

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday 3 June 2013

Time: 2.30pm

Place: LB 31/32 at Loxley House, Station Street

Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting on the date and at the time and place stated to transact the following business.



Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director for Resources

Constitutional Services Officer: Catherine Ziane-Pryor Direct dial - 0115 8764298

AGENDA

- 1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**
- 2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**
- 3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 5 MINUTES** Attached
Last meeting held on 18 March 2013 (for confirmation)
- 6 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION** Attached
Report of Director of Candida Brudenell Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families and Helen Blackman Acting Director of Children's Safeguarding
- 7 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS** Attached
Report of Director of Candida Brudenell Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families

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| 8 | PATHWAY PLANNING 15 PLUS SERVICE
Report of Director of Candida Brudenell Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families and Helen Blackman Acting Director of Children's Safeguarding | Attached |
| 9 | NEET/EET CARE LEAVERS
Report of Director of Candida Brudenell Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families and Helen Blackman Acting Director of Children's Safeguarding | Attached |
| 10 | ACCOMMODATION FOR CARE LEAVERS
Report of Director of Candida Brudenell Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families and Helen Blackman Acting Director of Children's Safeguarding | Attached |

IF YOU ARE UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD DECLARE AN INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR MATTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING, WHO WILL PROVIDE ADVICE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

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

Agenda, reports and minutes for all public meetings can be viewed online at:-
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/default.asp>

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD****MINUTES**

of meeting held on **18 MARCH 2013** at

Loxley House from 2.37 pm to 4.00 pm

- ✓ Councillor Mellen (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Klein (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Campbell
- ✓ Councillor Culley (from minute 38 to 40 inclusive)
- Councillor Dewinton
- ✓ Councillor Jenkins
- Councillor McCulloch
- Councillor Morley
- Councillor Morris

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

- Mr Dave Richards - Business in the Community
- Mrs Phyllis Brackenbury - Nottingham CityCare Partnership

Nottingham City Council

- Ms Paulette Thompson-Omenka - Children in Care Head of Service)
- Mr Jon Rea - Engagement and Participation) Children
- Mrs Lorna Beedham - Inclusive Learning) and
- Mr Kwesi Williams - Project Officer) Families
- Miss Elise Darragh - Quality and Commissioning)
- Miss Kay Sutt - Residential and Targeted Support)
- Ms Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Constitutional Services - Resources

NOTE: at the time the meeting was due to commence, the meeting was inquorate and remained so until the following minute. Agenda items 'Apologies for Absence' and 'Declarations of Interests' are recorded separately as informal notes.

36 REGULATION 33 VISITS - INTERNAL RESIDENTIAL

Miss Kay Sutt presented the report, outlining the requirements of the Regulation 33 Visits to Internal Residential Homes.

The following points were highlighted:

- visits by internal inspectors who had a fresh view of the homes, was often very helpful in identifying potential issues and details which were unintentionally overlooked by staff and young people;

- there were currently 29 internal inspectors, covering 7 residential homes, all of which required monthly visits;
- sensitivity was vital, but members of the Corporate Parenting Board or professional employees were invited to apply to become inspectors, for which training was provided.

Comments from Board members and responses from officers included:

- some members of the Board and colleagues had become internal inspectors and found the experience to be very rewarding;
- it was not always possible to speak with the young people during the visit as they may be attending school or college, or have social activities, but, if they were willing to speak with inspectors, even over the telephone, it was often valuable to hear their points of view and comments, some of which they may not have expressed to staff or social workers, and which, once forwarded, could have a positive impact for the young people.

It was noted that the number of recommendations and action plans required following visits by internal inspectors, had reduced significantly over the past few months. This had been reflected in the recent Ofsted inspections which awarded two homes ratings of outstanding, and several others as good.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the continued involvement of relevant professionals undertaking Regulation 33 visits, be noted;**
- (2) that the outcomes of Regulation 33 visit reports be analysed and monitored by the Service Manager, to identify trends and patterns to improve performance and enable sharing of good practice;**
- (3) that the Corporate Parenting Board receive regular updates in respect of visit outcomes.**

37 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 January 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

38 PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS OUTCOMES FOR 2012

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families, informing the Board of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) rates for 2012.

Children in care attended real school settings where they were supported by a designated teacher who liaised with a Virtual Teacher to ensure the child received appropriate training, guidance and support. This joint working enabled the tracking and monitoring of each pupil's progress towards achieving their potential as if they were in a single school.

Mrs Lorna Beedham, as a Virtual School Head Teacher, presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- PEPs were produced for 6 months at a time and while tailored to each child, included social and behavioural targets but with a new focus on numeracy and literacy;
- the Children in Care Team had fully engaged with identifying what made a good plan, and as a result of the joint working between several teams, between 90% and 97% of PEPs had been completed during the year with continued improvements to quality and consistency;
- other Local Authority Virtual Head Teachers within the East Midlands provided a variety of results, some at 70% and some higher than Nottingham's rate but these often had larger teams and so more staff were available. Compared to similar authorities, Nottingham had achieved a good rate;
- some PEP meetings would be cancelled or postponed for a variety of reasons which were not recorded, this could mean that the target would not be met. Some social workers completed PEPs but there had been delays in their submission;
- it was pleasing that more young people, but also carers, were commenting on and contributing to PEPs;
- there had been an extension of PEPs for key stage 5 pupils to enable formally structured support and advice to be provided with regard to prospective college courses of training opportunities, often engaging with the potential establishments to ensure they were aware of the young person's circumstances, and help ease the transition;
- there were proposals to move towards an electronic PEP 'E-PEP' but the financial and practical implications were yet to be fully investigated;
- approximately half of Nottingham's young people in care, were placed outside of the City boundary. 70 young people from Nottingham were placed in homes or with foster carers within the County, and many were placed outside of the region. For some young people it was necessary for them to live away from the City, due to either safety/safeguarding issues, or because specialist facilities were not available closer to Nottingham. There had been some difficulties with other authorities not being willing to assist with PEPs. Where children were placed beyond the East Midlands Region, there were very few examples of reciprocal arrangements although most authorities were willing to help if they received payment. Some authorities were caring for so many of their own children that they were resistant to taking any responsibility for children from other authorities;
- distance was also an issue for social workers and internal inspectors in terms of additional time and cost. Ideally, where appropriate, children would be placed within approximately 20 miles of the City where children could also still be reasonably close to their birth families and social groups.

It was noted that, as a result of placements outside of the County, Mrs Beedham had commissioned two tutoring services, one to cover the City, and one to work nationally, wherever else Nottingham's children in care were placed.

RESOLVED

(1) that the following be noted:

- (a) the maintenance of PEP completion figures at over 90%, and the actions taken to address the quality of PEPs;**
- (b) the developments planned to enhance the quality of the written records of PEP meetings, to include:**
 - (i) consideration of commissioning an e-PEP which would enable more efficient transfer of information and produce reminders for social workers and designated teachers to complete their sections;**
 - (ii) extension of attendance and attainment data to include all City schools;**
 - (iii) training sessions for new Designated Teachers and social workers on completing a good quality PEP;**
 - (iv) designated teachers and social workers of out of City children, to be informed of PEPs out of date status to ensure completion;**

(2) that a report outlining where in the country Nottingham's Children in Care were placed, be submitted by the Head of Children in Care to a future meeting.

39 PERFORMANCE REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2012 -FEBRUARY 2013)

Consideration was given to the revised report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families, copies of which were placed around the table and submitted to the online agenda following the meeting. The report provided monthly performance information, including for February 2013, of both nationally and locally required indicators, enabling comparisons to be drawn against previous months and statistically comparable local authority neighbours.

Miss Elise Darragh, Quality and Commissioning, presented the report and informed the Committee that changes were to be made to the performance reporting framework so, in future, performance details would be presented every other meeting but in more detail.

Miss Darragh clarified that, with reference to National Indicator/Local code CSS147, (Representation Black, Minority, Ethnic (BME) children in care to BME population) the figure of 6.1% related to the over representation of BME children in care (CiC).

The performance statistics are summarised below:

Short Name	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Jan - 2013	Feb - 13
Number of Children in Care	541	524	559	556
Rate per 10,000 of Children in Care	86.6	83.8	89	89
Number of Admissions to Care	243	No target set	34	17
Number of Discharges from Looked After	221	No target set	24	18
Representation BME Children in Care to BME population	9.6%	No target set	5.4%	6.1%
Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement	73.1%	67.0%	68.2%	67.9%
Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales	94.6%	97.0%	94.3%	94.5%
Participation in Reviews	85.9%	90.0%	92.7%	92.4%
% of Children in Care for 3 months or more with an up-to-date health assessment	77.6%	80.0%	81.1%	83.3%
% of Children in Care after for 3 months or more with an up-to-date dental check	82.7%	80.0%	79.5%	79.5%
% of Children in Care after for 3 months or more with an up-to-date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire	90.0%	100.0%	82.5%	82.9%
% CiC with a completed Personal Education Plan	98.0%	98.0%	92.0%	90.0%
Percentage of eligible CiC who have a Pathway Plan commenced (age 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 17)	New from Sep 12	100.0%	78.2%	76.8%
% CiC allocated to a named social worker	100.0%	100.0%	100.0 %	99.8%

Short Name	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Q1	Q2	Q3
Adoptions of CiC (including Special Guardianship Orders)	9.9%	13.0%	1.4%	6.1%	10.5%
Timeliness of placements of Children in Care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	62.1%	68.5%	33.0%	71.4%	48.0%

Stability of placements of Children in Care: number of moves (based on rolling 12 months)	11.5%	12.0%	9.8%	10.1%	10.9%
Care leavers in suitable accommodation	80.4%	95.0%	100.0%	95.2%	95.2%
Care leavers in employment, education or training	60.7%	60.0%	77.8%	52.4%	45.2%

It was noted that:

- o there were currently 556 children and young people in the care of Nottingham City Council, following an exceptionally high intake of 34 children during January. It was noted that 8 of those children were babies linked to one area of the City;
- o while there appeared to be a slight rise of children taken into care during November of some years, it was very difficult to predict intake, although it was often higher following a nationally reported case when everyone became more aware. It was very unusual for as many as 34 children to be taken into care in a single month at any time of year;
- o there could be several reasons why babies were taken into care, including that the pregnancy had been concealed as it was not planned and would result in cultural stigma, or that the child was at risk of harm or neglect;
- o occasionally, work had been completed but there had been delays in reporting of performance information. The team were working hard to encourage prompt reporting and it was noted that all children in care did have an allocated Social Worker.

RESOLVED

- (1) that, the performance information provided be noted;
- (2) that, in relation to the intake of 8 babies during January 2013, the Head of Service of Children in Care, arrange for Board Members to receive non-identifying information regarding:
 - (a) the area of the City from which the babies came;
 - (b) an outline of the circumstances by which the babies were relinquished or taken into care;
- (3) that further information be provided to the Board at a future meeting, regarding the instances where pregnancies were concealed and the baby relinquished.

40 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL - CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS 'HAVE YOUR SAY' SURVEY RESULTS 2012

Having been postponed from the meeting held on 21 January 2013, Mr Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Officer, presented the report regarding the results of the

'Have your Say' survey 2012. Of the 631 surveys sent out, 152 were usable, which equated to a 24% return with a near equal split between the genders.

As a reflection of the Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter, the survey sought the views of young people to inform and therefore enable service provision to progress in a direction which best catered for the needs of the young people.

Mr Rea also delivered a presentation, a copy of which was submitted to the online agenda following the meeting.

To enable a comparison, the survey had asked the same questions as the previous year, with tick box responses for 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' and space for comment. To reflect where responses had showed a positive, negative or static movement, the traffic light system of green, red and amber was applied.

The young people's responses to the City Council's commitments were rated as follows:

	2011	2012
we will treat all our children and young people with respect and with regard to their age and understanding	Green	Green
we will keep our children and young people safe and well by:	Green	Green
Seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible	Green	Green
Making sure that this home is stable and keeps them safe	Green	Green
we will help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability	Amber	Green
we will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood	Amber	Amber/Green
we will listen to our children and young people and involve them in planning for their care	Amber	Amber
we know that a change of home, carer, social worker or school can easily cause problems for a child or young person so we promise to do all we can to prevent such changes unless they are absolutely necessary to keep the child or young person safe and well	Amber	Amber
we will give our children and young people enough time and help to understand (and be happy) with their circumstances	Amber	Red
we will make sure they know about the advocacy and complaints services in case they want help to have their views heard or are unhappy with us	Red	Red
we will keep our children and young people safe and well by giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible.	Amber	Red

The verdict from the children and young people in care was that there had been an improvement of 9.8% from 2011 (79.1%) to 2012 (88.9%) for very happy or happy on the

overall rating for Nottingham City Council taking care of them. This produced a green rating, but there was still capacity for improvement.

The following points were highlighted and additional information provided:

- with regard to the whether the young people who completed the survey felt they were listened to, the responses varied from the statistical information provided earlier in the agenda. This may have been a reflection of the differing interpretation or understanding between what the young people and carers/social workers considered as 'listened to'. It was possible that some young people did not consider their informal comments or requests as being considered;
- while the information provided by the performance report did not match the rating from the survey regarding the participation of young people, it was noted that there were 7 categories of participation for children and young people from the age of 4 years, and it was possible that their perception of participation did not include all the aspect of the categories;
- it was noted that the survey did not ask about the layers of young people's participation in that while some young people may not have attended their Looked After Review, they may have submitted a letter/note or held it over the telephone;
- the disturbance of changes to social workers, placements and schools was recognised and only happened as a last resort. However, 60% of children had experienced some sort of change and did not like it;
- it was a concern that one in four children in care did not feel that their social worker had enough time for them. It was a greater concern that, of the young people aged 15 years plus, 45% of didn't feel their social worker had enough time for them. This area needed further investigation;
- nearly 60% of surveyed children in care indicated that they were not aware of the independent advocacy service. This appeared to be a particular issue with children in foster care. The providers had informed the Board that they were doing everything they could to raise awareness of their service, however, if the young people didn't know that the service was available to them, further work was required. It was important that all children and young people in care, knew which services were available to them, including opportunities for their voice to be heard, so, consideration should be given to the broader issue of how this information was presented, preferably with all staff tasked with informing the young people and improving awareness;
- with regard to the 31.5% of surveyed children saying that they felt healthy but worried often or all the time, about their life, it was possible that some of their concerns would be generic of teenagers, but also that this was as a result of deeper issues such as the trauma of their personal circumstances. Either way, it was important to consider what was being done to address these anxieties and alleviate or mitigate their worries;
- it was intended that, for the 2013 children in care survey, some of the questions would be revised to ensure that more specific information was obtained to better enable the support of the young people.

The Board welcomed the intention to revise the survey for 2013, agreeing that further consideration was required to the wording, breadth and detail, of questions, specifically in regard to topic areas where substantial differences were apparent between the performance statistics, provided by officers, and the children in care survey results.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the assessment results be used to inform the 2013/14 Corporate Parenting Action Plan, with priority given to areas highlighted by the assessment;**
- (2) that the significant work done by the Children in Care Council, in the planning, delivery and analysis of the 'Have Your Say survey, as part of their role in the co-production of services across children's social care, be noted;**
- (3) that the findings of the survey be acted upon as appropriate;**
- (4) that the Head of Children in Care, invite the Advocacy Team to a Foster Care Business meeting to inform Foster Carers of the advocacy service available;**
- (5) that an update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Board, outlining the progress made in addressing the issues raised from and around the survey.**

6

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 3rd JUNE 2013

Title of paper:	Children and Young Peoples Participation	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell – Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families. Helen Blackman, Acting Director Children's Safeguarding	Wards affected: ALL
Report author(s) and contact details:	Dorne Collinson 0115 8764736 dorne.collinson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Elise Darragh 0115 8764844	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		✓
Neighbourhood Nottingham		✓
Family Nottingham		✓
Healthy Nottingham		✓
Leading Nottingham		✓
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>The report sets out the current position in relation to the participation of children in their looked after reviews and notes that there has been improved performance.</p> <p>A number of service improvements are also noted that will assist children and young people in having a voice in such processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people are now able to contact their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) between reviews, alongside the IRO speaking with them before the meeting. • Developments have been made to facilitate young people chairing part or all of the looked after review. <p>Information is presented in relation to suggested ways for continued improvement in performance.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board are asked to note the current levels of performance in relation to child participation.	
2	The Board are asked to note the suggested improvements in relation to	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This report gives a detailed analysis in respect of the participation of Children in Care within their Looked After Reviews.

For the purpose of this report participation refers to the definition of PAF C63 which is:

“The number of children and young people (aged 4 and above) who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews as a percentage of the number of children and young people who had been looked after at 31 March for more than four weeks (i.e. more than 28 days inclusive of 31 March).”

1.2 Participation within the performance indicator covers:

- Attended and spoke for self
- Attended, conveyed views symbolically
- Attended, views represented by advocate or IRO
- Not attended, views represented by 3rd party
- Not attended, written views conveyed

1.3 In the report presented to Corporate Parenting Board dated 1st February 2012, the following programme was proposed:

- Head of Safeguarding to be briefed on each individual child who has not participated in their review and this is to be shared with both the Children in Care and the Social Care Heads of Service
- Further work to be undertaken with the Independent Reviewing Officers to clarify the definition of participation including targeted work around this issue within the induction programme of new staff.
- Active chasing to take place with social workers before reviews to ensure they seek and include the views of children/young people in their reports/reviews.
- The Review Monitoring Form that is completed by the Independent Reviewing Officers at the end of each meeting to be updated to record issues in relation to participation. This will ensure more localised team feedback and analysis thus targeting improvements
- Team-based performance to be discussed at each Performance Information Management Meeting (PIMMs)
- Independent Reviewing Officer's will discuss at team links meetings. These to be increased to quarterly meetings
- A standard recommendation to be included on the Looked After Child (LAC) template to ensure that participation is individualised to each child/young person. If the child's participation is not available within the meeting then workers are to be given ten working days to feed this back to the IRO prior to escalation through line management channels.
- A specific piece of work in to be driven in relation to improving workers communication with disabled children to ensure their participation.
- All contracts with external providers to be updated ensuring that 100% participation of those children placed with them is identified as one of their performance targets.

1.4 As a result of that work there has been a consistently high performance regarding children and young people participating in their meetings. IROs have worked with

some young people over a period of time so that they develop the confidence to chair some or part of their reviews. Currently 92.6% of children and young people participated in their reviews. Of these 45% attended their review, and were able to share their views regarding their care plan.

As would be expected the majority of children who attended where 10 years or older [appendix 1]

- 1.5 The service has also developed letters to send to children and young people about the reviews and introducing their IRO, and each IRO has a set of business cards that enables the child or young person to contact the IRO between reviews.
- 1.6 Children and young people will attend and contribute to their reviews and care planning if they truly understand what is happening and why it is important for their voice to be heard. The IRO handbook 2010 made it clear that part of the functions of the IRO is to speak with the child before the review, and between reviews. There has been significant improvement in the performance of IROs in this matter, with many children and young people being seen before the review and their views sought by the IRO. Some been seen between meetings, or have been contacted by telephone.
- 1.7 In order to ensure continued improvement it is proposed that alongside the measures currently in place outlined above, the following should also be developed:
 - Reduction in IRO caseloads so that they are compliant with statutory guidance. This will then allow IRO to see more children and young people between looked after reviews.
 - Distribution of 'Your IRO' leaflet to children and young people in care. A draft of this leaflet was raised with the Children in Care Council and their suggested amendments noted.
 - Changes to the care status of young people remanded by youth justice courts within the 'Legal Aid, Sentencing Punishment of Offenders Act from December 2012, has resulted in this cohort of young people being classed as children looked after and therefore requiring to be reviewed in the same manner as other Children in Care. Given that the Youth Justice Board decides the appropriate placement and the period in care can be short, it has been a challenge for IROs to see young people before their first review. The IRO Service is already working alongside Youth Offending Team in developing suitable protocols that ensure that the young person has a voice in their plans that aim to divert them from offending.
 - Alongside colleagues in the Directorate and partner agencies, embed the use of evidenced based tools from solution focus therapy as a means to continue to capture the child or young person's voice regarding their care.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 This report is for information and discussion.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 Children's views in relation to their looked after plans are critical in ensuring delivery of the plan within an appropriate timeframe. This will prevent children from drifting within the care system leading to improved outcomes and increased value for money.

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

5.1 Participation of Children in Care in their care planning process ensures that the views of our most vulnerable children and young people are listened to. It also enables them to develop skills necessary to contribute to the wider community when they reach independence.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

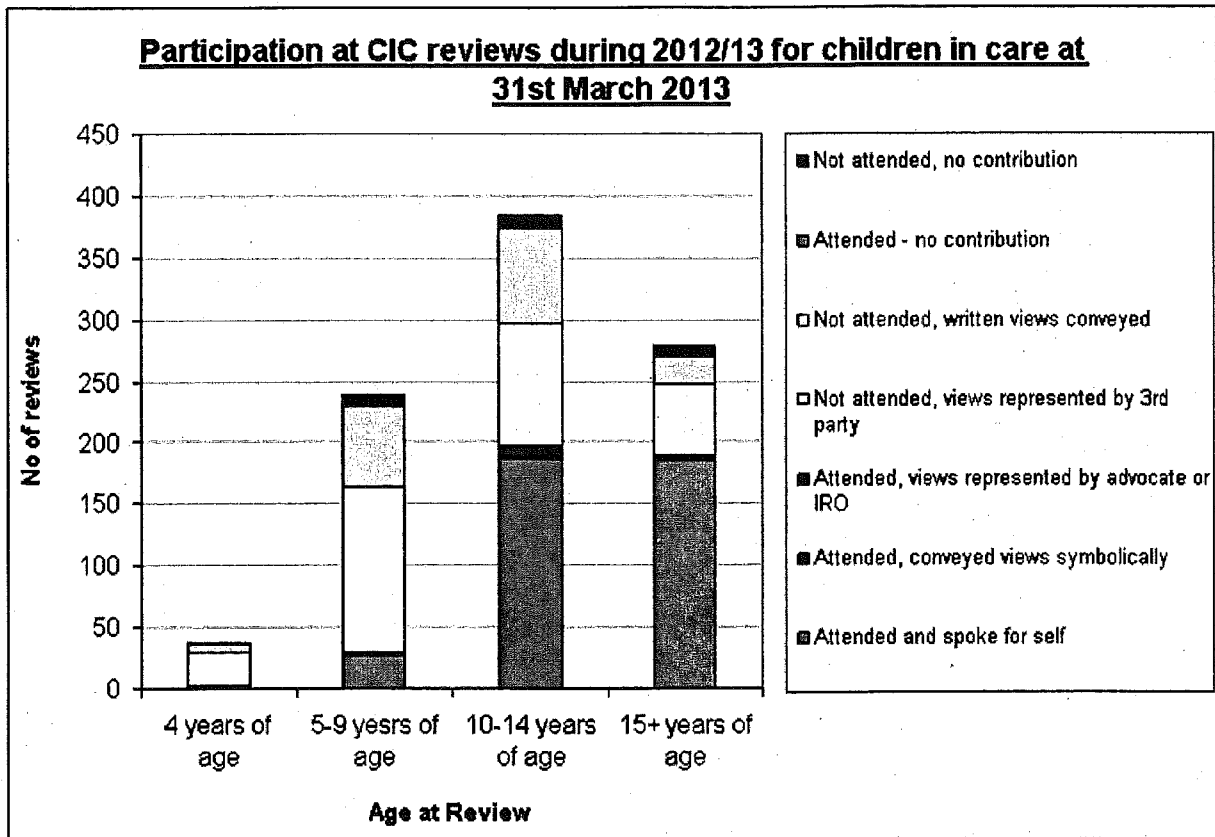
An EIA has not been completed as this report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions.

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

7.1 None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 none



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT

MARCH 2013

CONTEXT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the most up to date performance overview information in relation to Children in Care and to highlight results as of March 2013.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The tables below show performance against key monthly and quarterly Children in Care measures. Performance for March 2013 is shown along with 2012-13 targets and previous year end out-turn. Please note that the figures for March 2013 are provisional and final end of year figures will be produced once all statutory returns are submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) at the end of June 2013.

Performance against key **monthly** measures is listed below:

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Stat Neigh 11/12	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Sep - 12	Oct - 12	Nov - 12	Dec - 12	Jan - 13	Feb - 13	Mar - 13
CSS101(a)	Number of Children in Care	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	737	541	524	553	552	547	547	559	556	556
CSS101(b)	Rate per 10,000 of Children in Care *	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	90.6	86.6	83.8	88	88	88	88	89	89	89
CSS114	Number of Admissions to Care	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	243	No target set	17	18	12	14	34	17	20
CSS115	Number of Discharges from Looked After	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	221	No target set	21	21	20	16	24	18	26
CSS147	Representation BME children CiC to BME population	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	9.6%	No target set	6.8%	6.0%	5.4%	5.9%	5.4%	6.1%	6.2%

The majority of data in the report is obtained from CareFirst. CareFirst is a live database, as such the information is subject to change and fluctuations are not uncommon, this is due to records being amended, added or removed. As a consequence, the data presented in this report only represents a snapshot of the performance picture for the month that the report was run. Previous monthly performance figures are not re-calculated, therefore the monthly figures may not always equal the year-to-date totals.

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Stat Neigh 11/12	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Sep - 12	Oct - 12	Nov - 12	Dec - 12	Jan - 13	Feb - 13	Mar - 13
NI63	Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement	Joy Chambers	65.4%	73.1%	67.0%	71.6%	72.2%	69.7%	69.2%	68.2%	67.9%	68.0%
NI66	Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales	Dorne Collinson	86.0%	94.6%	97.0%	97.4%	96.8%	95.5%	95.3%	94.3%	94.5%	94.8%
PAF C63	Participation in Reviews	Dorne Collinson	Not published	85.9%	90.0%	94.0%	93.0%	93.5%	93.8%	92.7%	92.4%	92.6%
CSS158	% of Children in Care for 3 months or more with an up-to-date health assessment	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	77.6%	80.0%	78.7%	76.3%	73.9%	74.5%	81.1%	83.3%	79.6%
CSS159	% of Children in Care after for 3 months or more with an up-to-date dental check	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	82.7%	80.0%	84.3%	83.8%	79.7%	78.7%	79.5%	79.5%	82.7%
CSS160	% of Children in Care after for 3 months or more with an up-to-date SDQ	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	90.0%	100.0%	84.9%	85.5%	84.5%	82.7%	82.5%	82.9%	83.1%
CSS153	% CIC with a completed PEP	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	98.0%	98.0.0%	94.0%	92.0%	90.0%	91.0%	92.0%	90.0%	92.0%
CSS151	Percentage of eligible CIC who have a Pathway Plan commenced (age 15 ½ - 17)	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	Internal measure	New measure from Sep 12	100.0%	86.6%	89.9%	86.7%	80.8%	78.2%	76.8%	69.8%
CSS155	% CIC allocated to a named social worker	Helen Blackman	Internal measure	100.0%	100.0%	99.6%	99.8%	99.6%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%

* The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released new 0-17 population protections for mid-year 2011. These are based on the most recent Census data and figures show the child population in Nottingham has increased to 62,500, as a result the rate per 10,000 children will decrease. This figure is used in rate calculations from 11/12 (apart from BME measures).

The majority of data in the report is obtained from CareFirst. CareFirst is a live database, as such the information is subject to change and fluctuations are not uncommon, this is due to records being amended, added or removed. As a consequence, the data presented in this report only represents a snapshot of the performance picture for the month that the report was run. Previous monthly performance figures are not re-calculated, therefore the monthly figures may not always equal the year-to-date totals.

Performance against key quarterly measures is listed below:

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Stat Neigh 11/12	Outturn 11/12	Target 12/13	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
PAF C23	Adoptions of CIC (including SGO's)	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	13.0%	9.9%	13.0%	1.4%	6.1%	10.5%	14.6%
NI61	Timeliness of placements of Children in Care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	68.5%	62.1%	68.5%	33.0%	71.4%	48.0%	58.0%
NI62	Stability of placements of Children in Care: number of moves (based on rolling 12 months)	Joy Chambers	11.2%	11.5%	12.0%	9.8%	10.1%	10.9%	11.2%
NI147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	88.8%	80.4%	95.0%	100.0%	95.2%	95.2%	92.3%
NI148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	58.0%	60.7%	60.0%	77.8%	52.4%	45.2%	48.2%

Whilst performance in many areas has improved, significant focus is being placed on areas where performance is weaker. Robust action plans, monitored by senior management, are being implemented to drive performance improvements.

The majority of data in the report is obtained from CareFirst. CareFirst is a live database, as such the information is subject to change and fluctuations are not uncommon, this is due to records being amended, added or removed. As a consequence, the data presented in this report only represents a snapshot of the performance picture for the month that the report was run. Previous monthly performance figures are not re-calculated, therefore the monthly figures may not always equal the year-to-date totals.

8

Corporate Parenting Board – June 2013

Title of paper:	Pathway Planning 15 Plus Service	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell – Interim Corporate Director of Childrens Services Helen Blackman – Acting Director of Children's Safeguarding	Wards affected: ALL
Report author(s) and contact details:	Sharon Clarke – Service Manager Children in Care Chris Shooter – Team Manager 15 Plus Lynn Pearce – Senior Personal Advisor	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Tina Thurley – Insight and Analysis	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		x
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		x
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
This report explains the current issues regarding the legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council in respect of Pathway Planning for Care Leavers and the importance of robust quality Pathway Plans to ensure a smooth transition into Adulthood.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board to offer commitment and acknowledgement of the importance of Pathway Planning for young people.	
2	The Board to recognise the work undertaken by Personal Advisors/Social Workers in the 15 Plus Service to ensure quality robust Pathway Planning.	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In April 2011 a new guidance was issued from the Government to Local Authorities/Agencies who provide services to Care Leavers (Children Act 1989, Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers) which replaced the provisions of the Leaving Care Act (2000). The main aim of this legislation is to ensure Care Leavers are provided with individual comprehensive support so that they achieve their potential as they transition into adulthood.

1.2 As Corporate Parents we should provide support to Care Leavers in the same way reasonable parents provide support to their children as they grow into young adults. This can be a turbulent time for many young adults but for the majority they have the practical/emotional support from their families, but for most Care Leavers this is not an option.

1.3 The preparation of a Pathway Plan and support to Care Leavers is the Local Authorities responsibility and this applies irrespective of any other services that may be provided.

1.4 The Children Act (1989) requires that a Pathway Plan must be prepared for eligible, relevant and former relevant young people. This plan is derived from a child's Care Plan and has to set out the actions to be taken by the Local Authority, the young person, their parents, carers and agencies so each young person is provided with the support and services they require to achieve their aspirations and make a successful transition to adulthood.

1.5 The Pathway Plan must include:

- Young persons health
- Education, training and employment
- Contact
- Financial capabilities
- Young persons views
- Relevant professionals views on the Pathway Plan i.e. teachers, health professionals etc
- Oversight by an Independent Reviewing Officer
- Views of young person's parents/carer

2. Pathway Planning in Nottingham City

2.1 Nottingham City Council has a dedicated team who case manage the majority of young people who require a Pathway Plan. At the age of 15, cases are transferred to Social Workers in the 15 Plus Team, so that preparation and planning for their transition can be completed in a timely way.

2.2 The 15 Plus Team now hold Pathway Planning Forum Meetings at the time nearest to a young person's 16th Birthday, to ensure the Pathway Plan meets the individual requirements of a young person before it is authorised by the Team Manager. It is then reviewed six monthly until a child's 15th Birthday and/or before transfer to a Personal Advisor. This is a mechanism to ensure plans are robust and are of a good quality and remain a 'living' document.

2.3 Disabled young people face many of the same experiences and challenges as all Care Leavers, however their transition can be particularly challenging. The Disabled Children's Team within Nottingham City manage the majority of these cases to ensure a smooth transitional pathway into Adult Services.

2.4 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) making the transition from Care to adulthood have both a Leaving Care status and an immigration status. This can be a complex process and has to involve Triple Planning (Wade, Mitchell, Bayliss pg.197)

- Plans for staying in the UK
- Plans for those who have been refused permission to stay in the UK
- Those who may chose to return to their country of origin

Local Authorities are also responsible for UASC, Post 18, who are in Appeal regarding their immigration status. This includes the allocation of a Personal Advisor, accommodation, and financial support and the reviewing of their Pathway Plans.

2.5 Local Authorities, since December 2012 with the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (Act 2012) (LASPO), are responsible for those young people remanded in custody. If this remand period extends beyond 13 weeks a young person acquires Care Leavers status and will require the implementation of a Pathway Plan. This is relevant to young people detained in Hospital, Secure Training Centres, Secure Children's Homes, Young Offender Institutions and those remanded to Local Authority Care.

3. Personal Advisors

3.1 Personal Advisors are based within the 15 Plus Service. All young people eligible for a Pathway Plan must be allocated a Personal Advisor. They are not qualified Social Workers but must possess the necessary skills and expertise to work with young Care Leavers. Currently Nottingham City Council 249 Care Leavers who require the allocation of a Personal Advisor. There are 110 young people requiring a Pathway Plan. There are 13 young people defined as Relevant young people requiring Pathway Planning and 214 Former Relevant Young People also Eligible for a Pathway Plan.

3.2 Regulation 8, of the Care Leavers Regulations, sets out the functions of a Personal Advisor which include:

- Information and support to Care Leavers re: practical skills
- Information and support re: finances, housing, health, education, training, and employment.

The Personal Advisor is the key professional responsible for co-ordinating Care Leavers support and for the reviewing of the Pathway Plans.

3.3 Care Leavers will have a Personal Advisor until the age of 21 or 24, if a young person is in full time education. The Children's Act (1989), Section 23CA, Volume 3, also now states that young people previously eligible who wish to resume programmes of education or training after the age of 21, require an assessment as to the support required from the Local Authority. This can include the support of a Personal Advisor, financial or practical support.

4 Performance

4.1 Currently performance stands at 90.0% for young people who are Eligible for a Pathway Plan.

To improve this performance further Pathway Plan forums have been booked. This will support the progression of pathway plans from 15 yrs to 16 yrs to ensure young people have robust compliant pathway plans in place. This process will start w/c 27th May 2013

Independent Personal Advisors for 15-18 year olds are now being sourced through YOT workers/Carers/CAMHS Workers etc, that are relevant to the young person to increase out put of compliant pathway plans. Social workers are already working with these identified people to ensure young people's views are represented.

5 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

No recommendations.

6. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

There is a financial implication/ risk with young people Post 21, approaching the Local Authority for support regarding further education, training or employment.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

8.1 The implementation of the LASPO Act (2012) has seen an increase in young people eligible for Care Leaver Services, which has an impact on service resources.

LASPO Frame work in place. A flowchart has been created regarding the LASPO process between screening and duty team, YOT and 15+ team. Training will be developed with YOT and 15+ to promote working together with these young people.

8.2 There is a financial implication/ risk with young people Post 21, approaching the Local Authority for support regarding further education, training or employment.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

No : This report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions

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

None

11. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Volume 3: Children Act – Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.

Leaving Care Act (2000)

NAME OF COMMITTEE / BODY - Corporate Parenting Board June 2013

Title of paper:	NEET/EET Care Leavers	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell – Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families. Helen Blackman, Acting Director Children's Safeguarding	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Sharon Clarke – Service Manager Children in Care Chris Shooter – 15 Plus Team Manager Lynn Pearce – Senior Personal Advisor	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Bill Connor – Futures Nottingham Tina Thurley - Insight and Analysis Officer	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham	X	✓
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham	X	
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>Nationally and Locally there is a growing concerning picture for young people in respect of educational and employment opportunities with the current National economic crisis.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to ensure that the Employment, Education and Training (EET) needs of Care Leavers remains a priority for the Corporate Parenting Board in driving actions required to improve outcomes for Care Leavers.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Corporate Parenting Board remains the lead body in driving action across Nottingham City Council in respect of Education, Employment and Training.	
2	The Board continue to offer commitment to the multi-agency focus group to drive opportunities for Care Leavers.	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Pathway Plans are now inputted onto the Carefirst system, which enables better information to be captured in respect of NEET/EET in Nottingham City. The Social Worker/Personal Advisor undertake a recorded assessment in respect of career planning for young people which sets the goals and aspirations for young people. Independent Reviewing Officers scrutinise Pathway Plans in statutory reviews and ensure education, training and employment is discussed.

1.2 A multi-agency focus group has been established and has formulated a Strategic Action Plan to ensure Employability, Education and Training remains a priority for Nottingham City Council. The action plan feeds into the Children in Care Outcomes Group, Children in Care Council and ultimately the Board. The Employability Action Plan has been submitted to the National Care Advisory Service Board (NCAS) and was awarded its Quality Mark. The Quality Mark is awarded from NCAS to those Local Authorities that can evidence robust plans to improve opportunities for young people.

1.3 The Virtual School in Nottingham City Council has also made a commitment to attendance and participation with Care Leavers Education, Employment and Training Opportunities. This is limited to those young people within the Nottingham area practically, but data is collected in respect of those young people located out of Nottingham.

1.4 There is dedicated support from Futures Nottingham to the 15 Plus Service who take the lead in coordinating employment opportunities for all Care Leavers. The team work together to provide career planning and maximise opportunities.

1.5 Nottingham City Council continues to hold an annual award ceremony to recognise the achievements of Children in Care and Care Leavers. The ceremony, 'Big it Up', continues to be well attended and is considered a successful event.

1.6 There remains a strategic commitment across the Council to provide a range of opportunities for Care Leavers for employment/apprenticeship schemes. Out of 51 apprentices recruited to Nottingham City Council, 3 were Care Leavers of which 1 has secured a permanent post. A further 26 apprenticeships are to be offered to young people in Nottingham City Council, of which..... posts are to be ring-fenced for young people, further funding is to be explored for another 20 apprenticeship posts.

1.7 Nottingham City commissions the RISE Programme (Business in the Community), which involves work placements, events, coaching and mentoring to prepare young people for employment (separate report to be provided for future Corporate Parenting Board).

1.8 The focus group also reports any new initiatives to the Children in Care Council to ensure they are involved in future planning and that they are kept updated in terms of strategic planning.

1.9 The 15 Plus Service are working with the Business Support to produce and maintain a webpage/site presence for Care Leavers to ensure they are kept updated on training, education and employment opportunities.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 N148 – Care Leavers in employment, Education and training performance currently stands at 48.2%.

2.2 This is a reflection of the National economic picture in respect of young people accessing employment but requires further robust input to improve the number of young people accessing opportunities.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 The award ceremony continues to be funded by private providers.

4.2 The risk financially associated with young people coming back Post 21 for support re: Education, Employment and Training.

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

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

- Yes (attach as an appendix)
- No (please indicate why not, for example *'This report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions'*)

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

None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

Corporate Parenting Board - June 2013

Title of paper:	Accommodation for Care Leavers	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell – Interim Corporate Director for Children and Families Helen Blackman – Acting Director of Children’s Safeguarding	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Sharon Clarke – Service Manager Children in Care Chris Shooter – Team Manager 15+ Team Lynn Pearce – Senior Personal Advisor	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Tina Thurley – Insight and Analysis Officer Gill Moy – Director Nottingham City Homes Joy Chambers – Service Manager Placement Service	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		x
Family Nottingham		x
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report details the up to date issues in respect of the legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council in respect of sufficient accommodation for Care Leavers.</p> <p>It focuses on the service provided to Care Leavers by the 15 Plus Team. It describes the importance of ensuring young people have appropriate and sufficient accommodation to support young people into their transition into adulthood.</p> <p>This report is framed by the requirements of the Children Act (2011), Volume 3: Planning Transitions into Adulthood for Care Leavers.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board continues to offer commitment to ensuring, as Corporate Parents, that Care Leavers receive sufficient and appropriate housing in Nottingham City.	
2	The Board continues to commit to the protocol between Nottingham City Homes and the Children and Families Service implemented as a partnership to improve outcomes for Care Leavers.	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Nottingham City Council has to adhere to a legislative framework provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

They are:

- The Sufficiency, Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children (2011)
- Children Act (1989), Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.
- Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds (young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation) April 2010

1.2 The Sufficiency Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children (2011) seeks to improve outcomes for young people leaving Care or requiring accommodation. It states that Local Authorities take steps to secure, so far as is reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation within the authority to meet the needs of the young people the Local Authority are responsible for.

1.3 The statutory guidance provided by the DFE in respect of 16/17 year olds who require accommodation, states that Children Services are the lead agency with regard to the assessment of 16/17 year olds who seek help in respect of homelessness. However, it also states that 'integrated services can assist in the delivering of a seamless child centred response to the needs of young people requiring assistance'.

1.4 Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers provides the legislative guidance for providing accommodation in Chapter 7.

1.5 Regulation 9 (2) of the Care Leavers Regulation defines what is meant by suitable accommodation;

- That which is as far as reasonably practicable is suitable for a young persons needs.
- That the Local Authority has satisfied itself to the character and suitability of providers.
- That properties comply with Health and Safety requirements.
- That the Local Authority, so far as is reasonably practicable, has taken into account young peoples wishes and feelings.
- That there has been consideration given to young people in respect of their education, training or employment needs.

2 Providing Accommodation to Care Leavers in Nottingham City.

2.1 Since November 2011 Nottingham City Council has provided Accommodation to young people in semi-independent provision through a tendered framework. This framework includes a range of options to ensure the diverse needs of Care Leavers are met. This has not been without its challenges and a re-evaluation of some of the options available from some providers to ensure the Accommodation meets individual requirements of Care Leavers.

2.2 Nottingham City believes that most young people will benefit from sometime placed in semi-independent provision prior to acquiring their own tenancy so that they can 'transition' with the safety net of planned support. Some young people may benefit from 'Staying Put' with their foster carers and this is promoted if agreed within a young person's Pathway Plan. NCC are currently reviewing the policy and procedures for a refreshed strategy for Staying Put.

2.3 Social Workers will discuss with young people within Pathway Planning the range of options available to them in respect of semi-independence accommodation prior to making a referral to the Placement Service.

2.3 The referral (E01) includes the package of support that addresses the emotional, social, educational, health and practical needs of young people. The Placement Service ensures

accommodation provided is Quality Assured by visits to properties and with regular meetings with providers.

2.4 As young people reach 18 years of age there is an expectation for the majority of them that they become a tenant in their own right. The majority of Care Leavers accommodation is provided by Nottingham City Homes. There can be a risk of tenancy breakdowns so Nottingham City has implemented systems to ensure young people are well prepared and can demonstrate the necessary skills to live independently. A Care Leavers protocol with Nottingham City Homes is now well embedded to mitigate against the risks of young people becoming homeless.

2.5 The protocol enables both partners to understand their roles and engage in joint working, leading to increased transparency and better outcomes for young people. It complies with the 'sufficiency duty' required. It incorporates:

- Planned moves towards independence, using clear and flexible accommodation and support Pathways.
- Ongoing support to enable young people to maintain their accommodation and early intervention if require.
- Access to safe, secure emergency accommodation, if exceptionally accommodation rearrangements do breakdown.

2.6 Ensuring that young people are in suitable accommodation is a priority for the 15 Plus Service, Placement Service and the Independent Reviewing Officers Service. Young people in suitable accommodation are more likely to have better outcomes as opposed to those who are of No Fixed Abode. There will always be a cohort of young people that every Local Authority area will be unable to locate. Some young people choose to disengage, live with unknown adults or leave the Local Authority Area. The 15 Plus Social Work Team makes every effort to ensure contact occurs wherever practicable. For some young people who are Care Leavers they make up a proportion of the prison population, but Nottingham City Council does not consider this to be suitable accommodation.

2.7 Young people are assessed on an individual basis in respect of their 'Setting up Home' allowance. The 15 Plus Service strive to ensure that young people are set up materially in their own homes at a good standard. A catalogue is available to all Care Leavers to select goods required. Young people can also access a Hardship Fund and/or food parcels should this be required. The 15 Plus Service also works in partnership with the Anti-Social Behaviour Order Team and has access to electrical goods confiscated by the Team which includes televisions, radios etc. The Arches is also used to access furniture.

3. Performance

3.1 Year to date figures at Quarter 4 s currently at 92.3%. Suitable accommodation is not recorded for those young people who are serving custodial sentences.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

N/A

5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

6.1 The framework for semi-independence accommodation has demonstrated considerable saving efficiencies within the Placement Budget. April 2012- April 2013 acquired £250,000 in savings. The Quality and Commissioning Service are undertaking value for money reviews on the outcomes this far for the 16+ Accommodation Framework.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

7.1 Current case laws (Southwark ruling) dictate that the Children's Act (1989) has primacy over the Housing Act in providing for children who need housing. The duties of Children's Services to accommodate young people can not be circumvented by referring a young person to the Housing Authority. Duties under Part 7 (Housing Act, 1996) provide a safety net for those homeless young people who do not meet the criteria for accommodation.

7.2 The implementation of the Legal Aid and Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) in December 2012 has meant there is an increase in the number of Care Leavers acquiring accommodation, as remanded young people beyond 13 weeks acquires relevant status.

7.3 The Welfare Reform is also impacting on Care Leavers. There is a benefit cap introduced on bedrooms, known as 'bedroom tax', whereby less housing benefit will be paid to those with additional bedroom space not occupied. Nottingham City Homes/Children's Services/Benefit Team are working with those young people that are affected. From 01st April 2013 the Local Authority has responsibility for Crisis Loans/Community Care Grants and information has been circulated to staff and Care Leavers as to how to access loans. Universal Credit will replace all 'benefits' giving young people a monthly lump sum rather than the weekly benefits they have been receiving. Work is to be undertaken to support young people when this is implemented. A young person's guide to the reforms is available,

7.4 There is a locally agreed strategy that no care leavers in Nottingham will be adversely affected by the 'bedroom tax.'

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

- No 'This report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions'

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

None

10. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Children Act (2011), Volume 3: Planning Transitions into Adulthood for Care Leavers.

Part 7 (Housing Act, 1996)