



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 21 May 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

- 1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 4 MINUTES** 3 - 8
Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 March 2018, for confirmation
- 5 QUALITY ASSURANCE VISITS OF REGULATED AND NON-REGULATED RESIDENTIAL PROVISION** To Follow
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 6 ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY** 9 - 14
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 7 COMMISSIONING OF SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES 2018** 15 - 18
Joint report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services and the Director of Procurement and Children's Commissioning
- 8 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**
Verbal update
- 9 CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT STATUTORY GUIDANCE**
Presentation

10 FORWARD PLANNER

19 - 22

11 DATES FOR THE 2018-19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

21 May 2018

16 July 2018

17 September 2018

19 November 2018

21 January 2019

18 March 2019

(all at 2.30pm at Loxley House)

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

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

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

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 19 March 2018
from 2.31 pm - 4.09 pm**

Membership

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Liaqat Ali
Councillor Jim Armstrong
Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Jackie Morris
Councillor Wendy Smith
Councillor Marcia Watson
Councillor Sam Webster

Absent

Councillor Ginny Klein
Councillor Sue Johnson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Mark Ball	- Edge of Care Hub Manager
Helen Blackman	- Director of Children's Integrated Services
Grace Brough	- Insight Specialist, Public Health
Clive Chambers	- Head of Service, Children in Care
Sam Flint	- Children in Care Police Officer
Jasmin Howell	- Virtual School Service manager
Gill Moy	- Director of Housing & Customer Services, Nottingham City Homes
Racheal Osborne	- CSE Coordinator & Missing Children's Team Manager
Natalie Pink	- Children in Care Lead, Youth Offending Team
Jon Rea	- Engagement & Participation lead Officer
Donna Stenton-Groves	- Multisystemic Therapy Team
Steven Tuckwood	- Children in Care/ Care Leaver representative
Jordan Whatman	- Project Officer, Children in Care
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sue Johnson – other Council business
Councillor Ginny Klein – personal reasons
TM (foster carer representative)

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

54 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55 REDUCING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

Natalie Pink, Nottingham Youth Offending Team Lead for Children in Care, and Sam Flint, Children in Care Police Officer, introduced the report, highlighting the following:

- (a) for the year 2016/17, 5% of Children in Care (CiC) in Nottingham City aged between 10-17 have received a Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or conviction. This figure has reduced continuously over 5 years;
- (b) a protocol aimed at reducing the criminalisation of CiC, embedding restorative justice and early intervention, was ratified by the Youth Offending Team Board in July 2017. A multi-agency training event is planned in March to launch this formally;
- (c) an Arrest Screening Programme has been devised to pro-actively divert CiC from prosecution where appropriate;
- (d) the Children in Care Police Officer chairs the Concerns Network meeting, a multi-agency forum which collates and distributes information where concerns for potential Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) have been identified. CSE awareness training has been provided to hotels;

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (e) the Council will be required to produce a local offer for care leavers, and this presents an opportunity to replicate the good work done for CiC;
- (f) CSE training is provided for taxi drivers, and completion of this is a condition for license renewal in Nottingham.

RESOLVED to

- (1) recognise the significance of the 5 year trend in reducing offending behaviour within the children in care population;**
- (2) recognise the importance of sustaining the work of the Children in Care Police Officer to continue to improve outcomes for Children in Care;**
- (3) recognise the further development of the Youth Offending Team Lead role, and the benefits of broadening its scope to the wider directorate;**
- (4) note the continued drive for early identification and intervention in offending within the Children in Care 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.**

56 EDGE OF CARE SERVICES

Donna Stenton-Groves, Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Supervisor, and Mark Ball, Edge of Care Hub Manager, introduced the report updating the Board on the current services provided at the edge of care to prevent family breakdown, and providing a brief overview of the effectiveness of these services in keeping families together and building resilience in order to avoid children coming into care. The following information was highlighted:

- (a) the Edge of Care Panel meets every Tuesday, and consists of members from the Edge of Care Hub, the Multi-Systemic Team, the Youth Offending Team, the Targeted Support Team, the police, NSPCC, housing, Child Adolescence Mental Health Services, Placement Services, and Safe Families for Children and Education. Up to 5 cases a week are presented to the Panel, where there is a risk of family breakdown and a service is required to help prevent this;
- (b) services that can intervene in these cases include the Targeted Family Support Team, who provide an emergency response to families at imminent risk of breakdown, Safe Families for Children, and Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST);
- (c) MST Standard has worked with a total of 165 families since 2013. Of these, only 17 young people have come into care. MST Child Abuse and Neglect (MSTCAN) is a service for families where children are subject to child protection plans or within public law outline. 104 children have been supported by MSTCAN. Of these, 33 have closed completely to Children's Services;
- (d) the Edge of Care Hub (EOCH) began in November 2013 and provides intensive family support and therapeutic support to children for approximately 6-9 months, visiting 3-5 times a week. It specialises in working with pregnant or peri-natal women and families who present with multiple complex issues;
- (e) the EOCH has 4 years of evidence based practice that shows it has been successful in supporting children to remain at home where it is safe to do so, and addressing complex issues such as mental health, domestic violence and substance misuse.

RESOLVED to continue to invest in Edge of Care Services.

57 THE RESPONSE TO MISSING CHILDREN

Rachael Osborne, CSE Coordinator and Missing Children's Team Manager, introduced the report setting out the local arrangements in place to respond to children who go missing from home or care, highlighting the following:

- (a) children from all backgrounds go missing, but CiC are more likely than others. Children who go missing can face an increased risk of significant harm, including being exposed to the risk of alcohol and drugs, criminal and sexual exploitation and trafficking;
- (b) the police no longer record children as absent, following changes to statutory guidance. These are now recorded as missing with medium/high risk. The City

Council has maintained the same approach, which is to not differentiate according to the police risk levels;

- (c) in local arrangements, the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel receives information about children who are at risk of sexual exploitation that go missing, and the police have recently employed a Missings Coordinator. Every month there is a meeting between the police and children's social care staff to discuss those children that have been reported missing most frequently;
- (d) if a child goes missing on two or more occasions, is identified as being vulnerable, has been missing overnight or is under the age of 13, they are offered a return interview. These are carried out by somebody independent of the day to day care of the child. The Missing Children's Team Manager reviews and authorises all return interviews;

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (e) the police make the decision as to whether a missing child is at no apparent risk, medium risk or high risk. This is reviewed every 6 hours in light of any new information;
- (f) a number of children recorded as missing are reported by parents and then arrive home a short time afterwards;
- (g) when a return interview is conducted, the interviewer also speaks to the parents to address any concerns. They can also hand leaflets and information to the children about risks.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

58 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Jasmin Howell, Service Manager, Virtual School, introduced the report providing an update of the work of the Nottingham City Virtual School and detailing attainment in the 2016-17 academic year, highlighting the following:

- (a) the Virtual School is currently experiencing capacity issues within the team due to two vacant posts and a long-term absence, and is currently prioritising the monitoring of statutory school aged CiC over post 16 and early years children. It is expected that the vacant posts will be filled shortly;
- (b) over 70% of CiC are in schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. If a child is on roll at a school the requires improvement or is inadequate, then this usually happened after the child went on roll there;
- (c) the attainment of CiC has improved in most areas for the 2016-17 academic year, and has seen particularly strong improvements in Key Stage 4;
- (d) approximately 61% of CiC have an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP).

Board Members commented that they still have concerns about the number of CiC with an up to date PEP and were reassured that this is recognised as an area for improvement.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the recent trends and current levels of educational attainment for Nottingham City's children in care in comparison to the performance of all children in care 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.**

59 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL – 2017 HAVE YOUR SAY SURVEY RESULTS

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead, and Steven Tuckwood, 'Your Voice' Care Leavers' Participation Group, introduced the report and delivered a presentation, highlighting the following:

- (a) questions in the survey were based on the commitments made by the Corporate Parenting Board in the Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter. The survey was perceptual including both qualitative and quantitative questions;
- (b) despite a communications exercise and changes to the way they survey is presented, the response rate to the survey remained low at 19%;
- (c) CiC and Care Leavers (CLs) are generally happy that they are treated with respect, have time and help to understand their circumstances, have the right place to live, have a home life that is stable and safe and get the right support to be as healthy as possible;
- (d) CiC and CLs are generally, with some exceptions, aware of and know how to access advocacy and complaints processes, and are listened to in the planning for their care;
- (e) more needs to be done to avoid unnecessary change in the lives of CiC and CLs, and to ensure they receive the support they need with their pathway plans to facilitate transition into adulthood;
- (f) more needs to be done to ensure CiC and CLs receive the support they need to achieve in school and elsewhere;

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (g) the survey uses a simple grading system, along with optional text boxes. There is also a simplified version for under 8s with smiley faces. Support can be provided

by social workers or foster carers, but children in care and care leavers are encouraged to complete the survey themselves. The survey was partially designed by the Children in Care Council;

- (h) there could be exploration of a shorter survey in addition to the full survey, possibly online. A new development called Mind of My Own (MOMO) has the potential to improve communication with CiC and CLs;
- (i) the percentage of younger respondents at ages 3-8 is higher than the average for older CiC and CLs;
- (j) despite the low response rate, the survey still provides a useful, consistent year-by-year overview of the views of CiC and CLs;
- (k) Charter Commitment 6 (We will help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability) has been rated as amber/red, despite improvements in educational attainment. The young people have asked for a focus on this due to a small but serious issue around the right to privacy at school around their CiC or CL status.

RESOLVED to

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

60 FORWARD PLANNER FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The forward planner was noted.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – MAY 2018

Title of paper:	Adoption and Permanency	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman - Director, Children's Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Audrey Taylor – Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption Audrey.taylor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Sharon Clarke – Service Manager, Children in Care	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	Insert date the report was approved by the Portfolio Holder	
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>The report provides an overview of the permanency performance of the Local Authority, and the number of adoptions. The report will primarily focus on adoption activity, as this continues to be the plan for a significant number of the Authority's children in care; however brief reference is made to Special Guardianship Order figures.</p> <p>The report highlights actions that are being taken to address delays.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To note the performance to date in relation to permanency planning for children in care, which can be in the form of Adoption, Permanent Fostering or Special Guardianship.	
2	To present the Adoption and Permanency report to the Corporate Parenting Board annually. The report will enable the Adoption Leadership Board data to be considered for the previous year, and our performance in this area to be reviewed.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is important that members of the Corporate Parenting Board remain informed of the activities being undertaken, to achieve permanency for children that the Local Authority has corporate parental responsibility for.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Nottingham City continues to make adoption plans for a significant number of children in our care. Many of these children have complex medical conditions, belong to a sibling group, have a range of disabilities, or have birth parents with complex histories. Adoption plans are made knowing that many of these children are considered “hard to place”, but with a strong belief that if children cannot live with their birth family then a permanency option should be considered.
- 2.2 The Adoption Scorecard (introduced in 2012) allows Local Authorities and other adoption agencies to monitor their performance, and compare it with that of others at critical points in the child’s journey towards adoption. Successfully placing children that are more complex can negatively affect our timelines, which impacts on our performance in some of the scorecard measures.
- 2.3 The Adoption Leadership Board (ALB) is a monitoring process that was bought in by the Government for Local Authorities for adoption of both children, and adults going through the adoption process to ensure the timescales are met. The data is collated and submitted on a quarterly basis to ensure no drift or delay.
- 2.4 The Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption continues to hold regular Adoption Tracking Meetings with Team Managers to progress every child’s adoption plan and minimise delays.
- 2.5 The department continues to make good use of adoption as a permanency outcome for children in care:

In Nottingham City currently there are

- 98 children with adoption plans
- 37 children are currently matched with adopters
- 316 children are being supported by means of a Special Guardianship Allowance.

- 2.6 There were 34 children adopted in the last financial year. This is less than the previous year where we had 42 children adopted. The increase in Special Guardianship Order (SGO) placements from 11 the previous year to 25 last year could be a contributing factor. Neighbouring Local Authorities are also reporting a reduction in adoptions for the last financial year.
- 2.7 The authority is currently home-finding for 22 children. Data relating to this activity is as follows:

Gender

- 12 of these children are male
- 10 of these children are female

Age

- Under 1 – 6 children
- 1 – 3 children
- 2 – 2 children
- 3 – 4 child
- 4 – 1 child
- 5 – 2 children
- 6 – 2 children

- 8 – 2 children

Ethnicity

- White British - 12 children
- White British/Black Caribbean - 7 children
- Black African - 3 children

Sibling Groups

- 4 sets of sibling groups, each with 2 siblings in.

2.8 We make strenuous efforts to home-find for children; we do change plans if this will not be achieved within a set timescale. 28 children currently have plans for their adoption plans to be rescinded. This is for children for whom we have exhausted all possibilities to find an adoptive home. Many of these children will remain cared for by their foster carer in a permanency arrangement.

2.9 For children who we are unable to place with our own adopters, we use Interagency Adopters. For the last financial year, the cost of purchasing these placements outside of the Local Authority was £410,099. In terms of our approved Adopters who have adopted from other Local Authorities, we have received £108,000 in payment. This gives an aggregate cost of £302,099 for the year.

2.10 Recruitment

We have 19 prospective adopters who are being assessed, and 28 approved households waiting to be matched. 5 of these prospective adopters are foster carers, and therefore child specific. We are currently accepting applications from adopters who only want a single child under the age of 2, as we do not have sufficient adopters for this cohort. We are currently updating our Facebook and Web pages, and holding information evenings.

2.11 Adoption Support Fund

The Adoption Support Fund commenced in April 2015. This is a central government initiative, aimed at offering support to adoptive families by enabling them to access bespoke therapeutic support for their child and the adopters. This financial year we have made 51 applications to the Adoption Support Fund totalling £140,839.69 of which we have received £132,530.69. There are 6 applications submitted which are pending approval totalling £14,313.00 This is an increase in 14 more applications to the fund compared to the previous financial year. The department has not had any match funding requests in this financial year.

2.12 Regionalisation of Adoption / Permanence Team

In line with the government agenda for the regionalisation of adoption, plans are underway to establish an East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency by 2020. We are one of 9 Local Authorities and 3 Local Voluntary Agencies who will be members of the East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency, the aim of which is to bring adoption resources together across the region leading to improvements in adoption planning for children.

Nottingham City are working with Derbyshire County, Derby City and Nottinghamshire County (D2N2) and voluntary agencies. As part of this process, we have implemented a Permanence Team in Nottingham City. The Team comprises a Team Manager, Senior Practitioner and 4 Social Workers. The Team work with those

children who have a plan of adoption to ensure plans are progressed in a timely way. The team also support field social work teams in completing the Child Permanency Record for the child to prevent delay in the adoption process. The Team work closely with D2N2 partners, to ensure consistency across the region. Feedback from Adoption Panel and other professionals is that the Permanence Team are making a significant difference in progressing plans in a more timely way with Reports to Panel being rated generally as 'Outstanding'.

2.13 Permanency Panel

Nottingham City Council is committed to permanency planning for children. This can be in the form of Adoption, Permanent Fostering or Special Guardianship Orders. A Permanency Panel has been established in order to ensure proposals made regarding planning meet the needs of children / young people. Proposals for a Special Guardianship Order should be presented to the Permanency Panel for scrutiny and approval, before it is confirmed at a Review or submitted to Court. Those children whose plans are to be permanently fostered are agreed at the child's reviews, prior to being presented to Panel. Those children with a plan of Adoption continue to be subject to Adoption guidance, regulations and processes. Proposals are quality assured with safeguarding responsibilities in mind, and the Panel also provides an additional forum to monitor the Local Authority's financial commitments. The Panel ensures compliance in respect of relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

- 2.14 Under Care Planning regulations, the consideration of permanence for a child should begin if not before, then immediately after a child is accommodated. As such, Social Workers immediately start to care-plan the best route for permanence. The objectives are laid out and viabilities explored, prior to a child's Looked After Review at 20 days.
- 2.15 The Permanency Panel is comprised of Service Managers from Neighbourhood Fieldwork Teams, Children in Care, Fostering and Adoption as well as an Independent Reviewing Officer. Legal advice is also available if required. The Panel reflects upon the proposed plans and ensures that the presented match between the prospective carer and child is viable and appropriate. The Panel considers this information, and measures it against the objective for each child as defined in the Regulations; 'permanence is the long-term plan for the child's upbringing ensure having a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond to give them a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging' (Planning Page 20 Regulations, Vol.2, 2015).
- 2.16 The Panel makes recommendations which are ratified by the Nominated Senior Manager (Head of Service, Children in Care) and the Director of Children's Integrated Services, both in respect of the plan and the financial expenditure it will incur.
- 2.17 The Panel may not agree to the proposals made, and may either recommend further work or suggest alternative options. It has to be clearly demonstrated that the placement clearly meets the best interests of the child, now and in the future.
- 2.18 Inevitably, some plans for permanence will require a package of support. When a package has been agreed and scrutinised by the Service Manager (Fostering and Adoption) it will then be reviewed within one year. Packages of support can include a range of options such as therapeutic support and or financial commitment.

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 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 Amended Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (2010), Care Planning and Fostering Regulations (2015), Working Together (2015), Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (Vol.2, 2015). Planning Regulations, Vol.2, 2015 Adoption Minimu

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Corporate Parenting Board - 21st May 2018

Title of paper:	Commissioning of External Semi-Independent Living Services 2018	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Integrated Services Katy Ball, Director of Procurement and Children's Commissioning	Wards affected: all
Report author(s) and contact details:	Michael Rowley Michael.rowley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	7 th September 2017	
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>Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient accommodation for its Looked After Children. For those young people aged 16 years above (who have left school), it is often appropriate to provide this accommodation in a semi-independent setting, in order to successfully prepare young people for independent living.</p> <p>NCC has an internal semi-independent estate which provides consistent, quality accommodation and support. In addition to this NCC's Children's Placement Service commissions external providers locally, and further afield when appropriate, to provide accommodation and support for children in care aged 16-18.</p> <p>A procurement process has been undertaken to establish a set of accredited providers locally and across the country. Those providers who have been successful in their application have been informed and contracts are now being drawn up. There were approximately 30 providers (nationally) that have been successful.</p> <p>Procuring SIL services via an open accreditation process offers an opportunity to improve outcomes, improve local sufficiency and consistency of quality and to provide greater value for money. The number of young people in external semi-independent placements has risen over the last year and this accreditation process will allow us to drive quality and value for money in those placements whilst having the flexibility to explore the most appropriate and cost-effective options available in the best interests of meeting the individual needs of each young person.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		

1	To note the progress made in improving the quality and choice of provision of semi-independent living services for 16-18 year old young people in care
2	To note the more robust contractual arrangements being put in place in respect of this provision.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Since the expiry of the framework contract established in 2011 Semi-Independent Living (SIL) services have been commissioned on a spot purchase basis. A more robust commissioning and contracting approach is required that still provides NCC with the flexibility to source the best type of accommodation and support package for this cohort of young people
- 1.2 We require high quality, value for money, effective SIL placements for our young people that help to prepare them effectively for independent life post-18. The service specification that forms the basis of the contract sets out clear standards for accommodation and support and stipulates quality monitoring and contract management requirements.
- 1.3 We require those services to be able to provide support in a flexible way that meets the diverse needs of our 16-18 cohort. We also need those providers to do so without long term financial commitment from NCC for a set level of business or income because the number of young people needing SIL placements, and the duration of those placements, is constantly changing.
- 1.4 Under this model accommodation and support will be priced separately with a fixed hourly rate for support. This allows Social Care Teams to stipulate the required number of hours of direct support work to be undertaken with each individual young person, and for that number of hours to be adjusted during the SIL placement in accordance with the young person's needs at any time. Whilst the intention is always that the amount of direct support provided to a young person is on a gradually reducing trajectory, there may be times that an increase in support is needed and this approach allows for this flexibility to ensure individual support needs are met.
- 1.5 We require a system that facilitates effective contract management and quality control, with the ability to impose sanctions on those providers who do not meet with our expectations. Through the accreditation process failure to meet the criteria set out in the procurement process means failure to gain accreditation and NCC will not commission providers that are not accredited. However providers can re-apply if they remedy the reason for failure, therefore promoting a culture of constant improvement of services linked to opportunities for the development of the external market.
- 1.6 Under the accreditation approach to the procurement of these services, NCC is able to review quality of delivery and suspend a provider's contract at any time should they not meet the required standards. NCC also retains the flexibility to issue an action plan in such circumstances giving the provider the opportunity to undertake remedial work to meet the required standards before repeating the accreditation process to have their contract reinstated.
- 1.7 We require a system that allows us to flex who we contract with in the wider market for these services according to volume of demand and complexity of needs

presenting at any time. The accreditation process remains open so any new provider can be directed to apply for accreditation at any time. This is important if for example a SIL placement is specifically required a considerable distance from Nottingham in the best interests of the young person.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 Over the last year the number of young people placed in SIL settings has increased, partly due to an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children aged 16+. Work has also been undertaken to improve the quality of provision and to implement a clear set of Quality Standards with SIL providers who currently have NCC young people in placement.

2.1.1 Procuring SIL services via an open accreditation process offers an opportunity to improve outcomes, improve local sufficiency and consistency of quality and to provide greater value for money. This approach may provide opportunities to make savings though no specific savings target has been allocated.

2.1.2 Taking a longer term view, the improvement of quality and consistency of accommodation and support provided to 16-18 year old children in care may have a positive impact on their representation in homelessness, unemployment (& NEET), the criminal justice system, substance misuse.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 N/A

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

4.1 N/A

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

5.1 N/A

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

6.1 N/A

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 proposal is not for a new service that supports or disadvantages any individuals representing any of the protected groups.

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

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 ▪ Semi-Independence Provision ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Children and Social Work Act Statutory Guidance (Presentation) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kay Sutt ▪ Audrey Taylor ▪ Mike Rowley ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Clive Chambers / Nick Lee ▪ 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"> ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review ▪ Pathway Planning / Transitions ▪ Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention ▪ CiC Performance Report (Q3/Q4 16/17) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Sharon Clarke ▪ Audrey Taylor ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ 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 ▪ Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report ▪ Participation and Engagement / MOMO (Verbal Update) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lynn Pearce / Your Voice ▪ Aileen Wilson ▪ Children's Society ▪ SOVA ▪ Alison Platkiw (Case Studies) ▪ Jon Rea / Steven Beardsmore ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen 	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 (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"> ▪ Children in Care Placements / Placement Sufficiency Strategy ▪ Physical Health ▪ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2017/18) ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review ▪ Statement of Purpose Fostering Service and Adoption Agency (Verbal Update) ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holly Macer / Mike Rowley ▪ Kathryn Higgins ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Audrey Taylor ▪ 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 ▪ 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 ▪ Lord Laming Review ▪ Children in Care Council: Have your Say 2018 ▪ Report Forward Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Tracey Nurse / Mark Ball ▪ Sam Flint / Natalie Pink ▪ Sam Flint / Natalie Pink ▪ 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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