

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – NOVEMBER 2018

Title of paper:	Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2020	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services helen.blackman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Clive Chambers – Head of Service, Children in Care Clive.chambers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Jordan Whatman – Project Officer, Children in Care Jordan.whatman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input 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 Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2020 has been produced in order to set out how the City Council will meet its responsibilities as the corporate parent for children in care. The strategy identifies strategic priorities. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board (‘the Board’) accepts the strategic priorities as ‘corporate parenting objectives’.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To agree the strategic priorities. By doing so, the Board will accept the strategic priorities as ‘corporate parenting objectives’.	
2	To endorse the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2020.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 As Corporate Parents we are committed to ensuring that children, who come into our care, experience safe and positive parenting, are helped to achieve their full potential, and obtain the best possible outcomes. We are also dedicated to securing permanency, as quickly as possible for children who are unable to live with their birth parents or extended birth family network, through adoption or other arrangements.

- 1.2 To achieve this, all agencies involved in caring and supporting children in care and care leavers must work together. To work together effectively, a multi-agency approach is needed.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to set out our strategic priorities as corporate parents and to explain how they were identified.
- 1.4 Our strategic plan represents the assessed and expressed needs of children in care (CIC) and care leavers (CLs). The strategic priorities described in this report reflect the expressed needs of CIC and CLs as detailed in the Children in Care and Care Leavers 'Have Your Say' 2017 Survey Full Report. The strategic priorities also reflect the assessed needs of CIC and CLs as determined through the analysis of national and local performance data.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board agrees the strategic priorities presented in this report. In doing so, the Board will accept the strategic priorities as 'corporate parenting objectives'.
- 2.2 Seven strategic priorities have been identified. The priorities represent areas that require improvement in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for children in care and care leavers, and to meet the commitments set out in Nottingham City Council's ('the Authority') 'Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter'. They have been aligned with the Children's Integrated Services Directorate priorities as identified in the Delivery plan – see table below.

2.3

CiC and CL Strategic Priority	Children's Integrated Services Priority
1. To actively seek the wishes and feelings of our young people and use the information to influence the care and support they receive. We will ensure our young people are able to access the advocacy, independent visitor and complaints services. We will ensure our young people feel treated with respect and will be given enough time and help to understand and be happy with their circumstances.	1. We will play an active role in supporting families to address the issues that can become barriers to learning and aspiration for children, young people and their parents/carers. We will work with education colleagues to support vulnerable learners, including looked after children. This will contribute to the successful delivery of Nottingham City's Education Improvement Strategy. We will promote a learning culture within our services that ensures our practice is informed by a strong evidence-base, emerging best practice and learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and other serious incidents. We will act on the findings of inspections, peer reviews, audit activity and our regular performance monitoring.
2. To help our young people achieve educational success and to ensure those leaving care are engaged in either employment, education or training.	
3. To ensure care leavers have access to suitable accommodation and support in order to facilitate the best possible transition into independence.	2. We will provide early help, parenting and family support, targeted interventions and specialist services to build resilience, not dependence, in the children and families we serve. We will

<p>4. To keep young people safe and avoid the criminalisation of young people through strong collaborative partnership work.</p>	<p>work with our communities to build their capacity to support one another. We will work to safeguard children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and we will support children who are in our care and their carers. We will use restorative approaches with young people to enable them to make a positive contribution to their communities.</p>
<p>5. To ensure young people are healthy through the delivery of appropriate intervention and health services. This will be facilitated through the timely undertaking of health assessments, dental checks, immunisations, and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs).</p>	
<p>6. To reduce delays in securing stability and permanency for our young people. We will ensure unnecessary change in home, carer, social worker or school are avoided.</p>	<p>3. We will work with our partners to ensure children and young people have the self-esteem, confidence and knowledge to keep themselves safe in their relationships, seeking help when needed. We will, at the earliest opportunity, directly support children, young people and their families that are struggling with significant mental health issues that may result in harm to themselves or others.</p>
<p>7. To increase use of internal foster and residential placements through the recruitment and retention of foster carers, and to explore if the types and numbers of residential placement can be increased, in order to offer more local homes.</p>	

2.4 The Board is asked to endorse the strategic action plan.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 We are required to have a document that sets out our strategic plan for looked after children. As will be seen, there is further work required in order to finalise the current strategy and it is being brought now so that Corporate Parenting Board members are able to contribute to finalising the strategy.

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 Not Applicable.

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

6.1 Not Applicable.

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:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Not required as the report does not contain financial proposals or decisions.

Yes

Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

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

8.1 Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 'Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards' (2016).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/544533/Framework_and_evaluation_schedule_children_in_need_of_help_and_protection_CLA_and_care_leavers_LSCBs.pdf