

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House on 18 NOVEMBER 2013 from 2.00 pm to 3.11 pm

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Georgina Culley
Councillor Emma Dewinton
Councillor Glyn Jenkins
Councillor Carole McCulloch
Councillor Eileen Morley
Councillor Jackie Morris
Councillor Wendy Smith

indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Rosemary Healy	- Observing	
Detective Inspector Martin Hillier) Nottinghamshire
PC Sam Flint	-) Police
Pete Turyoose	- NSPCC	
Glynis Storer	- Team Manager) Youth Offending
Kevin Hatherley	- PIR Team Assistant) Team
Lewis Fearon	- Children in Care Council Rep	
Anne Partington	- NCSCB Performance Manager)
Kwesi Williams	- Project Officer)
Paulette Thompson-Omenka	- Head of Children in Care)
Dorne Collinson	- Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance)
Elise Darragh	- Insight Manager)
Sharon Clarke	- Children in Care Service Manager)
Kay Sutt	- Service Manager Residential and Targeted Support)
Jamie Shrivastava) Business in the Community RISE Manager)
Jackie Underwalt))
Rav Kalsi	- Constitutional Services	- Resources

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alison Michalska
Evonne Rogers

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

27 MINUTES

Subject to the inclusion of Councillor Klein's and Councillor Morley's apologies, the Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2013, as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

28 REDUCING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

PC Sam Flint, Children in Care Police Officer, Nottinghamshire Police presented the item highlighting progress made in the reduction of criminal behaviour of children in care.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) performance results for 2013 (at 31 March 2013) shows a reduction in offending, with 8.7% or 20 children of children in care aged 10 or over being convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year;
- (b) benchmarking data will be published by the Department for Education (DfE) and available in December 2013 which will enable staff to undertake analysis showing ranking positions of local authorities showing how Nottingham City compares to national and regional averages;
- (c) officers of the Children in Care Outcomes Group have developed a new measure which will aim to report updates on the criminalisation of children in care on a quarterly basis. Performance will be reported two months in arrears portraying an accurate picture of offending rates. From the period 1 Sept 2012 – 31 Dec 2012, 8 young people committed an offence whilst in care representing 2.5% of the cohort aged 10-17;
- (d) the total number of offences committed was 48 with the most common offence being violence against the person;
- (e) the use of restorative justice in the care setting continues to expand which enables the diversion of children from the criminal justice system. Training residential staff members on restorative justice has continued and a further course has been secured free of charge for November 2013;
- (f) PC Sam Flint, the Children in Care Police Officer has been authorised to establish a sub group of the Cross-Authority Child Sexual Exploitation meeting, specifically aimed at reducing the risk of sexual exploitation of children in the care system. A Concerns Network meeting has also been established for multi-agencies to attend and feed into about concerns of children in care who might be at risk of sexual exploitation;
- (g) funding has been secured to produce a bespoke theatre production which tackles the issue of sexual exploitation of children and has been presented to both city and county schools and children in care within the city.

Following questions by Board members, the additional information was provided:

- (h) where violence is committed against residential staff, there is an 8 point checklist of reporting is employed prior to engaging the police.
- (i) It is difficult to secure training on restorative justice for all members of staff however, a selection of staff members are adequately trained and will engage with other members of staff to inform them of the overriding principles.

RESOLVED

- (1) to continue to acknowledge the importance of the role of the Children in Care Police Officer and YOT Lead for Children in Care in the drive to reduce the criminalisation of Children in Care and improve their outcomes;**
- (2) to approve the development of a further Safeguarding Children in Care event for 2014;**
- (3) to approve to continuation and Review of multi-agency Network Meetings with care providers;**
- (4) to acknowledge extensive work being carried out to reduce the risk of sexual health exploitation of Children in Care;**
- (5) to circulate to members details of the 8 young people who committed an offence whilst in care including the number of reports from internal staff members of offences against the person.**

29 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD RESPONSE

Anne Partington, Acting Head of Safeguarding and Detective Inspector Martin Hillier presented the report providing an overview of the partnership work currently underway in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation in Nottingham City.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) there have been a number of high profile cases which has formed the basis of a public perception of sexual exploitation, such as operation Retriever and Kern in Derby and operation Chalice in Telford. Cases such as these have all involved organised gangs of adult males of British Pakistani origin;
- (b) sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology and often without the child immediately recognising this. A common feature of child sexual exploitation (CSE) is that a young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship;
- (c) police data indicates that in Nottingham the number of referrals linked to CSE and grooming have increased over the last two years. This can be linked to the increased recognition and response to the indicators by stakeholders;

- (d) children and young people have attended a theatrical production titled 'Chelsea's Choice' aimed at raising awareness of child sexual exploitation among young people in the UK;
- (e) as part of the DfE action plan, a CSE Looked After Children Working Group has been formed. This includes representatives from OFSTED and Nottingham City Council's missing children team;
- (f) There is a collaborative approach to tackling CSE with girls in gangs and this topic will form part of the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group. Although in its infancy, Vanguard + have been approach and will input into the plan going forward;
- (g) A CSE Practitioners Forum has been created and the first event will take place before the end of the year. An estimated 40 attendees are expected to participate with the initial stages focussing on gaps in knowledge and understanding resources;

Following questions by Board members, the additional information was provided:

- (h) In terms of sign-posting citizens with concerns over CSE to the appropriate resource, there is the standard number for Social Services but where there is immediate danger to a child, citizens should call 999. If there is no immediate danger, calling 101 would allow members of the public to talk to their local neighbourhood police team in person. A leaflet with appropriate numbers will be circulated to members;
- (i) In reality those subject to CSE does not include Children in Care and the majority of those targeting through the internet are not looked after children;
- (j) In terms of training staff and carers on recognising signs of CSE, carers have been brought together and given a presentation around sign-posting indicators. Experienced staff members are involved in multi-agency information sharing and are keen to improve access to training opportunities for foster carers. Although there are clear difficulties in bringing foster carers together for training opportunities, there is ongoing development though the City Council's Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT).

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the report;**
- (2) to note the following details:**
 - **If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. If not, telephone 101, or contact your local neighbourhood police team in person.**
 - **Getting in touch with you local Children's Services:**
 - **Nottingham City area:**
 - **Office hours – 01159 151005**
 - **Out of office hours – 01159 159299**
 - **Nottinghamshire County area:**

- **County (North) office hours - 01623 520520**
- **County (South) office hours – 01158 546000**
- **Out of office hours (North & South) – 0300 456 4546;**

(3) to review the availability of training on child sexual exploitation for foster carers.

30 BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY – RISE UPDATE

Jamie Shrivastava, RISE Manager for Business in the Community, presented the report updating the Board on progress made on meeting its ongoing targets and reported where progress had been made since the Board meeting in July 2013.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the RISE team have been exploring proposals to provide bridging loans to support young people in their first month of employment between benefits ceasing and receiving their first wage;
- (b) the RISE team will loan the young person £30-£40 a week until they receive their first salary and the local authority will cover the cost of travel. Sharon Clarke, Service Manager for Children in Care has identified funding that could be used to support young people in this way in their first month of employment and will be allocated on a case by case basis;
- (c) details on the support available to single parents could potentially be included with the RISE programme and would enable services to come together in engaging lone parents who have previously struggled to engage with RISE;
- (d) under the Families and Communities Team, the Families Information Service will support any lone parents with childcare and associated benefit issues through Children's Centres across the city. In addition, Job Centre Plus can provide financial assistance regarding childcare for lone parents which would enable the search for sustainable employment.

RESOLVED to note the update.

31 QUARTER 1 & 2 PERFORMANCE

Paulette Thompson-Omenka, Head of Children in Care, presented the report, updating the Board with the most up to date performance information from 1 April 2013 to October 2013. Whilst performance has improved in many areas, significant focus is being placed on areas where performance is weaker and robust action plans are being implemented to drive performance.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the number of children in care requiring accommodation within Nottingham City has increased however, this increase mirrors a national trend and is lower than most of our statistical neighbours;
- (b) the number of children discharged from care as a result of a permanent outcome is increasing and within quarter 1 and 2 thirty six children were discharged;
- (c) the percentage of children in care reviewed within the appropriate timescales remains consistently strong with over 97% of reviews being held with timescales. This is in line with the previous year;
- (d) the performance of health assessments is dipping due to capacity issues of Health Doctors and Named CLA Nurses. Additional resources have been sought from the Clinical Commissioning Group to address this trend. Additional resources have been secured to support the CAMHS CLA Team with a new psychiatrist joining the team in October 2013;
- (e) the percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 19 years old has been set an ambitious target of 95% and although the Council's current position is at 76.1% there is some confidence that the target will be achieved by quarter 4. From 1 April 2013 the Department for Education requires councils to report the same measure for 20 and 21 year olds;
- (f) a multi-agency approach is targeting an improvement to the percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training at 19 years old. Despite the current economic situation on youth unemployment, a multi-agency approach has resulted in an increase to 25% care leavers accessing training, education and employment;

Following questions by Board members, the additional information was provided:

- (g) each young person in care is allocated a worker to assist with health checks and appointments and although the statutory duty rests with the Local Authority to ensure that children attend health checks, there is a joint working approach to achieving this.

32 ADDITIONAL ITEM – CARE LEAVERS EVENT

The Chair was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to allow for a timely consideration of the item.

Sharon Clarke, Service Manager for Children in Care presented the item verbally updating the Board on the success of the Care Leavers Event where a number of children were taken to London for a conference on 29 October. A number of stalls were available offering advice on what care leavers can expect in terms of pre-leaving care.

This was the first event held by the 15+ Team and future events will be publicised earlier to maximise attendance amongst care leavers.