

Corporate Parenting Board - 19 January 2015

Title of paper:	Reducing Offending Behaviour: Strategic Priority Statement (SPS) 6	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director of Children’s Social Care	Wards affected: City-wide
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	6th January 2015	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: (you must mark X in the relevant boxes below)		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		X
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report explains the progress made in the reduction of the criminal behaviour of children in care (CiC). The aim of this report is to focus on the achievements made during 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of a successful 2014 multi-agency Safeguarding Children in Care Event focussing on reducing the criminalisation of CiC. • The revision of the existing Protocol to reduce the prosecution of CiC. • The implementation of a Restorative Justice (RJ) training programme for residential and foster care. • Network meetings co-Chaired by the CiC Police Officer (CiCPO) and YOT Lead with Local Authority and private providers. • Strategies to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of Children in Care. <p>Performance information is summarised. Benchmarking data will be available December 2014 and therefore will be reported at the January 2015 Board. Opportunities to analyse data and plot outcomes for CiC and Care Leavers (CL) by working across systems are being explored.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS		

1	To recognise the importance of the role of CiCPO and YOT Lead for CiC working together to reduce offending and safeguard CiC and to acknowledge the work of the CiCPO working with Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group (CSECAG) and colleagues in reducing the risk of sexual exploitation for CiC;
2	To note the drive for stronger analysis of offending within the CiC population to target resources and inform service development, and support the development of restorative approaches to reduce the risk of offending in child care settings which mirrors YOT Plan 2014-15;
3	To support the planning and delivery of a 2015 multi-agency Safeguarding CiC event, in consultation with the CiC/CL Council, to promote shared learning to reduce the criminalisation of CiC. This mirrors YOT Plan 2014-15;
4	To support the sign off and launch of a cross-authority protocol to reduce the criminalisation of CiC in 2015, on which Residential Workers, Young People and Social Care managers have been consulted.

1. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 It is proposed that the role of CiC police officer and YOT Lead working in close partnership is a model of best practice. This was recognised within Ofsted inspection processes in 2010, 2011 and 2012, 2014. It is believed that this has contributed towards protecting our children in care from criminalisation and from sexual exploitation in Nottingham City. This has also provided a more efficient response to children missing from care. Nottingham City is the only known authority where the CiC Police Officer and YOT lead work in close collaboration, and therefore Nottingham City could be considered a national lead in this area. The CiC Police Officer works closely with the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group (CSECAG) to plan and deliver measures to reduce the risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE).
- 1.2 By developing improved data quality and analysis of offending within the CiC population it is anticipated we are better able to use opportunities to divert from prosecution, target resources and improve outcomes for CiC. This is a target outlined within Priority 5 of the YOT Plan 2014-15.
- 1.3 Further information outlining the success of restorative justice in reducing unnecessary prosecution within child care settings is outlined within the Appendix. Consultation with residential managers told us that restorative approaches were not routinely used within residential care and that a whole team approach was needed for staff to feel confident and supported in practice. This is a target outlined within Priority 5 of the YOT Plan 2014-15.
- 1.4 Recommendation for a Safeguarding CiC Event 2015 is made as a result of feedback from the 2014 event of multi-agency participants. The CiC/CL Council will again be consulted at planning stage and young people's views will be incorporated at the event with consent. This is a target outlined within Priority 5 of the YOT Plan 2014-15.
- 1.5 It is recommended that the revised Protocol to reduce the prosecution of CiC (currently in draft) is adopted once approved by signatories. Young people in care and residential workers were consulted at the 2014 Safeguarding event and have informed the

development of practice documents through the CiC/CL Council, individual meetings with Local Authority and Private residential workers, key work sessions and young people's meetings. Feedback indicates that these documents will be useful tools to encourage young people's participation and embed restorative approaches.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 Specialist roles: The role of the Children in Care Police Officer continues to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police/Nottingham City Council, with the CiC Police Officer located within the Targeted Support Team in a Social Care/YOT building. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) remains committed to having a Lead for Children in Care (CiC). Natalie Pink has resumed this role on her return from maternity leave January 2014.

Rate of offending by Nottingham CiC

2.2 Performance information taken from the annual OC2 statutory return for Children in Care (CiC) shows the number of children and young people, aged over 10, who have been looked after for more than 12 months, and who have been convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year, for an offence committed while being looked after. Performance results for 2014 (as at 31st March 2014) indicate a reduction in offending, with 8.1% (20 children) of CiC who were aged 10 or over being convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year.

2.3 CC-17 (R) The percentage of Children in Care with convictions/cautions and reprimands

Total number of CiC aged 10 years old or older per financial year							
06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
242	223	216	215	222	225	230	247
% of CiC aged 10 years old or older with convictions/cautions and reprimands during each year							
06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
13.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.80%	9.00%	9.80%	8.70%	8.2%

2.4 The Department for Education (DfE) published benchmarking data for all Local Authorities in December 2014 to show ranking positions and to highlight how our performance compares to national and regional averages. This information will be presented to the Board. In summary, Nottingham shown the greatest rate of improvement over this period when compared to region, statistical neighbours (SN) and England average – reducing by 11% between financial years 2006/07 to 2013/14, compared to a 4% reduction in all England. We do, however, still have a 1.5% to achieve a match more in line with our SN.

2.5 The Children In Care Outcomes Group agreed that a local measure of offending was required to monitor offending within the children in care population, regardless of the time they have been in care. This includes Nottingham City young people placed within and outside of the City boundary. Officers have developed a new measure which will be reported on a quarterly basis going forward. Performance is reported two quarters in arrears to ensure that the most accurate and robust view of offending rates can be provided. Data shown below covers 1st Jan 2014 – 31st March 2014.

2.6 During this period, 16 young people committed an offence while in care, representing 4.5% of the 10-17 year old CiC cohort. Some young people committed multiple offences and the total number of offences committed in this period was 24. By far the most common offence was violence.

2.7 Local Measure

January to March 2014 a	Number of young people who were in care during the period	352	
b	Of (a), number that committed a proven offence while in care	16	4.5%
c	Number of offences	24	

2.8 CC-18 (R) The number of children/young people remanded into the Authority's care

13/14: 30 throughout the year.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 was implemented in Dec 2012, and meant that all CYP remanded securely became looked after, with budgets for these placement devolved to LAs from the Youth Justice Board (YJB). Monitoring was introduced to reflect impact of this legislation on the CiC population.

2.9 Analysis: A period without a dedicated YOT Analysis impacted on the development of data analysis (over and above statutory reporting requirements) for YOT CiC. This post is now recruited to. Current systems require manual data input of a young person's legal and care status. Effective identification of CiC open to YOT is a key priority, to enable the provision of accurate data. This enables us to then ensure that assessments, planning and interventions reflect a young person's care status, care planning and diversity within quality assurance processes. The Insight and Analysis Team plan to work with the YOT Lead in conjunction with YOT Safeguarding Lead, Compliance Specialist and Nottinghamshire Police, to provide timely information, analyse data, to identify patterns in offending (young people repeat offending, placements calling police) and to target resources. Insight and Analysis plan to identify potential to share or cross-reference information between YOT and Social Care systems, enable the early identification of offending within the CiC population, and provide intelligent analysis of the impact of a young person's experiences against their offending history. This will be assisted by the adoption of Asset+ in Autumn 2015, which will allow Case Managers to plot offending against significant life experiences/changes.

2.10 Restorative Justice: In consultation with the Operational Management Group of Local Authority residential managers, the YOT Restorative Justice Lead proposed a sustainable framework for the training of residential Social Workers and foster carers in restorative approaches, to be rolled out end 2014/15. This includes 1 day awareness raising, accredited training and an opportunity for ongoing staff development. 4, 1 day courses took place for Local Authority staff November and December 2014, with a view to offering additional 2 day courses in 2015 and 'rolling out' this programme to private providers and foster care in 2015. This package will be complimented by promotion, consultation and direct work where appropriate.

- 2.11 Network Meetings:** These meetings are used as a preventative resource to identify any concerns and themes around young people's offending/risk in Local Authority and private homes and sign-post as appropriate. These resumed in September 2014 with administrative support from the Targeted Support Team. These meetings/resources can be prioritised according to number of placements/presenting issues in conjunction with our Placements Team and Ofsted. Capacity restricts to 2 meetings per provider per year based on Local Authority and 8 private providers (these meetings previously ran quarterly.) These meetings provide an arena for multi-agency working, the promotion of resources for young people and the sharing of best practice. Feedback from attendees at Network Meetings tells us that these meetings are a valued resource for reflective practice, the sharing of information, to address any concerns at the lowest level and recognise best practice.
- 2.12 Child Sexual Exploitation:** An Assessment of Sexual Harm Arrangements (ASHA) Panel has replaced Assessment and Early Intervention Panel (AEIP) as a referral route for Police, Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and YOT (Chair) to consider interventions for all young people identified as presenting a risk of sexual harm.
- 2.13** Concern Network meetings are a forum to discuss low level concerns for sexual exploitation with NSPCC, Nottinghamshire Police, Social Care, Health, Education, Housing, Voluntary Sector and YOT. Information is collated by administrative support based within the Sexual Abuse Investigation Unit (SAIU) in order that intelligence can inform existing and future investigations.
- 2.14** The Pint Size Theatre Production Company gave a successful performance of LUV U 2 November 2014. This consisted of a 50 minute play followed by an hour long interactive forum which explores why young people should, and how they might, make positive interventions to protect themselves and their peers/friends from the risk of internet, and real life child sexual exploitation. It's aim is to encourage the development of coping and avoidance strategies in relation to real and perceived risk, as well highlighting pathways to advice and support.
- 2.15** 45 people attended, 23 of whom were CiC/CL, and YOT young people. All our young people behaved and engaged very well. Training of Residential Social Workers by Health ran alongside this event by and compliments learning. A performance for professionals was delivered in December 2014.
- 2.16 2014 Safeguarding Children in Care Event:** YOT provided additional paid hours for the YOT Lead to plan and co-deliver a multi-agency event focussing on reducing the criminalisation of CiC with PC Sam Flint 21.10.14. Contributors (G4S, Total Care Matters and Crimestoppers) covered the cost of Nottingham Conference Centre and lunch for 80 participants. The CiC Council were consulted at planning stage.
- 2.17 Presentations/workshops:**
- YOT Court Team/Alan Monaghan (Leaving Care Service): Impact of LASPO
 - YOT Restorative Justice Lead/G4S: Restorative Justice in children's homes
 - Sgt Debbie Barton, Nottinghamshire Police: Consultation on revised protocol to prevent prosecution of CiC (draft)
 - CiC/CL Councillor delivered a workshop in conjunction with Jon Rea, Participation and Engagement Officer: How do we prevent CiC getting into trouble?

- Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping closed the event.

Co-presenting enables us to evidence working together in order to achieve improved outcomes and develop services.

2.18 Over 70% felt the aims were fully achieved (promote multi-agency working, signpost to developments, an opportunity to share and reflect, increase understanding of risk and vulnerability.) 97% would attend a future event (3% did not comment.) Participants made the following comments:

- “The event was a useful networking opportunity to share practice and reflect on what can be further achieved” - NCC
- “Excellent show of multi-agency work and partnerships”
- “Great opportunity to learn from colleagues working with CiC” – CAMHS
- “The Presentation from [the CiC/CL Councillor] and the feedback from CiC Council was enlightening. Excellent” – CPS
- “Great event, exploring all areas & views from other agencies” – Capstone Care

2.19 Protocol: The CiC Police Officer and YOT Lead are working alongside the Crown Prosecution Service, Service Managers for Children in Care and Placements Service in City and County in order to develop a cross-authority protocol with a view to reducing the criminalisation of Children in Care, embedding restorative justice and early intervention services. There is agreement for Nottinghamshire to apply the Sussex Protocol in a Nottingham context, which is currently used by a number of authorities with a view to providing a consistent response across placements, Police and CPS, to offending behaviour by young people placed in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (and other participating Authorities).

2.20 As a direct result of consultation at the Safeguarding event, practice tools are being developed for professionals to use, in order to communicate the Protocol to young people, enable them to participate and reflect upon their own risk management, and to demonstrate accountability to young people. Residential staff working within Local Authority and private residential homes have been consulted, and are consulting with CiC. YOT Lead and Sgt Debbie Barton attended CiC/CL Council 24.11.14 and were encouraged by young people and officers’ constructive feedback and ideas for development. Jon Rea (Participation and Engagement Officer) and a CiC/CL Councillor shall be attending future planning meetings with colleagues and stakeholders. Plan to launch county-wide 2015.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 The post of Children in Care Police Officer is jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. Reduction of offending and missing reports has a financial benefit across the Authority and its partners, as well as safeguarding CiC and improving their outcomes.

4.2 The YOT Lead role is a specialism incorporated within a case management post. Whilst this does have resource implications no additional funding is sought for this role.

- 4.3 Training in restorative approaches is provided by YOT Restorative Justice Lead free of charge. Private providers are asked to finance resource packs for participants.
- 4.4 Funding for LUV U 2 performances is sourced through CSECAG.
- 4.5 Sponsorship of a 2015 Safeguarding event (venue, lunch) will be sought through our private providers. The YOT would pay the YOT Lead additional hours in recognition of workload and contractual hours worked.

5. **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 It is proposed these roles minimise risks to both the organisation and young people in care by providing a focus on the needs of this group. The sustainability of these roles are considered instrumental in consolidating and building upon work in this area to date, in an effort to strive for better outcomes for children in care in Nottingham.

6. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

7. **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Draft Protocol/practice documents to reduce the prosecution of CiC.

8. **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 8.1 Annual statutory return (903) for CiC.
- 8.2 YOT Plan 2014-15
- 8.3 The Introduction of Restorative Approaches in Young People's Residential Units: A Critical Evaluation (2010) Littlechild and Sender, NSPCC
- 8.4 Local Authority Interactive Tool <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>