# Public Document Pack

**Nottingham City Council**

## ADDITIONAL / TO FOLLOW AGENDA ITEMS

**This is a supplement to the original agenda and includes reports that are additional to the original agenda or which were marked 'to follow'.**

## NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

**Date:** Monday, 17 September 2018

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Place:** Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

**Governance Officer:** Phil Wye  **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764637

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**Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service**

**Annual Report**

**2017 – 2018**

# Overview report

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# Role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and Child Protection Chair (CPC)

- The core business of the team includes the chairing of Children in Care reviews, Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences, Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation Strategy Meetings.

- The team plays a key role in relation to the improvement of care planning for children in care.

- Ensures a process for challenging drift and delay.

- Ensures that the views of the children, parents and carers are given sufficient weight in Care planning.

- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is also positioned within this service. The LADO looks at allegations against individuals who work with children.

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# Progress against priorities set for 2017-2018

- The team is now fully staffed with 100% permanently contracted team members.

- The service has played a critical role in moving forward the criminal exploitation agenda, developing a toolkit for referrals, developing a level 1 training package and representation at the newly formed Child Criminal Exploitation Panel (CCEP) meetings.

- Significantly increased and improved communication with children subject to Child Protection Plans.

- Increased communication with children subject of Child Sexual Exploitation Meetings that have not attended their meetings (high-risk young people).

- The "Cause for Concern" process has been thoroughly revised by developing a Dispute Resolution Policy.

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# Progress against priorities set for 2017-2018

The issues identified below were all actions set out in last years IRO annual report.

- Signs of Safety continues to be embedded into our work; the model used for our conferences has also started to be embedded with the CSE meeting process.

- All Independent Chairs are now linked to area teams and attend regular team meetings. This is enabling clear communication and ensures practice issues for area teams and IRO's are addressed and resolved in a timely matter as well as ensuring good practice is recognised and modelled.

- Both IRO's and CPC's are part of the audit team and have completed 42 audits in this reporting year.

- We introduced Liquid Logic for the LADO process in January 2018

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# Progress against priorities set for 2017-2018

- Child friendly reviews have been embedded across the service with all members of staff undertaking them. Additionally child friendly minutes are written for the child, which has received positive feedback.

- Caseloads have declined since the increase in establishment, which has allowed for increased scrutiny.

- IRO's have increased contact with children outside of their reviews.

- The Principal Manager has developed a "coming into care" pack for the child and their parent.

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# Children in Care Population and the IRO Service Data

- 74% of the population have remained in the same placement for at least 2 years or more.

- 93% of Children in Care Reviews took place within the statutory timescales

- 92% of children in care participated in their review

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# Identifying Good Practice Problem Resolution and Escalation

- During this reporting year, we have a new escalation policy in place that follows an informal process followed by a robust formal process whenever it is warranted to combat poor practice and drift.

- Reviewing the last reporting year which combines the previous cause for concern and the new dispute resolution process the service as a whole has raised 79 concerns. None of these have needed to be escalated beyond Service Manager level

# Identifying Good Practice Problem Resolution and Escalation

- Thematic data available identifies the following themes:

- Reports/assessments not being available on time or not having been presented to parents/carers in a timely manner.

- Progression of plan not completed in a timely manner.

- Issues with contact for Children in Care.

- Auditing has highlighted the impact that this policy has made to improve the outcomes for children.

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# Good practice

- The policy also incorporates a system for IRO's to raise good practice in the course of their work. Examples raised include well-written and presented reports, children returning to their birth parents after positive social work intervention and the voice of the child being prominent within reviews.

- The voice of the child and management oversight are both areas where practice is identified as continuing to improve.

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# Annual Work Programme and Key Themes for April 2018- March 2019

- To launch the "Coming into Care" packs for both children and their parent/carer.

- Develop a new child contribution paper.

- Develop a parent/carer contribution paper.

- Develop an audit tool for minutes for CIC IRO's.

- Revise Liquid Logic to collect a variety of work streams/data for reporting    purposes.

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# Annual Work Programme and Key Themes for April 2018- March 2019

- Embed the system to manage conflict resolution disputes more effectively and share these findings with the wider directorate.

- Develop a system for obtaining feedback from children/young people after case conferences.

- Liaise with advocacy services to enable this area of responsibility to be improved and reported on.

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