



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Time: 11.00 am (pre-meeting for all Committee members at 10:30am)

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

Senior Governance Officer: Jane Garrard **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764315

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**
- 4 MINUTES** 3 - 10
To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 March 2017
- 5 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE** 11 - 14
- 6 EDGE OF CARE SERVICES** 15 - 22
- 7 SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND DUBLIN III UNIFIED FAMILIES** 23 - 28
- 8 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18** 29 - 32
- 9 FUTURE MEETING DATES**
To agree to meet on the following Tuesdays at 11am:
 - 18 July 2017
 - 19 September 2017
 - 21 November 2017

- 19 December 2017
- 16 January 2018
- 20 March 2018

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE SENIOR GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES

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

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 21 March 2017 from 11.00 - 12.37

Membership

Present

Councillor Brian Parbutt (Chair)
Councillor Azad Choudhry (minutes 37 onward)
Councillor Georgina Culley (minutes 37 and 38)
Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora (minute 34 to 37)
Councillor Glyn Jenkins (Vice Chair)
Councillor Neghat Khan
Councillor David Mellen
Councillor Chris Tansley

Absent

Councillor Josh Cook
Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Rav Kalsi - Senior Governance Officer
Helen Blackman - Director of Children's Services
Sonia Cain - Service Manager Fostering and Adoption
Alison Michalska - Corporate Director for Children and Adults
Kate Morris - Governance Officer
Sophie Russell - Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Josh Cook - Personal

Councillor Sam Webster
Maria Ward – Nottingham Community and Voluntary Services

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

36 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

37 OFSTED FRAMEWORK AND THEMATIC INSPECTIONS

Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years introduced a report on the Ofsted framework and thematic inspections. Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Integrated Services and Sophie Russell, Head of

Children's Strategy and Improvement outlined the main findings of the pilot inspection, highlighting the following points:

- (a) For 2 weeks at the end of January 2017 a team of Ofsted inspectors conducted an inspection of Nottingham City Council's Children's Services piloting the new framework focusing far more on the journey of the child and looking in depth at 274 case;
- (b) as the inspection was voluntary the results and final report will not be published but the Council are permitted to release the results, which it will do at an appropriate opportunity;
- (c) the inspectors recognised the impact of changes made since the last inspection in 2014, most notably all services being bought under one Director and all first contact coming through a multi-agency hub;
- (d) the inspectors praised Nottingham City Council for the strong corporate and political support for Children's Services ensuring that children's needs are prioritised. They stated that significant progress has been achieved from the previous inspection in 2014 when the Council was judged to require improvement;
- (e) in the pilot inspection framework there are now 4 areas of judgement:
 - The impact of leaders on practice with children and families, in which the Council was judged as good;
 - The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection, in which the Council was judged as good;
 - The experiences and progress of children looked after and care leavers achieving permanence, in which the Council was judged as requiring improvement;
 - Overall effectiveness, in which the Council was judged as good;
- (f) the key areas of positive feedback were:
 - The creation of one directorate being the catalyst for subsequent improvements;
 - There is good involvement in, and use of, regional interactions, peer review and learning;
 - The over recruitment of Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSW) was a sound decision and the induction process is strong with staff giving positive feedback. It was noted that Nottingham City Council is becoming an employer of choice for Social Workers in the region;
 - Good and outstanding social work can flourish within Nottingham City and there are a number of examples of both;
 - The diversity of the community is well understood and services fit well;
 - Voice of the Child is a real strength;
 - Ability to access Early Help services means that risks are being reduced;
 - The introduction of the Integrated Locality hubs look to strengthen multi-agency work;
 - Assessments of children's needs are consistently good leading to meaningful plans;

- Support for disabled children is good and services provided are tailored to their needs;
 - The Multi systemic therapy and Edge of Care Hub show creative use of resources and work to reduce the numbers of children in care;
 - Social Workers know their children well;
 - Carers are seen as ambitious and proud of their young people and their needs are well considered;
 - Educational outcomes are improving;
 - Early Help services are seen as outstanding;
- (g) There are some areas that the Council has been challenged to improve, although these represent very small proportion of cases, these are:
- To have a more robust response to 16-17 year olds who present as homeless:
 - There were very small number of cases where more thorough consideration could have been given to alternative options;
 - To be more tenacious in order to sustain contact with care leavers not currently engaged with the Council:
 - This relates to a very small cohort of care leavers who have clearly stated that they do not wish to have further contact with the Council and the care leavers services provided;
 - To develop a better understanding of why children go missing and ensure they receive the help that they need:
 - Attention is being focused on being more proactive before a child goes missing;
 - Independent reviewing Officer capacity could still be improved:
 - The Council have invested in additional resources and created new posts to help alleviate the workload pressure on independent reviewing officers, however to offer further resilience further posts should be considered;
 - To bring better consistency in setting clear expectations for responses from partner agencies:
 - There are a small number of cases where the Council has not been as consistent in setting expectations which can be improved;
 - Partners, particularly schools and Police to contribute in a timely manner to initial fact finding/assessments and plans:
 - Police have requested and are receiving additional resources to provide this timely response. Police staff will be moving in to the Early work hub in June;
 - Case file audit arrangements should be strengthened for Children's Social Care:
 - There is already a rigorous audit process in place, but emphasis should also be placed on audit and review at all levels, this is being worked into work methods throughout Children's social care;
- (h) as this was a pilot inspection and on a voluntary basis the Council can expect to have a full inspection in around 12 months' time;

Following comments and questions from the Committee the following further information was highlighted:

- (i) work with children and young people starts very early to prepare them to transition from being cared for to being a care leaver. The vast majority of care leavers maintain contact with their personal advisor after turning 18 but a very small cohort of care leavers, approximately 6%, choose not to engage further for a variety of reasons, they may be unaccompanied asylum seekers who have exhausted options to stay in the country and do not want contact with any service or authority, they may have received a custodial sentence of more than three months which automatically gives them cared for status despite never having been cared for by the Council;
- (j) there is a fine balance to be struck between being tenacious in maintaining contact and respecting the privacy and the wishes of the care leaver. Improvements to some recording and clarity in records of attempts to contact the care leaver will help to push the Council's grading into good as will trying a range of communication methods;
- (k) there is no alert system which notifies the Personal Advisors if housing placement starts to break down or rent arrears start to build up once the young person leaves care, however as the vast majority of care leavers still have contact with their personal advisors they are able to access help and advice at an early stage;
- (l) the Council's payments to foster carers has recently increased and is now much closer to that of the Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's). A recent piece of work showed that the difference in the fee paid to carers was around £11 a week;
- (m) the Council continue to advertise on the Internet and on social media for foster carers. The Council's website pages dedicated to fostering and adoption are due to be refreshed and updated;
- (n) Social Workers caseloads continue to be slightly higher than recommended. The Council aim for a caseload of between 18-23 cases, but the average caseload is closer to the mid 20's at present. However with continued recruitment, of NQS's as well as fast track recruitment of more experienced Social Workers, this is beginning to reduce;
- (o) there are regular meetings of school safeguarding leads and Council safeguarding staff. These are very well attended, usually around 90% schools are represented. This feeds very well into the joint work on safeguarding;
- (p) the inspection did not highlight any issues that the Council were not aware of. If Children's Services continue on the same course, implement the changes suggested and meet the challenges set by Ofsted then the Council can work towards achieving a grade of "good" at the next inspection with various areas of work having the potential to be graded as "outstanding";

- (q) performance indicators show that Nottingham City Council is successful in helping care leavers into work, training or education. The Virtual school is going to be recruiting further staff to offer more intense support around education for 16 and 17 year olds.

RESOLVED to

- (1) thank Councillor David Mellen, Helen Blackman and Sophie Russell for their attendance and the update on the OSTED framework and thematic Inspection;**
- (2) note the content of the presentation;**
- (3) consider the service provision for Care Leavers during 2017/18.**

38 ADOPTION IN NOTTINGHAM

Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Early Years and Early Intervention introduced a report on Adoption in Nottingham. Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Integrated Services and Sonia Cain, Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption informed the Committee of the process for adoption in Nottingham and the work that the Council is doing to ensure positive outcomes for looked after children. They highlighted the following points:

- (a) Across the UK the number of adoptions is decreasing. In Nottingham City the number of adoptions completed continues to rise. In 2011/12 there were 33 adoptions, in 2016/17 there have been 48 adoptions;
- (b) there are currently 96 children in care in Nottingham City awaiting adoption;
- (c) there are a number of misconceptions about who can adopt, and as long as carers are over the age of 21 and have the ability to offer a child a permanent home then they will be considered as an adopter;
- (d) Adoption Services are advertised on the Council website, once someone has expressed an interest in adopting they will be invited to an information evening, these are held every 6-8 weeks. Following this meeting a series of assessments are completed including home visits, medical checks and reference checks. This process takes about 26 weeks at which point the potential adopter will go before a panel who will assess their suitability. If they are deemed suitable then the process of matching the carer to a child or children can begin;
- (e) carers are supported with a full training programme, including managing challenging behaviour, health needs and managing disability, and caring for sibling groups. The Council also offers some financial support for adopters, and the pupil premium in schools is available for children after adoption;
- (f) there is a Post Order support team who are available to support adopters after the Adoption Order has been finalised and who can help carers access therapeutic support;

- (g) between three years prior to and including 2014/15 financial year the Council achieved permanency through adoption for 153 children, 59% of which who fell into one or more of the “hard to place” categories;
- (h) the national performance tables drive for quicker outcomes for children leading to a focus on easy to place children such as babies and toddlers. The Council is working hard to ensure that all children are given the same chance and works hard to place those children who fall into the “hard to place” categories;
- (i) each year the target for securing an adoption from the time a child entered into care becomes shorter and the target more challenging especially around securing placements for the children in hard to place categories;
- (j) much work is focused on suitable placement and ensuring that the correct placement is found for children. Nottingham’s disruption rate (the breakdown of a placement) is very low and this is attributed to the extensive work put into prior to placement;
- (k) Ofsted feedback highlights the following points:
- Adoption is considered for all children, and is achieved for sibling groups as well as older children and those with complex needs;
 - Assessment of adopters and special guardians is comprehensive and appropriate support is offered sensitive to their needs and the needs of the children;
 - Children looked after live in stable and secure homes and are supported to live full and enjoyable lives;
 - Very careful consideration is given to children living with carers who can meet their needs. Robust quality assurance is in place to oversee and ensure the quality of placements;
- (l) in financial year 2014/15 the Council achieved 70 adoptions, which was a very large rise in numbers achieved. The following years numbers have not been so high, but this large increase in numbers was attributed to the sustained and intensive focus on placement made possible by various grants, including the adoption support grant;
- (m) in June 2015 the government indicated its desire to reshape the adoption provision into regional adoption agencies. They want to reduce the number of adoption agencies operating in the UK. Nottingham City Council have expressed an interest, in collaboration with other local authorities in the region, in running one of these Regional Adoption Agencies and made a bid, the pilot scheme is due to go live by April 2018;
- (n) the Council currently also have the opportunity to work with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership fast tracking adoption social work across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Derby and Derbyshire in order to place children quickly but securely. This scheme will be run over the next year;
- (o) there are a number of challenges facing adoption in Nottingham:

- Recruitment – it has always been a challenge to recruit carers but collaborative work across the region will improve chances of increased recruitment;
- Adoption Support Grant – approximately £320,000 extra funding is coming to an end within the next year;
- Timescale for Adoption – year on year the target time scales set nationally are getting shorter and the expectation is that the adoption process should be quicker;
- Legal Challenges – there are many legal complexities around adoption. The courts want children to stay with birth relatives where possible although they acknowledge that this is not appropriate in all cases;
- Changes to interagency funding – Interagency funding changes are likely to create some pressure. Grants previously available to help cover the costs are no longer accessible;

Following questions and comments from the Committee the following information was highlighted:

- (p) the 26 week assessment period ensures that carers are suitable to offer a child or children a permanent home. The Council will continue to focus on the quality of assessment and placement. The process is getting quicker but the Council is committed to focus on all children rather than just the easy to place children. Very few placements disrupt in Nottingham and the careful approach is working;
- (q) in addition to finding a permanent family for the child's life the adoption process costs significantly less than keeping a child in care until they become care leavers;
- (r) if a placements breaks down then it is treated the same as any family breakdown and the child will return to care. A huge amount of work goes into each placement to ensure that the chance of disruption is minimal;
- (s) if a carer was approved and matched with a child but required extra space to accommodate the child/ren then it would be possible for the Council to consider help to rehome or provide extra space at the family home.

RESOLVED to

- (1) thank Councillor David Mellen, Helen Blackman and Sonia Cain for their attendance and update on Adoption in Nottingham;**
- (2) note the content of the presentation.**

39 WORK PROGRAMME SESSION

Rav Kalsi, Senior Governance Officer, introduced the work programme for 2017/18 to the Committee. He outlined mandatory topics as prescribed in the terms of reference, items scheduled for 2017/18 and possible items for further discussion.

RESOLVED to schedule the following items for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18:

- i. Safeguarding of looked after children in Nottingham**
- ii. Vulnerable Children (disability, domestic violence and missing children)**
- iii. Child Sexual Exploitation**
- iv. Educational attainment**
- v. Commissioning of services for children and young people in Nottingham**
- vi. Post Ofsted improvement journey**
- vii. Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report**
- viii. School admissions and Place Planning**
- ix. Missing Children**
- x. Service provision for Young Carers in Nottingham**
- xi. Service Provision for Care Leavers in Nottingham**
- xii. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Dublin III Reunified Families**
- xiii. Edge of Care Services**
- xiv. CSE and Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability**
- xv. Effectiveness of Home Education in Nottingham**
- xvi. Recruitment and Retention of Teachers in Nottingham**
- xvii. Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and Humber**
- xviii. Secondary Education Provision – Funding and Place Planning**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 JUNE 2017
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2017/18
REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To make sure that all members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are aware of the terms of reference for the Committee and its implications for the operation of the Committee during the year.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the terms of reference for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

3 Background information

- 3.1 On 8 May 2017 Council agreed the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee terms of reference. The terms of reference are attached at Appendix 1.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Report to Full Council meeting held on 8 May 2017

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
0115 8764315
jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference 2017/18

Purpose

To provide robust scrutiny of issues and services relevant to the wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people, in the light of recommendations from the Council's Ofsted Inspection April 2014, and the Jay and Casey Reports (Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham). The work of the Committee should aim to drive and support services to find solutions to problems and/ or set aspirational targets and instil public confidence.

Remit

- a) To set and manage a work programme to fulfil overview and scrutiny responsibility in relation to children and young people to:
 - i. provide an appropriate and robust level of challenge to those in authority and hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive, to account for their decisions, action and performance;
 - ii. review policy and contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham's children and young people;
 - iii. explore any matters affecting Nottingham's children and young people;
 - iv. make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies in relation to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive, and monitor implementation of all accepted recommendations;
- b) To work with the other scrutiny committees, to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme;
- c) To consider referrals from partners and citizens to support effective delivery of a coordinated work programme;
- d) To invite, take account of and respond to the views of local people (including children and young people) about their concerns and the delivery of services in relation to children and young people;
- e) To be required to consider the following issues / topics when developing the work programme, though the Committee's scrutiny activity need not be limited to these matters:
 - i. Safeguarding
 - ii. Looked After Children
 - iii. Vulnerable Children and Young People (eg in relation to disability, domestic violence, missing)
 - iv. Child Sexual Exploitation
 - v. Early Intervention
 - vi. Educational Attainment
 - vii. Commissioning of Services for Children and Young People
 - viii. Performance of Services for Children and Young People
- f) To consider potential risks to children and young people, how they are being managed and to report concerns as soon as possible to the appropriate individuals/ bodies if risk is identified;
- g) To monitor the progress made by, and effectiveness of the Council and its partners, in addressing the areas of concern and specific recommendations for actions made by Ofsted and any other relevant inspection/ assessment bodies;

- h) To have regard to the work of other committees/ panels/ boards, such as the Corporate Parenting Board and the Local Safeguarding Board, to avoid duplication, but to ensure that such bodies are held to account when appropriate;
- i) To commission time-limited panels (no more than 1 panel at any one time) to carry out a review of a matter within its remit. Commissioning includes setting the remit, initial timescale and size of membership to meet the needs of the review to be carried out. Such review panels will be chaired by the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
- j) To co-opt people from outside the Council to sit on the Committee or any review panels it commissions to support effective delivery of the work programme.

Membership

The Committee has 9 members. Membership must not include members of the Executive Board. The Committee is politically balanced, with allocation of seats between political groups determined on a year by year basis.

When the Committee plans to consider an education issue, the statutory education co-optees* must be invited to be full and equal members of the Committee with voting rights for that specific item.

*Church of England Diocese representative (when the local authority maintains one or more Church of England school)

Roman Catholic Diocese representative (when the local authority maintains one or more Roman Catholic school)

Parent Governors representatives

Chairing

The Chair will be one of the Vice-Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is appointed by Full Council. The Vice-Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee from the membership of the Committee.

Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the Committee is three members.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 JUNE 2017
EDGE OF CARE SERVICES
REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the approach to supporting children and young people ‘on the edge’ of care to, where appropriate, minimise the numbers becoming accommodated.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to use the information provided to review the Council’s approach to supporting children and young people ‘on the edge’ of care; and identify if any further scrutiny is required.

3 Background information

- 3.1 As part of its previous work the Committee has heard about the role of the Edge of Care Hub in supporting families with multiple complex issues and diverting children from care proceedings. The Committee wished to explore in more detail the Council’s approach to supporting children and young people, and their families, who are ‘on the edge’ of care.
- 3.2 A specific focus for this meeting is the role of the Edge of Care Panel, which aims to divert children and young people from care proceedings and manages a menu of support services that can be accessed. Attached to this report is more detailed information about the Panel and associated services and the menu of support services managed by the Panel.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Report on Edge of Care Panel and Services
Appendix 2 – Menu of Services at the Edge of Care Panel

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 None

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
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Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Edge of Care Panel and Services

Aim/Criteria of the Edge of Care Panel

The Edge of Care Panel seeks to prevent children and young people becoming accommodated (where appropriate to do so) through the provision of a robust package of support and intervention. The Panel is the gateway to support services for families on the edge of care and children can only be accommodated once they have been through this process.

The only exception to this is in an emergency when a Head of Service (or Service Manager if Out of Hours) can approve an accommodation request. However, where a child has been accommodated in an emergency, the case should then be referred to the Panel retrospectively so that they can consider whether with a support package the child/young person could return home/exit care.

Cases are normally presented to the Panel for 2 key reasons:

1. The Social Work/Targeted Family Support Team believe the family are in crisis and at risk of an imminent family breakdown - as a result the professional network believe the child or young person needs to be accommodated by the Local Authority to avoid them suffering significant harm. In some situations the worker believes that the child's needs are not being met within the family home as a result of various factors and there are no suitable relatives able to offer alternative placement.
2. The Social Work/ Targeted Family Support Team who work with the family are of the view that without an intensive package of support, the family situation will breakdown at some future point necessitating the accommodation of the child or young person. The professional network has identified the need for early intervention to avoid a further escalation of concerns leading to a family breakdown.

Examples of family stress factors which can lead to family breakdown:

- Poor parental mental health;
- Parents have received poor parenting themselves and have a limited repertoire for managing challenging behaviours in their own children;
- Parental/child drug and alcohol misuse;
- Offending behaviour/Anti-social behaviour;
- Low school attendance;
- Parent/Carer isolated with little family support;
- Unresolved trauma suffered by the parent when they were children;
- Lack of positive attachments;
- Domestic Violence.

Background

The Edge of Care Panel began in 2011, although 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 Work. There are on average 5 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.

Work has taken place over the last four years to identify evidence based interventions likely to support families in addressing difficult periods, preventing breakdown. This investment in Edge of Care Services saves children and families from the trauma of separation and public care costs if an identified intervention can improve their relationships. Even if an intervention cannot successfully avoid accommodation of a child, it can help to repair rifts in family relationships making a long-term difference.

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.

In 2016, 2 further services contributed to the Menu of Services which could 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. Please note Appendix A which provides more information regarding our Menu of Services.

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

Contact Officers

Cllr David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Early Years and Early Intervention
Alison Michalsa, Corporate Director for Children and Adults
Helen Blackman, Director for Children's Integrated Services

Menu of Services at the Edge of Care Panel

This paper sets out to clarify which services are available from Edge of Care Panel, the criteria for each service, and each service's specialism. There are 5 main services on offer

1. Edge of Care Hub
2. Targeted Support Team
3. MST Standard
4. MST CAN
5. Safe Families for Children (SFFC)

Other services that are potentially available at Edge of Care Panel include

6. Targeted Youth Support
7. FIP

Edge of Care Hub	
Edge of Care Hub Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On, or near the edge of care • Multiple complex issues • 0-18 • Meets priority families criteria • Newly born children at CiN or CP • Pregnant mum's with chaotic lifestyles
What Edge of Care Hub Does	The Edge of Care Hub provides intensive and assertive community based support to children and families that are on the edge of care and may also be subject to CP Plans. The team work on a family's capacity to change; focusing intervention on parental motivation, rules and boundaries, emotional warmth, stimulation of child, parental ability to protect, DV, substance misuse, poor parental mental health, and environmental factors such as poor living conditions and hygiene. Work with children and their families from birth until 18.
Speciality	Edge of Care Hub's speciality is new or expecting parents, large sibling groups and families that present with multiple

	complex issues. The Edge of Care Hub can also provide emergency weekend support.
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Targeted Support Team	
Targeted Support Team Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-18 • Placements at breaking point (including CiC's) • Transitional support (including CiC's)
What the Targeted Support Team does	The Targeted Support Team provides emergency support alongside intensive outreach support to young people and their families. This is a brief intervention (6-12 weeks) grounded in Solution Focused Brief Therapy. The Targeted Support Team work with young people and their families to co-produce danger statements and safety goals. The work focuses the family on achieving this safety goal, and addresses the danger statement. The Targeted Support Team work on prevention of family breakdown and diversion from care, supporting transition from residential or fostering to home, stability in placement, and family group meetings/network meetings.
Speciality	Targeted Support's speciality is providing stability in placement, at home or in care, and rebuilding relationships between young people and their carers. The Targeted Support Team can also provide emergency support between 8am and 8pm on weekdays and between 9am and 5pm on weekends

MST Standard	
MST Standard Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11-18 • Behavioural difficulties in multiple ecologies • Referral behaviours such as aggression, substance misuse, non-school attendance • Meets priority families criteria
What MST Standard does	MST is an intensive, community based treatment programme that works with the primary care giver. The intention is to address issues in multiple environmental systems and ecologies such as home, school, neighbourhood and peer

	group. The work identifies drivers behind the issues the family is experiencing and sets goals in accordance with them.
Speciality	Working with the care giver to improve a care giver's parenting skills where there is one problematic parent child relationship. MST Standard also offer 24/7 on call support for families

MST CAN	
MST CAN Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-17 • Child/ren on edge of care due to child abuse or neglect. Exclusion to this is where the primary risk factor is child sexual abuse and this form of abuse is ongoing. • There has been a child abuse/neglect incident/episode within the last 180 days • Sibling group of 3 or more • Behavioural difficulties in multiple ecologies • Referral behaviours such as aggression, substance misuse, non-school attendance
What MST CAN does	<p>MST CAN is an intensive intervention for families who have recently been reported to Child Protection Services for physically abusing or neglecting children. The intervention aims to improve parenting by identifying strengths within various ecologies to overcome risk factors that contribute to the maltreatment. (e.g. drug misuse)</p> <p>The aim of this work is to reduce the risk, making it safe for the children to remain in the family home. This avoids the need to bring them into care which can lead to placements outside of their local community resulting in the child experiencing a number of significant moves and changes in relation to schooling/community/care givers.</p>
Speciality	Working with the care giver to improve their parenting skills, and preventing maltreatment, abuse and neglect. MST CAN also offers 24/7 on call support for families

SFFC	
SFFC Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one child/sibling under 12 years of age but can be extended in certain circumstances • Child/ren with extensive needs or CIN • Now includes child protection cases/children deemed to be at risk of abuse or neglect • Do not work with families where DV or violence is present
What is SFFC and what do they do	<p>Safe Families for Children (SFFC) is a Christian charity working hand-in-hand with children's services to link families in need with local volunteers who can offer them help and support. Safe Families for Children believes that parents are central to providing long-term safe environments for their children and seeks to reduce the number of children who need to go into short term care due to lack of other family/friend alternatives. With this aim, SFFC provides Family Friends, Host Families and Resource Friends to help while parents seek to restore stability in their lives.</p>
Speciality	<p>Family Friends to support the parents and Hosting arrangements /support</p>

Last updated 30/5/17

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 JUNE 2017
SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND DUBLIN III UNIFIED FAMILIES
REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To increase the Committee’s understanding of the legal duties on local authorities in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children; and to review how the Council is discharging its legal responsibilities.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to use the information provided to review how the Council is discharging its legal responsibilities in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children and Dublin III Unified Families; and identify if any further scrutiny is required.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Given current national conversations about support for asylum seekers in this country, the Committee wanted to understand more about what legal responsibilities the Council has in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children and Dublin III Unified Families and how those duties are being discharged in Nottingham.
- 3.2 A briefing paper on this is attached and the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years will be attending the meeting to discuss how the Council is fulfilling its legal duties on this issue and to answer questions.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Briefing Note: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People Reunited With Family (Dublin III)

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 None

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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Briefing Note

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People Reunited With Family (Dublin III)

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

20th June 2017

Background

Local authorities have a legal duty under the Children Act 1989 to provide support to children and young people in their local area who are 'children in need'. These same duties apply to unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). This duty requires that there is an assessment of their needs and as there is no one who has parental responsibility (PR) or who is prepared to accept PR for the young person it is often the case that UASC are accommodated under the Children Act 1989. For some people claiming to be UASC it may be unclear whether they are under 18 and, where this is the case, an age assessment is conducted to ascertain whether they should be considered to be a child or an adult.

Where UASC are accommodated under the Children Act 1989 they gain all of the rights of a child in care (CiC) and receive all of the same support and services as any other CiC. This includes accommodation, support to access education, employment or training (depending on their age) and support to ensure that their health needs are met. They are supported to access legal advice to help progress their asylum claim with the Home Office. They are also helped to make links in local communities which reflect the language, culture and religion of their countries of origin. These links are often facilitated through voluntary sector organisations like the Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum. As a CiC, they are also allocated an Independent Reviewing Officer to ensure that there is an independent review of whether the Care Plan put in place is meeting the needs of the young person.

UASC CiC also become eligible for support as care leavers which means that they are able to access support from a Personal Advisor and a Leaving Care Allowance until they are 21 (or 25 if they access further or higher education).

In 2016 the Association for Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) published a thematic report on UASC and refugee children. Some key facts and figures from this research are detailed at appendix 1. The profile of Nottingham City's UASC cohort is in line with the national picture reflected in this report.

Local authorities are able to access a grant from the Home Office to help meet the costs of caring for UASC. The grant amount depends on the age of the young person and is accessed via a monthly return detailing the costs associated with the UASC cohort. These allowances were increased in 2016 but it has been widely reported through national bodies like the ADCS that this grant does not meet the full cost of care for UASC incurred by local authorities when we include social work costs etc.

Nottingham City has always received a number of spontaneous arrivals of UASC young people and we have a legal duty to respond as outlined. Over the past few years there has been a gradual increase in the number of UASC CiC and in 2016 there were a range of national initiatives that impacted on our numbers of UASC. These initiatives are outlined below.

National Transfer Scheme

In 2016 the Home Office approached local authorities to ask that they take part in a voluntary National Transfer Scheme (NTS) to support those local authorities (e.g. Kent) who were receiving large numbers of spontaneous arrivals. The aim was for all local authorities to support a number of UASC which was equivalent to 0.07% of their child age population. This approach was designed to ensure that need was met across the country and that all participating LAs would then benefit from the support of other LAs if their local demand increased. Nottingham City agreed to take part in this scheme and have been working across the East Midlands region to consider all requests under the NTS to see whether the young person's needs could be met within one of the 9 local authorities in the region. As a region we

agreed that all local authorities should move gradually towards the 0.07%. Not all local authorities in the region have agreed to take part in the NTS scheme. To date, Nottingham City has accepted a small number of UASC under the NTS.

Dubs Amendment

In addition to the NTS national government made commitments within the Immigration Act 2016 (Section 67) to support the resettlement of a number of UASC from camps in Europe. This is commonly known as the 'Dubs Amendment'. In February 2017, after consultation with local authorities, it was announced that 350 children and young people would be resettled in the UK under the Dubs Amendment. All requests for children to be resettled under Section 67 are managed through the regional arrangements as above for NTS. To date, Nottingham City has not accepted any young people under Dubs Amendment.

Dublin III

During the clearance of the camps in Calais in October 2016 a number of children were identified who could be reunified with family members already living in the UK and make an application for asylum in the UK. These children could be reunified under a European Union law known as Dublin III regulations (Regulation (EU) No 604/2013). Under this process the local authority is required to make an assessment of the relative residing in the UK to ascertain whether they can meet the support needs of the child or young person. Children reunified under Dublin III are not considered to be CiC but there was guidance issues from the DfE which stated that it was likely that they would require ongoing support as a child in need (CiN) Due to the pressing timescales associated with the clearance of the camps in Calais it was necessary to conduct these assessments in a very short period of time. However, as CiN this meant that the young people and their families received ongoing social work support to ensure that the young person's needs were being met and that they were able to access other support services, legal advice and education, employment or training. Some families' accessed financial support as the young person had no recourse to public funds pending the outcome of their asylum claim and the family member was therefore unable to access any benefits to support the young person during this period. Nottingham City supported the reunification of 24 young people under the Dublin III regulation. A number of these young people have subsequently become CiC as their family members were unable to care for them.

What's happening locally?

Children's Integrated Services are working closely with partner agencies to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of UASC and reunified young people. We are working across Children's Integrated Services, Nottingham City CCG, schools/education providers, Community Protection and voluntary sector organisations to track the progress of these young people and ensure that any issues or themes in relation to their care and support can be addressed.

We have recently made a bid to the Home Office's Controlling Migration Fund to seek further financial support for Children's Integrated Services and to mitigate the impact of the increasing numbers of UASC on our services. This bid would see further investment in education provision for UASC, mental health support as well as additional health and social work support. The bids are being considered by the Home Office and we should hear whether this bid has been successful in Summer 2017.

We are working closely with regional colleagues to ensure that the Home Office are aware of emerging themes and issues relating to these cohorts.

Findings of the ADCS Thematic Report into UASC and Refugee Children

“This thematic report draws together returns from over 100 local authorities in England and supplements this with national data and a literature review to provide an insight into the characteristics and needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children and the services available or being developed by councils to meet these needs.

This research shows that:

- *As at 31 March 2016 local authorities were supporting 4,689 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). However, in intervening months there has been a sharp increase in arrivals of unaccompanied children largely driven by the clearance of the Calais migrant camp, the Dubs Amendment to the Immigration Act and children being transferred under Dublin III arrangements which means that the total number of UASC to date is significantly larger today and is set to grow further in the coming weeks and months*
- *76% of unaccompanied children and young people arriving in the UK were aged 16-17 and over 90% were male, this picture is likely to change as more and more children are reunited in this country under Dublin III arrangements*
- *The most prevalent countries of origin for UASC arriving in the UK were found to be Afghanistan, Eritrea, Albania, Iran, Vietnam, Iraq and Syria; regions with long-running conflicts, political instability, and a poor record on human rights*
- *Local authorities highlighted the mental and physical health of UASCs arriving in the UK as a common concern, over a third of young people displayed psychological symptoms upon arrival, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, flashbacks and depression*
- *A growing concern for local authorities is finding a suitable placement that meets the needs of each child or young person arriving in the UK, over 75% of respondents talked about the struggle to find placements. With the majority of UASC placed in foster care the national shortage of foster care placements was cited as the main challenge for most authorities*
- *Using data provided by dozens of responding local authorities ADCS has calculated that the grant funding provided by the Home Office covers on average 50% of the costs of caring for a UASC”.*

ADCS Press Release - published 3rd November 2016

Full press release available at <http://adcs.org.uk/safeguarding/article/adcs-thematic-report-on-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-and-refugee-children>

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 JUNE 2017
WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18
REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Committee’s work programme for 2016/17 based on areas of work identified by the Committee at previous meetings and any further suggestions raised at this meeting.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the work that is currently planned for the municipal year 2017/18 and make amendments to this programme as appropriate.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The purpose of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is to provide robust scrutiny of issues and services relevant to the wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people, in the light of recommendations from the Council’s Ofsted Inspection April 2014, and the Jay and Casey Reports (Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham). The detailed terms of reference are included as a separate item on this meeting agenda.
- 3.2 The Committee is responsible for setting and managing its own work programme to fulfil this role.
- 3.3 In setting a programme for scrutiny activity, the Committee should aim for an outcome-focused work programme that has clear priorities and a clear link to its roles and responsibilities. The work programme needs to be flexible so that issues which arise as the year progresses can be considered appropriately.
- 3.4 Where there are a number of potential items that could be scrutinised in a given year, consideration of what represents the highest priority or area of risk will assist with work programme planning. Changes and/or additions to the work programme will need to take account of the resources available to the Committee.
- 3.5 The proposed work programme for the municipal year is attached at Appendix 1.

4. List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2017/18 Work Programme

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 None

7. Wards affected

7.1 All

8. Contact information

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2017/18 Work Programme

Date	Items
20 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edge of care services To review the effectiveness of 'edge of care' services in preventing children and young people entering the care system • Support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and Dublin III Unified Families • Work Programme 2017/18
18 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post OFSTED improvement journey (tbc) To hear from two schools in regarding the outcomes of their recent OFSTED inspections and how they are responding to the findings of those inspections • Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and Humber (tbc) To speak to the Regional Schools Commissioner about their role in contributing to achieving the City's ambition that all schools will be good or outstanding • Update on Education Trust To receive an update on the work of the Education Trust • Work Programme 2017/18
19 September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2017/18
21 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2017/18
19 December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2017/18

Date	Items
16 January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2017/18
22 March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2018/19

Items to be scheduled

- Child sexual exploitation – update on the current position
- Update on workforce retention – social workers
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Care leavers
- Place planning and admissions
- Virtual school
- Review of social worker caseload
- Effectiveness of home education
- Recruitment and retention of newly qualified teachers
- Nottingham Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report
- Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Business, Education and Skills (with respect to schools priorities within the Council Plan)
- Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years

Visits

Informal meetings

- Briefings for the Chair with Portfolio Holders on current and emerging issues

Items to be scheduled for 2018/19