

Corporate Parenting Board – 15 September 2014

Title of paper:	Support Services for Children in Care placed outside of a 20 mile radius from Nottingham City	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell Director of Quality and Commissioning	Wards affected: All
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
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		<input type="checkbox"/>
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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>Nottingham City Council (NCC) acknowledges that ensuring that our Children in Care (CiC) living in placements out of Nottingham City have equal access to support services such as CAMHS is a challenge. It is NCC's aspiration that more of our CiC (where safe to do so) live within a 20 mile radius of Nottingham City and so can readily access support services.</p> <p>This links to the Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy which has been produced to determine the way in which Nottingham City Council commissions CiC placements, informed by current and anticipated sufficiency requirements.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To acknowledge the activities undertaken to address support services for Children in Care placed outside of a 20 mile radius from Nottingham City.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 A discussion was held at the July Corporate Parenting Board, requesting information about what considerations are made when placing children outside of Nottingham, to ensure that they will have the same access to support services as those children placed locally, whether placements were planned or unplanned. It was also stated that the Placement Service be tasked with mapping the support services available against each placement provider.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Nottingham City Council defines a 'local' placement as anywhere within the boundaries of a 20 mile radius from Nottingham City Centre. Securing a local placement will take into consideration maintaining a young person's educational, health, social and cultural connections and access to services.

The Placement Service strives to secure the most appropriate placement available for each child and young person on an individual basis. This is done by taking into consideration the child's individual needs and placement requirements, as presented by the Social Worker and where possible in consultation with the multi agency team around that child. For planned placements, fuller consultation and joint placement visits with key colleagues e.g. CAMHS and Education, routinely occur. This is not always possible in emergency situations.

Where appropriate, the priority will be for all NCC children and young people to remain living locally. This will be achieved through short, medium and long term strategies to maximise local provision availability. Where it is not possible to secure a local placement, the remaining matching criteria for a young person will be prioritised and NCC will evidence that it has done all that is reasonably practicable to secure a suitable placement.

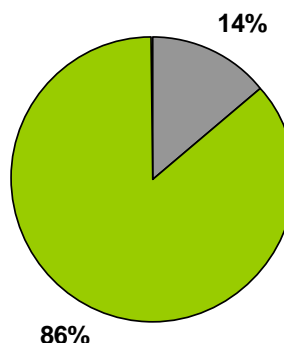
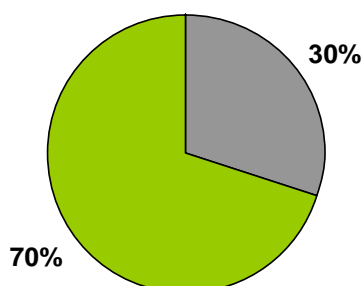
For each child placed out of the local area, the Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and the other associated professionals, will through the care planning processes, ensure that the services required are available in a timely manner. The frequency of social work visits to CiC placed out of area is prescribed at the child's review and is often more frequent than the minimum statutory requirements. NCC's Placement Panel routinely reviews all children and young people placed in externally commissioned placements. All aspects of a young person's placement are discussed by the multi agency Panel, including consideration and impact of their out of local area status.

- 2.2 A recent mapping exercise was undertaken detailing all local care placement provision against availability and use. This revealed that a significant proportion of local placements are being commissioned by other local authorities. NCC is collaborating with the provider market and with regional local authorities to ensure that the use of local placements for local children and young people is maximised. In the short term, this will include improved co-ordination and advanced placement planning, alongside some retained arrangements, where appropriate. In the medium to long term this will include block contract arrangements and plans for increased local placement capacity.

2.3 Placement Location:

Residential

Fostering



 Within 20 miles of the City Centre  Outside 20 miles of the City Centre

In comparison to other local authorities, Nottingham places more young people locally. NCC strives to increase the percentage of young people placed in local foster placements to a minimum of 90% and increase the percentage of young people placed in local residential placements to a minimum of 80%.

2.4 The Corporate Parenting Board asked the Placement Service to map the support services available against each provider. Due to the volume of placement provision (the Service makes over 600 placements each year), it is not practical to achieve this. The appropriateness of each placement, including available support services, is assessed on a case by case basis, in consultation with professionals around the child, as each placement is made.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 There are no direct financial implications or value for money issues arising from this report.

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

5.1 Risk management processes will be undertaken prior to commencing any procurement or commissioning activity. There are no legal or Crime and Disorder Act implications at this stage. Any future procurement and commissioning activity will comply with EU Procurement Legislation and guidance will be sought through the relevant Legal and HR channels.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An EIA is not required at this time as the 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 Appendix One: Children in Care Placements - Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2014 – 2016.
- 7.2 Appendix Two: Strategic Review of the Children in Care Placements Market – Timeline

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

