager, to ensure consistency and enable any patterns to be spotted. It is also important to pay particular attention to 'hidden missing' cases, where the child or young person has not been reported missing in the first place, to see why that is. A regional protocol has been drafted so that this information can be shared across areas.

RESOLVED to thank Racheal Osborne and Clive Chambers for the update, and note the contents, particularly the performance information and proposed future development.

48 ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY

Audrey Taylor, Service Manager Fostering and Adoption, and Sharon Clarke, Service Manager Children in Care, presented a report on adoption and permanency, highlighting the following points:

- (a) children's services are increasingly under pressure to meet timescales for children who have an adoption plan. There are children under Nottingham City Council's care who are harder to place, which has an impact on performance. Regular adoption tracker meetings are held, to keep within timescales and monitor what is being done;
- (b) there are currently 84 children either with an adoption plan, or going through care proceedings where the Local Authority plan is adoption. Some of those children with an adoption plan in place may not necessarily end up with an adoption order. They are all monitored through the tracker meetings;

- (c) 29 children have been adopted between April and October 2017, with a further 14 children who are likely to be adopted before the end of this financial year, giving a total of approximately 42 children in this financial year with an adoption order;
- (d) previously there were not enough babies available for the number of applicants, so applications were not accepted from potential adopters who did not want an older child. There has recently been an increase in the number of babies, so now more adopters are needed to come forward, and work is underway to identify carers;
- (e) the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) allows adopters to apply for funding towards support of a therapeutic nature. It has been a successful year for applications to the ASF to offer a range of support. There is a cap on financial support from the ASF of £5,000.00 per child per financial year;
- (f) the East Midlands regional adoption agency should be set up by 2020, and will include Derby City, Derbyshire, Nottingham city, and Nottinghamshire. Work is ongoing regarding what the agency will look like in terms of practice and which services should be provided by the agency. The next stage involves a sign-off on the decision and confirmation as to who the host Local Authority will be;
- (g) the Permanency team has now been finalised; they manage the adoption of children. Success has been seen in terms of the quality of the work undertaken by the team. There is a good working relationship between the Permanency team and the home-finders;
- (h) the Permanency panel looks at those children who have a permanency plan other than adoption, to quality assure that the plan will meet the child's needs. The panel makes recommendations, which are then ratified by the Head of Service and Director. Once agreed, the child and carers will receive a certificate, which although not legally binding means a lot to the children: it takes away the fear that they will be removed again.

There were a number of questions and comments from the Board, and some further information was provided:

- (i) the process of agreeing which authorities should be involved in the regional adoption agency has been difficult. Some authorities have a very different approach to Nottingham City Council, and so trying to align these services has been difficult. The process started with 8 authorities, and is now down to those 4 whose profiles are similar;
- (j) the Permanency team works closely with D2N2 partners to ensure all authorities work consistently, and that adopters have a similar journey to permanence;
- (m) the Board felt that the new Permanency team was a very positive step and had shown some promising results.

RESOLVED to thank Audrey Taylor and Sharon Clarke for their update, and note the contents, particularly the performance information.

49 CHILDREN IN CARE - SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS

Patrick Skeete, Representation and Complaints Manager, presented a report on social care complaints from children and young people in care, highlighting the following points:

- (a) it is a statutory requirement to have an official complaints process for social care. Most complaints (87%) are managed at stage 1, including all of the complaints made by children and young people in care;
- (b) 11 out of 240 complaints to social care were made by children and young people in care. There is a commitment to resolve these complaints as soon as possible, with the longest one taking 14 days;
- (c) if a complaint is not dealt with within 20 working days, or the complainant is not happy with the outcome, then it will progress to stage 2, where an independent investigator is appointed. The investigator will have full access to case records, and relevant individuals involved in the complaint. An adjudication meeting is held at the end of the stage 2 process, to allow the complainant to discuss the outcomes;
- (d) within the Complaints team there is a specific phone for young people to make contact by alternative methods such as text, WhatsApp, and social media. Child friendly leaflets have been produced, and induction training for foster carers on helping their foster children to make complaints is also being investigated;
- (e) a close relationship exists between the Complaints team and operational colleagues.

There followed a number of questions and comments from the Board, and some additional information was provided:

- (f) there seems to be confidence in the complaints process amongst those young people who have made complaints, even though they have all been resolved at stage 1, most as 'not upheld';
- (g) some research has been undertaken as to whether young people are engaged with these processes. This has revealed that young people are engaged, and don't feel the need to make a formal complaint as they can resolve minor issues with services without the need to. Analysis of the effectiveness of the complaints process is conducted frequently;
- (h) there is a difference between a young person wishing to make a formal complaint about the service, or just having something to say about the care they've received. A number of contacts are treated more as ongoing discussion and feedback. Therefore a low number of complaints does not mean that children and young people aren't feeding back, engaging, and contributing to improving care;
- (i) all children's residential units are regularly visited by an independent advocate who can discuss issues and help them make complaints if required;

- (j) if an issue is addressed to the complainant's satisfaction within 24 hours, it is not recorded as an official complaint;
- (k) as a result of complaints and feedback, the Complaints team reports back to the whole department via performance management meetings. Feedback that is required to specific areas will be made directly to the managers responsible.

RESOLVED to thank Patrick Skeete for the update, and to note its contents.

50 FORWARD PLAN

Steve Comb (formerly the Head of Children in Care) has started working on a secondment basis for Kirklees Council, to be closer to home. Clive Chambers (Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance) will be undertaking Steve's role in his absence. A formal agenda item will be required once all posts are backfilled. The Statement of Purpose will also need updating, with a technical update required for noting at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held 19 March 2018. The forward planner was noted.

51 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR NOTING

Additional information was shared at the meeting for noting, which was not included on the original agenda:

- (a) thousands of presents were distributed to children in care over Christmas, coordinated by Sally Porter, Business Support Officer. Gifts were purchased and donated both by individuals and businesses;
- (b) volunteers including local Councillors collected items to fill 40 hampers for recent care leavers;
- (c) 550 tickets for the pantomime for children and young people in care were donated by Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Royal;
- (d) the Nottingham Education Trust is a charitable trust which issues bursaries to help school children to expand their horizons, covering costs of up to £750 towards activities such as sport, music and school trips. This trust may be a good opportunity for children in care. Details should be passed on to anyone who may be interested. Recipients have to be City residents, Councillors will investigate if this can be expanded to Nottingham City children in care who are being cared for outside of the City boundaries. It is for any child or young person up to 21 years old: <http://www.collegest.org.uk/tnet/>

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - MARCH 2018

Title of paper:	Reducing Offending Behaviour	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Natalie Pink - Nottingham Youth Offending Team (YOT) Lead for Children in Care (CiC) 0115 9159400 PC Sam Flint - CiC Police Officer (CiCPO) Nottinghamshire Police 0115 8763735	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Boyd Livingstone - YOT Principal Analyst Nick Orders - Performance and Early Intervention Manager, YOT Shelley Nicholls - Strategic Lead, YOT	
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"> To report on the significance of the 5 year trend in reducing offending behaviour within the CiC population. To update the Board of the activity of the CiCPO and YOT Lead throughout the year in working together to reduce offending and safeguard children in care (CiC): The expansion and review of the YOT Lead for CiC role to meet needs of Directorate. The review of Nottingham City performance against recommendations of ‘<i>In Care, Out of Trouble</i>’ (2016), the Lord Laming Review, by the Prison Reform Trust. The use and promotion of the Multi-agency Protocol for Nottingham City to reduce the criminalisation of CiC, ratified by YOT Partnership Board in July 2017. The continuation and enhanced benefits of the Arrest Screening Programme for CiC. Practitioner Forums and training for Residential homes, Semi-independent providers and Foster Carers. 		

Recommendation(s):	
1	For the Board to recognise the significance of the 5 year trend in reducing offending behaviour within the children in care (CiC) population.
2	For the Board to recognise the importance of sustaining the work of the CiCPO to continue to improve outcomes for CiC.
3	For the Board to recognise the further development of the YOT Lead role, and the benefits of broadening its scope to the wider Directorate.
4	To note the continued drive for early identification and intervention in offending within the CiC population, to target resources and inform service development, and embed the use of restorative approaches to reduce the risk of offending across residential, semi-independent and foster care settings. This mirrors the Youth Justice Plan 2017-20.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1** It is proposed that the role of CiCPO and YOT Lead, working in close partnership, is a model of best practice, as recognised by repeat Ofsted inspections. Other cities have looked to Nottingham City with a view to replicating this work. Nottingham City is the only known authority where a CiCPO and YOT Lead work in close collaboration and to this model. We propose this has contributed to the marked reduction in offending within the CiC population over time and that broadening the YOT Lead role benefits the wider Directorate.
- 1.2** By developing and promoting earlier identification and intervention, and improved analysis of offending within the CiC population, we are better able to use opportunities to divert from prosecution, target resources and improve outcomes for CiC.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 National reporting data** is submitted annually, based on the Children in Care population in Nottingham City, who have been in care for a year or more, are aged 10-17, and have received a Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or conviction within the year.
- 2.2** The financial year 2014/15 demonstrated a continued reduction from 2014 of 2.2 percentage points to 6.0%. Significantly, this moved Nottingham City from the worst performing quartile of local authorities, to the second best for this indicator. For the year 2015/16, Nottingham City reported a figure of 5.8% for this measure, and we maintained our place in the second best performing quartile.
- 2.3** For the year 2016/17 the recorded figure for this measure is 5%. This maintains what is now a 5 year trend in reducing offending behaviour among the Children in Care population, and again maintained our place in the second best performing quartile. Our Local Measure reports on all Children in Care who have offended in Nottingham City, regardless of time spent in care. This also shows a continued reduction in offending among the Children in Care population.

- 2.4** As the numbers of Children in Care who are offending has reduced significantly, it is no longer possible to analyse offending by placement type, for example whether there is disparity between Children in Care in residential and foster care. There is a greater likelihood of offending among Children in Care placed within semi-independent provisions for example, however the demographics of this age group mirrors the peak age for youth offending in the general population.
- 2.5 Specialist roles:** The role of the CiCPO continues to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council, with the CiCPO located at our Isabella Street building. The YOT moved to NGY/Castle Gate House a short distance away in January 2018. PC Rebecca (Beckie) Dalby joined PC Sam Flint in the role of CiCPO on a short-term basis in January 2018.
- 2.6** The YOT Lead role was incorporated within a 3-day case-holding Case Management post until November 2017, which inevitably limited the amount of time which could be dedicated to CiC development work. During November 2017 until the end of the financial year, the YOT Lead has been freed of case management responsibilities in order to consolidate this work and develop opportunities to make a positive impact across the Directorate. The YOT Lead was asked to speak about the work we do as an Authority to reduce criminalisation at the Youth Justice Board Convention 2017 and has received an invitation to speak at a Westminster Briefing in February 2018. This enhances our reputation as a City in this area and other Authorities have asked to consult on how they could replicate this work.
- 2.7** In late 2015 the YOT Lead for Children in Care, with input from the Children in Care/Care Leaver Council and colleagues, provided a submission on behalf of NCC, to an Independent Review process, chaired by Lord Laming, looking at how life chances for Children in Care can be improved by protecting them from criminalisation. 'In Care, Out of Trouble' (2016) (www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview) has made a significant number of recommendations for policy and practice in this area. The YOT Lead has worked with colleagues and partners to assess our practice against these recommendations, with a view to evidencing our strengths and identifying areas of potential improvement. Initial findings will be presented to the Service Manager and Head of Children in Care March 2018 with a view to determining how these are taken forward.
- 2.8 Protocol:** Led by Nottinghamshire Police, the CiCPO and YOT Lead worked alongside the CPS, Service Managers for CiC and Placements to develop a protocol, with a view to reducing the criminalisation of CiC, embedding restorative justice and early intervention. This included complementary 'traffic light' practice tools, developed in conjunction with the CiC and CL Council and partners, to communicate the principles of the Protocol to young people, enable them to participate and reflect upon any risk management needs and demonstrate our accountability to young people. The YOT Board ratified this document in July 2017. The YOT Lead is planning a multi-agency training event on 29th March, to embed this learning. This will be co-facilitated by the CiCPO with the addition of a guest panel.
- 2.9 Children in Care Arrest Screening:** The difficulty of early and effective identification of Children in Care on arrest was identified as a concern in 2015, and an Arrest Screening Programme was devised to pro-actively divert Children in Care from prosecution where appropriate. The YOT Lead cross-references daily arrest sheets with Social Care records to identify Children in Care placed in the City following arrest, and puts the Officer in Charge in touch with the team around the child, to consider opportunities for diversion where suitable. Where prosecution is appropriate,

this promotes the use of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) 10 point checklist, in order that the Court can make an informed decision as to how to proceed and prevent unnecessary adjournments. Efficient identification of Children in Care and key professionals has been greatly assisted by the routine convergence of YOT and Social Care information by the YOT Data Analyst. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Looked After Team is now copied into Arrest Screening emails. This prompts conversations as to whether the team around the child would benefit from consultation, to promote appropriate referral, and encourages professionals to see a young person's behaviour in the context of their emotional and mental health. There are no systems in place to flag young people placed by Nottingham City out of county when they are arrested outside of Nottingham City, and this is a programme other Authorities are looking at as a model of good practice. The YOT Lead has raised the challenge of young people having consistent opportunities for diversion when speaking to a national audience.

2.10 Practitioner Forums: These Forum are chaired by the CiCPO and YOT Lead, with guest speakers invited including NCC, partners or representatives from the voluntary sector. They are used as a preventative resource to identify any concerns or themes around offending by CiC, ensure good communication and sign post as appropriate. Resources are promoted and best practice shared. Individual cases are not discussed within the body of the meeting (opportunity for confidential discussion is available towards the end of the meeting), and there is a confidentiality policy in place. Providers met jointly in 2017 and this method of delivery has been developed further for 2018. Providers will continue to be invited to 3 forums per year, but will be grouped per sector (Residential and Semi-Independence, and Foster Carers caring for 10-17 year olds) and representatives from CiC Teams and the Placements Team will now routinely attend. This consolidation takes into account the increasing number of providers, the need for the efficient use of resources and feedback from carers. Participant evaluation has been wholly positive, with key themes being the opportunity to network and share learning from each other and guest speakers.

2.11 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): The CiCPO has contributed to the profile and provision available to tackle CSE in the City, and the benefit of this work extends beyond the CiC population. The CiCPO continues to chair the Concerns Network Meeting, a multi-agency forum which collates and distributes pieces of information where concerns for potential CSE have been identified. This meeting has been able to action successful disruption work. The CiCPO has provided CSE awareness training to hotels, including a bespoke session to one city hotel and security services in 2017. The CiCPO also contributes to the multi-agency 'Broken Dreams' CSE training, which Local Authority Residential Carers have attended. The CiCPO has been instrumental, alongside the CSE Co-ordinator, in the implementation of Operation Canberra on the evening of 31.08.17. This involved the creation and distribution of 'Z' cards, giving information to security staff on the signs of CSE to look for and where to feed concerns.

2.12 Young people placed from other Local Authorities: The CiCPO implemented an 'Admission and Discharge' form for private providers, which is shared with the CiCPO, the Placements Team and Missings Team. This enables appropriate professionals to have an awareness of young people in our area, who may be out of county placements, and may or may not be open to local services, to highlight any needs, risks and vulnerabilities that may assist in the management of risk. Whilst this has been useful, there is scope to improve the collating and management of this information.

- 2.13** Such pieces of work complement and inform a pro-active approach by senior management within Nottingham YOT, Children's Services and Nottinghamshire Police to address an identified national concern for complex young people placed within the City by other local authorities. Senior management liaise with their counterparts in placing local authorities, in order to address any challenges and mitigate any risks associated with such placements. This is supported by Caretaking Policies that ensure necessary and timely information is provided by home local authorities, to effectively manage risk and vulnerability. Where concerns are identified, escalation processes work to highlight and address these at an appropriate level. Individual examples of good practice in caretaking cases from out of area were highlighted by the YOT Inspection 2016.
- 2.14** The YOT achieved a Restorative Services Quality Mark (RSQM) in 2016, demonstrating its commitment to quality provision throughout the service. A training programme in Restorative Approaches is offered to residential and semi-independent providers, and this has been extended to include foster carers who care for 10-17 year olds for 2018. All local authority homes received initial training in the subject in 2015 and have been offered opportunity to progress this learning by taking part in 3 day facilitator training during 2016/17. This course had a positive take-up, and the YOT Lead for CiC and RJ Co-ordinator are working to ensure all local authority carers have received this training to enable a consistent approach. The YOT RJ Co-ordinator has provided consultation and some direct work with young people through the year, which has proved beneficial.
- 2.15** *"[The RJ Co-ordinator] was excellent with [young person], calming his anxieties, clearly explaining and prepping him prior to the meeting. [Young person] was able to explain himself clearly and show his remorse, this meeting has really helped [young person]. A positive outcome for all, so pleased. 'Thank you' and handshakes all round! Thank you so much for your part in all this [YOT Lead for CiC], yourself and the RJ Co-ordinator] have helped make a young person very happy on the lead up to Christmas" (Carer 2017).*
- 2.16** Where there is an identified risk of offending in the community, and to prevent young people becoming first time entrants to statutory Youth Justice Services, young people, including CiC, have access to the preventative resources of the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Team. Referrals are made and suitability is discussed at area based Young People's Panels. This is a diverse team who are skilled in engaging challenging adolescents, with whom other statutory services have often struggled to engage. Colleagues within this team hold areas of special interest, one being CiC.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1** None

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

- 4.1** The post of CiCPO is jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. Reduction of offending and missing reports have both a short and long term financial benefit across the authority and partners, as well as safeguarding CiC and improving outcomes.

- 4.2** The YOT Lead role is a specialism incorporated within a three day Case Management post. The YOT continues to be committed to prioritising this focus on reducing the criminalisation of CiC, in line with the priorities outlined in the Youth Justice Plan 2017-20. Notwithstanding current budget pressures and the likelihood of further future cuts from across the partnership, for this financial year at least, resource will be maintained at the current level from core YOT budgets. Opportunities for further development of this role within the Directorate to meet inspection requirements for CiC and Care Leavers are being explored, which could mitigate financial risk.
- 4.3** “The rate at which a minority of children move from care into the criminal justice system is not inevitable.....“Good practice can dramatically reduce the long term costs that arise when young people get sucked into the criminal justice system unnecessarily – one study calculated a return of £3.41 for every £1 invested.” (*In Care, Out of Trouble* 2016)
- 4.4** Training in restorative approaches is provided to Local Authority homes by the YOT Restorative Justice Co-ordinator free of charge. A competitive fee is charged to private providers, which supports the capacity of YOT to continue specialist posts.

4.5 Shelley Nicholls, Strategic Lead Youth Justice 11/01/18

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

5.1 None, N/A

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

6.1 None, N/A

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

No

X

An EIA is not required because the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

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

8.1 Joint Protocol Between; Children & Young Peoples Services, Nottinghamshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service and Nottingham City Youth Offending Team

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 ‘*In Care, Out of Trouble*’ (2016) www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – MARCH 2018

Title of paper:	Edge of Care Services	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Tracey Nurse- Head of Service, Children’s Social Care Tracey.nurse@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 98764524	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Donna Stenton Groves - MST Supervisor Mark Ball – Edge of Care Hub Manager	
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>•To update the Board on the current menu of services provided at the edge of care, to prevent family breakdown.</p> <p>•To provide a brief overview of the effectiveness of these services in keeping families together, and building resilience in order to avoid children coming into care.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To continue to invest in Edge of Care (EOC) Services.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Whilst there have been increases in the numbers of children coming into care on a national and local level, the reasons for this increase are primarily due to child protection concerns with children being at risk of significant harm and coming into care following the conclusion of care proceedings. Edge of Care Services target those children and young people at risk of coming into care, due to conflict or family breakdown. These services have had some success in keeping families together, and avoiding more children entering the care system.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Nationally, the number of children accommodated and those involved in care proceedings is increasing. As a result most Councils seek to invest in EOC services to support children to remain at home (where possible and where safe to do so) to avoid the trauma of family breakdown.
- 2.2 Over 10 years ago, the Green Paper 'Care Matters' (2006) argued that we "should concentrate our efforts on avoiding the need for care, except for those who truly need its support. "We must identify problems earlier and respond quickly and effectively". Our responses must be driven by what we know are the key characteristics of effective interventions. These are:
- multi-disciplinary and multi-agency;
 - centred around the child;
 - sustained, with support continuing as long as it is needed; evidence-based, i.e. grounded in robust evaluation of what works.
- 2.3 In 2011 Nottingham City Council introduced the Edge of Care Panel, which seeks to provide effective interventions in the way described above. The format of the Panel has changed over the last few years. The Panel sits weekly, and is chaired by the Head of Service for Children's Social Care. There are on average five families presented at the Panel every week. Originally, Targeted Family Support (TST) was the main Edge of Care service to work with families on the edge of accommodation, and was later joined for a short time in 2012 by the independent provider "Social Work Choices" who undertook edge of care work.
- 2.4 The Department for Education Research Review (Rethinking support for adolescents in or on the edge of care, 2014) found that, by the age of 14 years, abuse and neglect accounted for just 42% of entries to care, with 45% accounted for by a mixture of acute family stress, family dysfunction and socially unacceptable behaviour. However, it is important to note that earlier abuse or neglect may also exist in families experiencing acute family stress, and in some cases may account for the family stress.
- 2.5 With this in mind it was important to ensure the Edge of Care Panel provided a range of services which would target the children, young people and families referred to in the 2014 Research Review. Work has taken place over the last four years to identify evidence-based interventions likely to support families in addressing difficult periods, reducing problematic behaviours, addressing unresolved trauma and thus preventing breakdown. This investment in Edge of Care Services saves children and families from the trauma of separation and public care costs, since these identified interventions can improve their relationships. Even if an intervention cannot avoid accommodation of a child, it can help to repair rifts in family relationships making a long-term difference.
- 2.6 In 2013 an initiative called Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) was introduced, providing a therapeutic framework for working with families, and the professional networks around them including schools. The criteria for accessing this type of support included children who displayed anti-social behaviour, who were involved with / or at risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system and children with poor / low school attendance. 'MST standard' is not licenced to work with young people in child protection, however it has demonstrated a huge impact on families overwhelmed by trauma and complex histories. In the same year, the Edge of Care Hub was also

implemented to bridge the gap by providing support to families that did not meet criteria of MST.

- 2.4 In 2016, two further services contributed to the Menu of Services, which can be accessed at the Panel. These were 'Multi-Systemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect' (specifically aimed at child protection) and Safe Families for Children as an earlier intervention.
- 2.5 Since the number of support services and interventions has increased, the Panel can now consider which of the services available best meets the needs of the family, and this allows a more flexible approach to be taken. It is also important to note that families do need to give their consent to work with a particular service. All of these interventions have been established to work with families and prevent children being accommodated by working intensively with the whole family and building resilience, improving parenting and strengthening the relationships between parent / carers and their children.

The Edge of Care Services- Brief Overview

- 2.6 The Targeted Family Support Team (0-8yrs) provides an emergency response to families at imminent risk of breakdown. There is a brief intervention of 6 to 8 weeks, which is solution focused with family network meetings.
- 2.7 EOC Hub (0-18) provides intensive support to families in crisis, meets Priority Families criteria, work with complex issues including mental health, pregnant mothers with chaotic lifestyles or a low repertoire of parenting skills. EOC Hub also works with families who do not meet MST criteria.
- 2.8 MST Standard (working with young people aged 11-18) is a 24/7 on call service which provides an evidence based, licensed programme. It provides intensive home, school and community based services to adolescents and their families who are experiencing difficulties in multiple areas of their lives. There might be family conflict, non-school attendance and the children and young people may be known to the Youth Justice system due to anti-social behaviour. Furthermore, MST works with parents who may suffer with mental and emotional health issues and potentially have unresolved trauma themselves.
- 2.9 MST CAN (working with young people aged 6-17) is a 24/7 on call support and intensive intervention for families who have physically abused or neglected their children. The aim is to reduce /overcome risk factors that contribute to the maltreatment e.g. drug and alcohol misuse.
- 2.10 Safe Families for Children is a faith-based organisation, providing trained volunteers to support and befriend vulnerable families. It aims to prevent their problems escalating, or support them whilst they are in crisis. This service also offers children overnight stays, mentoring support and resources, to relieve family pressures.
- 2.11 All of these services contribute significantly to building resilience in families, reducing problematic parenting behaviours and risk. They create an environment that sensitively confronts and addresses issues that may have been present across generations. In a number of cases, this has achieved positive change, resulting in children being able to remain safely at home.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

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

4.1 Edge of Care Services generate considerable budget relief.

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

5.1 None.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE 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 the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes



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 Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care. 2006
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-matters-transforming-the-lives-of-children-and-young-people-in-care>

9.2 Rethinking Support for Adolescents in or on the Edge of Care
Department for Education Children's Social Care Innovation Programme. 2014
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342052/Rethinking_support_for_adolescents.pdf

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – MARCH 2018

Title of paper:	The Response to Missing Children	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Clive Chambers – Head of Service, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance clive.chambers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Racheal Osborne – CSE Coordinator & Missing Children’s Team Manager racheal.osborne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
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 sets out the local arrangements in place to respond to children who go missing from home or care. These arrangements have been established because children who go missing have a range of vulnerabilities, including the risk of potential sexual and criminal exploitation and trafficking.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	For the Corporate Parenting Board to note the content of this report.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Corporate Parenting Board members are asked to note this report given the implications for the safety and well-being of children in care.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Children from all backgrounds will go missing, but there are some groups more likely to run away than others. Research from care, home or foster placements each year.

These children may face an increased risk of significant harm, including the potential of being exposed to the risk of alcohol and drugs, criminal and sexual exploitation and trafficking. rch suggests that nationally, 10,000 children run away

- 2.2 As indicated in the previous report to the Corporate Parenting Board regarding missing children (March 2017), there are well established arrangements to respond to missing children in Nottingham City. These are based on effective partnership working with key agencies, particularly the Police. This work is undertaken in accordance with both national and local practice guidance, particularly the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board (NCSCB) and the Missing Children Protocol, which is jointly agreed between Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board and the corresponding Board in the County. This protocol was recently updated (January 2018) to include the new police definitions and risk grades relating to missing episodes, as discussed below.
- 2.3 The protocol recognises the importance of identifying and targeting the response to missing children who are most vulnerable. A key mechanism for doing this has, until recently, been a differentiation between children who are missing (i.e. those children whose whereabouts are not known or who are deemed vulnerable for other reasons, e.g. concern regarding possible sexual exploitation) and absent (i.e. those children who are not where they are supposed to be). These were nationally agreed definitions that reflected Association of Chief Police Officer (ACPO) guidance.
- 2.4 The definition of absent has come under increasing scrutiny, due to concerns that a number of vulnerable children were not being fully safeguarded as they were deemed absent rather than missing. As a consequence, in November 2016 the National College of Policing issued further guidance which removed the term absent and introduced a graded risk scale in relation to reports of missing people. This will now be recorded as missing with medium/high risk (any child under the age of 18 cannot be deemed low risk, so if any risk is identified they will be deemed medium or high) and missing no apparent risk. It is important to note that within Nottingham City Council we have consistently adopted the same approach to children reported missing to the Police, irrespective of whether they were categorised as missing with risk or missing with no apparent risk.
- 2.5 Local arrangements are comprised of a number of connected elements:
 - Operational – Work with missing children takes place in the context of the wider safeguarding arrangements. Other safeguarding measures make a direct contribution to promoting the safety of vulnerable children who go missing, e.g. the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel receives information about children who are at risk of sexual exploitation and also go missing.
 - The Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit (SEIU) within the police have very recently employed a missing's co-ordinator. This post holder will work closely with the Missing Children's Team within the local authority to assist with early identification of any Child Sexual Exploitation concerns.
 - In addition to the wider arrangements, there are specific measures in place for missing children. Every month there is a meeting between Police and Children's Social Care staff to discuss those children who have been reported missing most frequently, in the previous period. Managers from two of Nottingham City's residential units attend these meetings in addition to the Head of Service for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and the Missing Children's Team Manager /

CSE Co-ordinator. Where a young person is identified as being particularly vulnerable, a meeting will take place to look at how best to support and protect them. This meeting will be chaired by a Team Manager or Independent Reviewing Officer and will involve staff from all agencies who work with the child and family.

Return Interviews

- 2.6 The Police share information about all young people who are reported missing with Nottingham City Council. The Police also notify Nottingham City when a young person has returned. This information sharing takes place with Nottingham City's Missing Children team, which is a small team that is line-managed by the Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator (CSE Co-ordinator).
- 2.7 If a child goes missing on two or more occasions, or only once but is identified as being vulnerable, has been missing overnight or is under the age of 13 years, they will be offered a return interview. All return interviews are undertaken by someone independent, i.e. not responsible for the day to day care of the young person. Return interviews for children in care are always undertaken by someone independent of the placement where the young person lives.
- 2.8 The primary purpose of a return interview is to identify / address safeguarding needs and signpost the young person and their family to support. Key to this is identifying the factors which led to the young person going missing. Consideration is given to both push factors, things that are causing the young person to be unhappy or feel unsafe, or pull factors, things outside the home that are attracting the young person.
- 2.9 There is a secondary benefit from return interviews in that they provide potentially valuable insights into the experiences of the young person who went missing, which can be used to help protect other young people. The Missing Children's Team Manager/CSE Co-ordinator reviews and authorises all return interviews from across the directorate and cross-references the information in them. This has enabled us to identify some young people who were missing but not being reported to the Police, potential locations where young people may congregate and potential adults of concern. This facility was not available on the initial transfer to Liquid Logic, but has since been reinstated.
- 2.10 The Ofsted inspection in January 2017 identified the need to further strengthen work in relation to return interviews, and ensure that we maximise the impact of the information generated. We have already taken a number of measures in response to this:
- The CSE Coordinator is once again able to review return interviews, and authorise them.
 - We have worked with the Police to revise the information that they give to families and young people, when a young person goes missing. The revised information makes the expectation that a return interview will take place much clearer.
 - We have revised the letter sent to parents regarding return interviews to similarly strengthen this.

- Work continues to develop a Regional Protocol for missing children. This has been through one round of consultation with other local authorities and is therefore expected to be agreed shortly.

Further work is planned to build on these developments:

- We will be delivering training regarding return interviews for all staff who undertake them.
- We plan to introduce a specific target, for the take up of return interviews, into the Children's Integrated Services Directorate delivery plan.

2.11 As reflected in the information above, the response to children who go missing in Nottingham is multi-agency in nature with all key organisations fully engaged in supporting vulnerable children.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

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

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

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 the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes



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 National College of Policing guidance
<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/missing-persons/>

9.2 Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Missing Children Protocol

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – MARCH 2018

Title of paper:	Educational Attainment of Children in Care	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Jasmin Howell - Service Manager, Virtual School jasmin.howell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Sarah Fielding – Director of Education sarah.fielding@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 checked="" 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):		
This report provides an update of the work of the Nottingham City Virtual School and provides details of attainment in the 2016-17 academic year.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Note and discuss the recent trends and current levels of educational attainment for Nottingham City’s Children in Care (CiC) in comparison to the performance of all children and CIC nationally.	
2	Note the current work and interventions of the Virtual School to promote and support the educational achievement of Nottingham City looked after children.	
3	Approve the actions identified and developments necessary to improve and enhance the work of the Nottingham City Virtual School.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure the Nottingham City Virtual School is discharging the Local Authority statutory duties to promote the educational achievement of its looked after children, through monitoring and tracking the educational outcomes of its children in care; identifying any emerging trends and advising and recommending interventions to

improve attainment and narrow the achievement gap between the performance of CiC and that of other pupils.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1. This report will consider the attainment of looked after children in Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 during the academic year 2016-17.
- 2.2. The Virtual School has a responsibility to monitor, track, promote and support the educational achievement and experience of all school age Children in Care; currently there are approximately 388 pupils on the Virtual School roll.
- 2.3. The Nottingham City Virtual School are currently experiencing significant capacity issue within the Team; we have two vacant Education Support Officer Posts and one member of staff currently off work long-term due to sickness, leaving two team members to monitor, track and support cases. The reduced staffing capacity has had a significant impact on the work the Virtual School can undertake, details of this impact has been described where relevant within each section of this report.

The Virtual School Roll

- 2.4. Currently the Virtual School has on its roll 388 children of statutory school age, 155 of these children are receiving education within Nottingham City, 220 are receiving education outside the Nottingham City boundaries and 13 of these are without a school place. It is important to note this number fluctuates as a result of the number of admissions and discharges of children in care.
- 2.5. Of the 388 looked after children currently on roll at the Nottingham City Virtual School, 73 are on roll at schools judged by Ofsted as 'outstanding', 213 in schools judged 'Good', 43 in schools judged as 'requiring improvement' and 19 in schools judged 'inadequate', the remaining children (40) are either without a school place (13) or are on roll at a school that has not yet been subject to an inspection (27).
- 2.6. The Virtual School prioritises schools judged by Ofsted to be 'good' or 'outstanding' for children in care in need of a new school place, for the majority of the cases where our CiC are attending a school judged 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate', this judgment was made subsequently, after the child was placed.
- 2.7. Due to staffing capacity issues within the Virtual School we have had to prioritise monitoring, tracking and case working statutory school age children in care (not early years or post-16 children) and of those, cases where there are causes for concern. We are continuing with the development of our systems and processes to enable us to monitor and track the destination and experience of early years and post 16 children in care, however, actual casework of these two cohorts will not commence until the staffing issues are remedied.

Attainment and progress of looked after children

- 2.8. The Virtual School commissions an external organisation, Welfare Call, to collect the teacher termly assessments results for all our children in care. Historically we have used the commissioned provider's template for teacher termly assessment data collection, however, this has been problematic in that these assessment templates have enabled different assessment terminology to be used by schools, making analysis, monitoring and tracking difficult for the Virtual School.
- 2.9. Since the start of this academic year, 2017-18, we have developed our own reporting template for teacher termly assessments for primary aged children. Teacher termly assessments for all our children in care must now be reported using age related expectations: 'emerging', 'developing', 'secure' and 'mastered'. The new reporting templates will enable the Virtual School to consistently and effectively analyse, monitor, track and report on the assessment and progress of our children in care so we can consider and identify actions and interventions necessary to improve outcomes and educational trajectories accordingly.
- 2.10. The revised reporting template for teacher termly assessments is now being used, outcomes for autumn 2017-18 assessments are currently being collected on these new templates and on receipt will be populated in the Virtual School SIMS system to enable us to start the analysis and tracking.
- 2.11. Further work is required to develop the reporting template for collection of teacher termly assessment for children in Key Stage 4, this work is being progressed.
- 2.12. Once teacher termly assessment data is collected systematically and held within the Virtual School SIMS system, termly review of our children in care cohort will be possible and can consider multiple factors of interest (e.g. school OFSTED category, PPP spend, PEP completion, attendance and exclusion history etc). This will help us to understand and evidence the effectiveness/impact of PEP targets and PPP intervention and will enable us to work proactively on areas of concern.

2.13. Key stage 1 attainment 2016-17:

In the 2016-17 academic year, the eligible Key Stage 1 LAC cohort consisted of 13 pupils (who had been in care for at least 12 months at 31st March 2017).

NCC LAC eligible cohort total (13)	ARE % 15/16	ARE % 16/17
Reading	47%	46% (-1%)
Writing	26%	54% (+28%)
Maths	32%	54% (+22%)

Those attaining age related expectations at Key Stage 1, in reading has dropped slightly, but only by 1% point. Attainment in writing has more than doubled (an increase of 28% points) and Maths has increased by 22% points.

2.14. Key stage 2 attainment 2016-17:

In the 2016-17 academic year, the Key Stage 2 eligible LAC cohort consisted of 37 pupils (who had been in care for at least 12 months at 31st March 2017).

NCC LAC eligible cohort total (37)	ARE% 15/16	ARE % 16/17
Reading	36%	35% (-1%)
Writing	36%	49% (+13%)
Maths	48%	44% (-4%)
SPAG *Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Test	32%	41% (+9%)

2.15. Key stage 4 attainment 2016-17

In the 2016-17 academic year, the Key Stage 4 eligible LAC cohort consisted of 48 pupils (who had been in care for at least 12 months at 31st March 2017).

NCC LAC eligible cohort total (48)	% 15/16	% 16/17
Gaining any Qualification	75%	83% (+8%)
5+ GCSEs A*- C	7%	15% (+8%)
5+ GCSEs A*- G	41%	48% (+7%)
5+ GCSEs A*- C including Eng & Maths L4	7%	10% (+3%)
Eng & Maths L4+	11%	17% (+6%)
No qualification	9%	10% (+1)

Attendance and exclusion of looked after children

2.16. In the 2016-17 academic year the attendance rate for compulsory school age children in care, on roll at the Virtual School, was 94.9%, slightly below government expectations of 96% but an improvement on the previous year by 5 percentage points.

2.17. There were no permanent exclusion of a Nottingham City child in care during the 2016-17 academic year.

2.18. There were 159 incidents of fixed term exclusion over the 2016/17 academic year, the most common reason for these were 'physical assault against an adult', 'verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult' and 'persistent disruptive behaviour'.

- 2.19. The 159 incidents of fixed term exclusions was experienced by 75 children and significantly more of those fixed term exclusions were for children at secondary phase; 132 fixed term exclusions for secondary-phase pupils and 27 for primary-phase pupils.
- 2.20. In order to promote and support the education of children in care the Nottingham City Virtual School seeks to prevent and reduce the number of fixed term exclusions they experienced. Our arrangements for reducing and preventing fixed term exclusions include: attendance at meetings with schools/ education providers to offer advice and alternative solutions to exclusion and training to designated teachers consisting of recognising the needs of children in care and the consideration of strategies to support and manage those needs. We have also moved to case-holding arrangements within the Virtual School team; members of the team are now allocated individual cases so they are able to monitor and track their cases and intervene where risks, such as exclusions, are identified.

Personal Education Plans

- 2.21. As of week ending February 9th 2018 approximately 61% of our looked after children have a completed PEP that is in date, for the other 39% the PEP is either out of date (31%) or has never been completed/received (8%).
- 2.22. The vacancies and sickness absence in the Virtual School team has reduced our capacity to follow up non-completion of PEPS with schools and social workers, which is a risk for compliance rates falling further.
- 2.23. A drill down of PEP breaches was completed in October 2017 to ascertain whether there were any mitigating factors for each breach. Mitigating factors could include, a child being new into care, a recent move to a new school or a child being in custody. The table below details the outcome of this drill down:

2.24. Drill down of PEP breaches October 2017

Reason for Breach	Total
*New to care	3
No PEP delay factor known	93
*The child has recently moved school, in last 4 weeks	4
*The child is in custody	1
*The child is without a school place	4
*There has been a PEP meeting, but form not yet typed up/sent to the VS	19
Breach reason not analysed	27
Grand Total	151

*Considered mitigating factors for a PEP breach.

- 2.25. Based on the drill down of PEP breaches during October last year, if we were to discount those breaches for which there was reasonable mitigation, marked * in the table, from the expected PEP figure the compliance rate would have been 6% higher.

To add 6% to any PEP compliancy rates going forward we would need to carry out a drill down at least quarterly to ensure the % is consistent to include as a mitigation.

- 2.26. Despite the Virtual Schools reduced capacity to follow up non-completion of PEPS with schools and social workers, we do continue to use other opportunities to reiterate the duty and importance of each child in care having an up to date and high quality PEP; through the training we deliver, Designated Teacher networks and attendance at weekly Placement Panel meetings.
- 2.27. Weekly PEP reports and details of breaches continue to be provided to the Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager. Reports and breaches are also sent to Service Managers of fieldwork social care teams and more recently to Independent Reviewing Officers. Circulation of the weekly PEP reports provides senior managers with detail of exactly which children require a PEP so they can support in driving up compliance rates.
- 2.28. Capacity issues within the Virtual School team has made it difficult for us to systematically quality assure completed PEPs. Where capacity allows the two Virtual School caseworkers are reviewing PEPs for their cases as they are received but are not completing the QA review form.
- 2.29. The PEP form and process and the PEP quality assurance tool and procedure does require review, the timeframe for completion of this is by the end of this academic year; July 2018.

Pupil Premium Plus

- 2.30. A new process for the administration and distribution of Pupil Premium Plus was implemented at the start of the 2017-18 academic year. These new arrangements create a more effective and efficient way for the Virtual School to monitor and distribute funding and is simpler and less onerous for schools to apply.
- 2.31. It is intended that the new PPP process will encourage more schools to apply for the funding, will minimise the potential for underspend, will ensure consistency in decisions to approve funding requests and will enable schools to apply for additional funds to support children in care who may require intervention and support over and above the agreed allocation of £1900.
- 2.32. Key changes to PPP include:
- Schools apply through an online application for the agreed allocation.
 - Schools select interventions for which funding is being requested from a drop down of pre-populated interventions.
 - Schools provide details of anticipated impact of funding on the education outcomes of the child at the point of applying.
 - Funding decisions are inputted into the Virtual School SIMS system against the child's individual record, contributing to the building of the child's educational 'profile'.
 - Schools can apply for additional funds using an Additional Funding Request form, for interventions and strategies that can't be met through the £1900 allocation.

- 2.33. A policy detailing the new Pupil Premium Plus arrangements effective from the 2017-18 academic year has been completed and circulated to key stakeholders accordingly.

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 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 the report does not contain financial proposals or decisions.

Yes

☐

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 None.

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – MARCH 2018

Title of paper:	Children in Care Council – 2017 Have Your Say Survey Results	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea - Engagement and Participation Lead jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8764817	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Grace Brough - Insight Specialist, Strategy and Resources Jordan Whatman – Project Officer, Children in Care	
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>a. The findings from the 2017 Have Your Say survey of Children in Care and Care Leavers have been analysed by the Children in Care Council and Your Voice groups who have assessed performance using a Traffic Light rating system and compared with the results of previous years</p> <p>b. Have Your Say survey questions are based on the commitments or ‘pledges’ in the Children in Care and Care Leavers Charter which the Corporate Parenting Board uses to help quality assure its performance.</p> <p>c. The findings provide insight into how Children in Care and Care Leavers perceive the quality and value of services they receive. It is recommended that these findings are used by Board partners to inform and guide relevant action plans.</p> <p>d. Based on this year’s results, three areas have been identified for further focus through the termly Corporate Children in Care Council meetings. These are regarding the following Children in Care and Care Leavers Charter commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “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 help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability.” - “We will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood.” 		

Recommendation(s):	
1	The findings from the survey results are used to inform relevant service and corporate action and business plans.
2	The Board recognises the hard work done by the Children in Care Council and Your Voice (Care Leavers) groups in the planning and assessment of the Have Your Say survey, and acknowledges their role in the co-production of services across children's social care.
3	The Board to implement the findings of the 2017 Have Your Say survey as appropriate.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Ensuring that the views of service users are used to inform service improvement is a cross-cutting theme of both the Children and Young People's Plan and the Corporate Parenting Action Plan. It is one of the principal means by which the Corporate Parenting Board demonstrates the active participation of corporately parented children and young people in decision-making at strategic and operational level.
- 1.2 Other significant drivers include the various safeguarding related inspection criteria that require the Board to evidence service user participation; these include the Munro Report recommendations on developing a child centred approach to service design and delivery; and Nottingham City CYP Participation Strategy commitment to Article 12 on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 1.3 Previous iterations of the survey have provided significant insight into the views and experiences of Children in Care and Care Leavers, which in turn has been used to shape improvement plans for a number of service areas.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

PART 1: Summary of Children in Care and Care Leavers' 2017 Have Your Say survey process

Purpose and structure

The survey questionnaire is structured around the Children in Care & Care Leavers' Charter in order to establish how Nottingham City Council and its partners, acting as the Corporate Parent, is delivering against it. This is a qualitative rather than quantitative exercise, testing experiences and perceptions of care services and support. The results presented are the collated sum of subjective individual responses and therefore should be regarded as a suggested rather than prescriptive guide to future improvement action.

As in previous years, a traffic light system (Red, Amber and Green) has been used by young people from the Children in Care Council and Your Voice (Care Leavers) groups to rate each commitment. This enables the groups to easily identify things that work well, things that need to be looked at with a view to improving them, and things where progress isn't evident or it is felt there is a problem that needs resolving.

In addition to helping the Board understand how it is performing, these findings are used to inform service improvement plans. Detailed survey result analysis is made available to

relevant children's social care teams for further interrogation and application. Since 2013, a simple version of the survey questionnaire for younger children (between the age of 3 and 7) has been circulated to gather their views about the care they receive. This is detailed separately in the following report, as the information captured on the easy read is different to the main survey.

Demographics of respondents to the 2017 survey

- Questionnaires were sent to 715 Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers, aged 3 and over. The easy ready version was sent to 65 children aged 3-7 and the full version was sent to 651 CiC and Care Leavers aged 8+.
- There were 136 usable returns received, achieving a 19% response rate, slightly higher than last year's 18.5% response rate.
- Response rates varied between age range. 28% of children receiving the easy read version responded (age 3-7), while 23% of CiC responded (aged 8+). However this was noticeably lower with care leavers, who had an 8% response rate.
- There were more responses from females than males, 55% vs 45%. This is opposite to the gender breakdown of last year's respondents.
- More than half of respondents were aged 11-17 (54%), with over 18's having the lowest response rate. Two thirds of respondents identified as White British, 34% as BME.

PART 2. Summary of results with commentary and RAG rating by the CiC Council/Your Voice assessment group

Commitment 1: "We will treat all our Children and Young People with respect and with regard to their age and understanding."

Key finding: more CiC feel respected by carers and less CiC feel respected by social workers/personal advisors.

- The proportion of CiC who felt that social workers or carers 'never' treated them with respect has either stayed the same or decreased in the last year. Proportions are small respectively, at 2% of social workers and no CiC feeling carers 'never' treat them with respect. This is the first year since the survey began there have been no CiC stating this, a positive move.
- 90% of CiC felt their social worker treated them with respect 'all/most of the time'. However, this is a decrease on last year and the lowest proportion since 2013. Almost all CiC asked stated their carer treats them with respect 'all/most of the time' (98%). There has been a year on year increase in those feeling respected by carers 'all/most of the time' since 2014, with this year having the highest proportions reported.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

RAG rating = **Green**

Commitment 2: "We will give our Children and Young People enough time and help to understand (and be happy) with their circumstances."

Key finding: Overall, more children feel carers and social workers have enough time for them.

- There has been a decrease in the proportions who think social workers/personal advisers 'never' have enough time for them, from 5% to 4% this year. Much

progress has been made since a 25% high in 2012. There has also been a decrease in proportions who felt their carers 'never' had enough time for them, with no children stating this was the case this year.

- There has been an increase in proportions of children reporting social workers/personal advisors and carers have enough time for them 'all/most of the time' (75% and 96% of CiC respectively). This is a positive step as there had been a year on year reduction in perception of social workers having enough time since 2014 and carers having enough time since 2012.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

RAG rating = **Green**

Commitment 3: "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."

Key finding: Overall, more children in care know where to go if they want to make a complaint.

- This year, 92% of respondents knew where to go if they had a problem or wanted to make a complaint, a 5 ppt increase on last year (87%).
- There has been no change in the proportion who knew where to go if they wanted to speak to an independent person apart from their social workers/personal advisors or carers (87%).
- 'School', 'Carer' and 'Social Worker' remain the top three answers in 2017 when we asked children and young people who they would talk to if there was a problem with their social workers or carers. However, this year more CiC would talk to their social worker and carer and less to their school. There was a 6ppt decrease in those who would speak to the complaints service and a 1ppt decrease in those who would speak to the advocacy service.
- More CiC stated they found it hard to talk to anyone (11% in 2017 compared to 7% in 2016).

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

There was some concern here that the number of CiC who don't feel as able to talk or share views with school staff is on the increase, albeit only slightly. Overall it was felt that more could be done to make CiC aware of advocacy and complaints services. To support this the CiC Council suggested issuing an information pack when things change and new services are introduced or changed significantly.

RAG rating = **Green/Amber**

Commitment 4: "We will listen to our children and young people and involve them in planning for their care."

- a) Listening to our children:

Key finding: Overall, more CiC feel listened to and that their opinions are listened to and make a difference to decisions in their life.

- There has been a reduction in proportion of CiC who feel their carers and designated teachers 'never' listen to them: this is positive, with no CiC feeling carers never listen and 1% of CiC feeling designated teachers never listen.
- However, there has been an increase in the proportion who feel social workers never listen, from no CiC last year to 5% of CiC this year. There has also been an increase in those who feel their opinions are never heard 3% this year, up from 1% last year. Whilst these have increased, it must be noted these are small proportions.
- There have been no reductions and increases almost across the board in proportions of CiC feeling listened to 'all/most of the time'. The biggest increase in feeling listened to is amongst designated teachers, (8% increase to 93%), there has been a 1% increase in those feeling listened to by carers (to 84%), no increase in those feeling listened to by social workers (86%) and a 1% increase in those who feel their opinions are listened to (84%).

b) Involving our children in planning for their care:

Key finding: Overall, less CiC attend their reviews, less CiC felt they received help to prepare for their reviews, however more feel their voice is heard in their review.

- 60% attended their 'Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' (down from 67% in 2016), 25% did not attend their 'Looked After/ Pathway Plan review' but told their social worker/ personal advisors their thoughts before the meeting (down from 29% in 2017). There has been an increase in those not attending the meeting and not wanting to tell anyone their thoughts 4% up from 1% in 2016. More CiC are having involvement in their pathway plan in 'other ways' 12%, up from 3% in 2016.
- There has been an increase in those who feel their voice is heard in their Looked after/ pathway plan review 'all/most of the time', 89% of CiC, up from 87% in 2015. Less CiC felt they got help to prepare for their Looked after/Pathway plan review 'all/most of the time', 77% down from 79% in 2016.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

There was some concern from the CiC Council/Your Voice group around the impact that large social worker caseloads on the time spent and quality of contact with CiC, and the effect that this had on enabling CiC to work together with workers on planning for their care. The CiC Council acknowledged the structural difficulties faced by the Local Authority, around not enough social workers and turnover of staff, but said an element of consistency and continuity was important.

RAG rating = **Green/Amber**

Commitment 5: "We will keep our children and young people safe and well."

Key finding: Overall, more CiC feel they have the right place to live, more feel safe in their home, school and neighbourhoods, more feel healthy. However, more feel worried 'all the time'.

a) By seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible:

More CiC feel that where they are living is the right care place for them, up 4ppts to 83% of CiC. Less CiC said their care place was not the right place for them (4% a decrease of 6ppts); however, more were unsure (14%, up 2ppts).

b) By making sure that this home is stable and keeps them safe

There have been increases in proportions of CiC feeling safe across the board, in their homes, schools and neighbourhoods. The biggest increase has been in the proportion of CiC feeling safe in their neighbourhood 'all/most of the time', up 7ppts to 90%. 96% of CiC felt safe where they live 'all/most of the time' (up 3ppts) and 95% felt safe at school 'all/most of the time' (up 3ppts).

c) By giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible

- More CiC reported feeling healthy all the time or often, 96%, up 3ppts since 2016. This is the highest proportion feeling healthy 'all/most of the time' since 2013.
- Unfortunately, it appears more CiC are feeling worried 'all the time', 8%, up 3ppts since 2016. There are also less CiC stating they are 'never' worried, 37% of CiC, down 3ppts.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

Results from previous years have been up and down but this year show an improvement across all three areas covered by this question.

RAG rating = **Green**

Commitment 6: "We will help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability."

Key finding: Overall, more CiC feel they are doing well at school and more report engaging with their PEP, and less are reporting they would do better with more help.

- There is a generally positive picture of the way children feel they are doing at school. 71% of CiC said they were doing 'well/very well' at school, the highest proportions since the survey began. Almost half of CiC stated they were doing 'very well' (48%), an 11ppt increase on last year.
- There is also a positive picture across the board in relation to personal education plans (PEP's). More CiC know about their PEP (70% of CiC), more are happy with their PEP (82%) and more are involved in drawing up their PEP than last year (63%). Also, there has been a decrease in the number who feel they would do better with more help 'all/most of the time' (50% down 11ppts). This is in line with an increase in those who feel they would 'never' do better with more help, 25%, up 3ppts, suggesting overall more CiC feel they have enough help than previous years.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

There were a number of concerns about this pledge from the CiC Council/Your Voice group. It was expressed that despite the steady improvement in involvement in PEPs and the overall positive responses many CiC don't feel supported in their education, and in some cases are made to feel as though that because of their status they can't achieve and that they are naughty. As a result they don't get the support they need. It was felt that as 30% of CiC weren't aware of their PEP there was still much to do to ensure engagement. Changes in life, such as a change of placements can impact on school performance. CiC can feel as though they are treated differently to other students, and feel like a light is being shone on them.

In addition the issue of confidentiality and data protection was raised, with a number of CiC Council and Your Voice members expressing concern that their care status was being

revealed without their consent, for example on smart boards used in class. The need to ensure data protection and privacy whilst ensuring the right support is given to those who need it is the balance that needs to be achieved. The group believed that information on their status should be on a need to know basis, with only the right people aware. It is recommended that this issue is explored further through the Virtual School Board to ensure professionals are aware of issues around data protection and privacy and look at means to ensure CiC can raise any concerns they have, for example through PEP meetings and with IROs.

RAG rating = **Amber/Red**

Commitment 7: “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 the support them to prevent such changes unless they are absolutely necessary to keep the child or young person safe and well.”

Key finding: Overall, more CiC have experienced a change in the last 12 months, however more report that the support they received to cope with change was good.

- This year a higher proportion of children reported having a change of social worker, carer, home and school in the last 12 months than last year’s survey respondents. A lower proportion reported a change of personal advisor than last year.
- Change of social worker had the largest increase, up 13% to 57% of CiC responding. The second biggest increase was in charge of home, with 40% of CiC experiencing a change of home compared to 27% the previous year. 37% experienced a change of school (up 6ppts) and 25% experienced a change of carer (up 5ppts).
- Since 2014 there had been a downward trend in CiC experiencing change, as such, it may be worth exploring the mechanism for why this year CiC report a less settled experience.
- For those who have had a change, 73% felt the help they received to cope with the change was very good or good, a continual increase since 2014.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

This is a consistent area of concern in the Have Your Say survey, with more than 50% of respondents having had a change of social worker over the previous year. While the CiC Council/Your Voice group recognised the global nature of the challenge over social working recruitment, retention and caseload management, they believe there are ways in which the situation can be improved.

Group members have previously contributed to social worker recruitment activities. They would like to explore how the involvement of more care experienced young people in recruitment, training and development can support increased retention of staff.

Additionally, a consequence of multiple changes to social worker arrangements means young people frequently have to repeat their story, which they don’t like. It’s recommended that the protocols for staff handover be reviews to ensure all social workers newly assigned to a CiC should read up and understand their story before making contact.

It was recommended that in order to combat the potential negative impact of frequent changes to social worker arrangements, improving CiC and Care Leavers’ resilience and ability to manage change successfully is given greater focus in care planning. This is connected to pathway planning and preparation for independence raised in Commitment 9.

RAG rating = **Amber**

Commitment 8: “We will make sure that a child stays in touch with their birth family and friends as much as possible, considering their safety and wellbeing”

Key finding: Overall, more CiC report seeing their families as much as they like, however less see their old friends. Fewer care leavers are making friends since leaving care.

- 23% saw their families as much as they like in 2017, a 2ppt increase from 2016.
- The percentage of children and young people who never go round to their old friends houses to visit, and whose old friends never come to visit them, have remained stable at 69% and 71% respectively. There has been an increase in CiC who never see or speak to their old friends, 41% up 7ppts from 34% in 2016.
- There has been an increase of care leavers who ‘never’ made new friends since leaving care, 24% of care leavers who responded, up from 18% in 2016.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

Support from school and college stops for Care Leavers, therefore having strong, positive friendship groups and a network of supportive people in place are needed otherwise Care Leavers will be disadvantaged. Impacts can include social isolation, struggle with finances, not knowing how to cope, lack of opportunities to socialise, and restrictions on travel and mobility depending on circumstances. This is a concern in particular for Care Leavers, and the Your Voice group agreed that they would explore this further through their forum and the work of the Leaving Care Team.

No RAG rating here – for information only

Commitment 9: “We will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood.”

Key finding: Overall, more CiC feel happy with the support they receive to prepare for adulthood, however less feel they have the skills for independence.

- There has been another increase in the proportion of CiC stating they were “Happy/ Very happy” with the support they were getting to plan for their future, 95% up 4ppts. There has been a year on year increase since the survey began suggesting continual improvement in the support given to CiC to prepare for adulthood.
- There has been a reduction in the proportions of CiC who feel they can do many of the things required for independence, such as cook, clean and wash clothes. There has also been an increase in those who would like help with these skills.
- The thing most would like help with is applying for higher education (65%), then writing a CV (58%) and finding information about jobs and training (53%).
- More CiC know what is in their pathway plan, 36%, up 7ppts. The percentage of those who did not know they had a pathway plan (20%) has remained static at 51%. 17% of CiC did not know they had a pathway plan.

CiC Council/Your Voice assessment:

There was concern that elements of the Pathway Plan, particularly those around life skills, need to be reviewed to make them more appropriate and accessible to those completing them. The Leaving Care Team agreed that it would be good for young people to review the

content and layout of the Pathway Plan, so it was recommended that this be included in CiC Council and Your Voice work for 2018/19.

RAG rating = **Amber**

Overall rating for the way Nottingham City Council are taking care of Children in Care and Care Leavers

- Almost 8 in 10 CiC are 'happy/very happy' with how NCC takes care of them (78%). This is a slight decrease from last year (82%).

CiC Council/Your Voice conclusion:

This year's Have Your Say survey responses show that the Corporate Parenting Board and its partners are doing well overall, with most CiC and Care Leavers in good placements and/or accommodation and enjoying positive relationships with carers, social workers and other key supporting professionals.

But there is a need to explore how to improve consistency and reduce unnecessary change in CiC and Care Leavers' lives, improve education support and help people feel happier in school, and help prepare young people for independence, and these are the areas the CiC Council and Your Voice would like to focus on through the three termly 2018/19 Corporate Children in Care Council meetings.

RAG rating = **Green/ Amber**

PART 4: Easy-Read survey results

The easy read survey was completed by CiC aged 3-7. 18 easy read responses were received. Questions were asked in an easy read format around health and happiness. Below is a summary of responses.

- Happiness: 95% of CiC said they felt happy.
- School: 85% of CiC said 'School makes me feel happy'. However, 10% said school makes them feel sad.
- Health: 90% said they felt healthy.
- Where I live: 95% said where they live makes them feel happy. None said where they live makes them feel sad.
- Safety: 95% said they felt safe and 5% 'don't know'.
- Play: 90% of CiC like to play, 10% 'don't know'.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

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

4.1 The cost of the Have Your Say survey is approximately £1000 per year, consisting primarily of printing and postage. This cost is currently met by the Children in Care team, who also provide officer support. The Strategy & Insight team provides survey

preparation, data collation and analysis, with citizen engagement and reporting by the Engagement & Participation Lead officer.

- 4.2 Improvements in services based on the insight from service user views can lead to a wide spectrum of benefits, including resource efficiencies.

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

- 5.1 Each survey has a unique reference number enabling all responses to be screened for individual safeguarding and specific service-use complaints.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE 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 the report does not contain financial proposals or decisions.

Yes

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

- 8.1 Nottingham City Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter (Appendix 1)

- 8.2 Have Your Say survey (Appendix 2)

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 9.1 Nottingham City Children and Young People's Plan

Corporate Parenting Board

Reporting Schedule: Forward Planner

2018 - 2019

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) Semi-Independence Provision Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Keep on Caring (Verbal Update) Children and Social Work Act Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kay Sutt Audrey Taylor Mike Rowley Jon Rea Clive Chambers Clive Chambers Cllr Mellen 	2 nd April 2018	9 th April 2018	16 th April 2018	23 rd April 2018	9 th May 2018	21 st May 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report Pathway Planning / Transitions Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention CiC Performance Report (Q3/Q4 16/17) Utting Report Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Report Forward Planner (Verbal Update) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alison Platkiw (CASE STUDIES) Sharon Clarke Audrey Taylor Clive Chambers Natalie Pink / Sam Flint Jon Rea Cllr Mellen 	28 th May 2018	4 th June 2018	11 th June 2018	18 th June 2018	4 th July 2018	16 th July 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Leavers Annual Report Emotional Health Advocacy Annual Report Report Independent Visitor Annual Report Participation and Engagement / MOMO Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn Pearce / Your Voice Aileen Wilson Children's Society Children's Society Jon Rea / Steven Beardsmore Jon Rea 	30 th July 2018	6 th August 2018	13 th August 2018	20 th August 2018	5 th September 2018	17 th September 2018

▪ Report Forward Planner	▪ Cllr Mellen						
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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"> ▪ Statement of Purpose Fostering Service and Adoption Agency ▪ Children in Care Placements / Placement Sufficiency Strategy ▪ Physical Health ▪ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2017/18) ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audrey Taylor ▪ Holly Macer / Mike Rowley ▪ Kathryn Higgins ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	8th October 2018	15th October 2018	22nd October 2018	29th October 2018	7th November 2018	19th November 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update ▪ Adoption and Permanency (2) ▪ Complaints Service Report ▪ Educational Attainment of Children in Care ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audrey Taylor / Clare Hewitson ▪ Patrick Skeet ▪ Jasmin Howell ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	26th November 2018	3rd December 2018	10th December 2018	17th December 2018	9th January 2019	21st January 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NCSCB Missings Update Report ▪ Edge of Care Provision ▪ Reducing Offending Behaviour ▪ Children in Care Council: Have your Say 2017 ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Tracey Nurse / Mark Ball ▪ Sam Flint ▪ Jon Rea / CiC-C Member ▪ Cllr Mellen 	28th January 2019	4th February 2019	11th February 2019	18th February 2019	6th March 2019	18th March 2019

- 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;

-
- **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 partners should continue to submit reports via email to jordan.whatman@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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