



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

**Date:** Monday, 23 January 2017

**Time:** 2.30 pm

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

**Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business**

**Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources**

**Governance Officer:** James Welbourn **Direct Dial:** 0115 8763288

- |          |  |               |
|----------|--|---------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>   |               |
| <b>2</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>   |               |
| <b>3</b> | <b>MINUTES</b><br>Of the meeting held on 21 November 2016 (for confirmation).  | 3 - 10        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>FOSTERING AND ADOPTION PANEL CHAIR'S REPORT</b><br>Report of Director, Children's Integrated Services                           | 11 - 18       |
| <b>5</b> | <b>SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION</b><br>Report of Director, Children's Integrated Services | 19 - 26       |
| <b>6</b> | <b>REDUCING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR</b><br>Report of Director, Children's Integrated Services  | 27 - 60       |
| <b>7</b> | <b>CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE</b>   | Verbal Report |
| <b>8</b> | <b>CHAIR'S UPDATE</b>  | Verbal Report |
| <b>9</b> | <b>FORWARD PLAN</b>  | 61 - 62       |

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF

POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

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

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. ANY RECORDING OR REPORTING ON THIS MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON RECORDING AND REPORTING ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NOTTINGHAMCITY.GOV.UK](http://WWW.NOTTINGHAMCITY.GOV.UK). INDIVIDUALS INTENDING TO RECORD THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE IN ADVANCE.

**NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 21 November 2016 from 14.30 - 16.03**

**Membership**

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)  
Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Liaqat Ali  
Councillor Jim Armstrong  
Councillor Glyn Jenkins  
Councillor Sally Longford  
Councillor Wendy Smith  
Councillor Sam Webster

Absent

Councillor Sue Johnson  
Councillor Marcia Watson

**Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:**

Julia Stachowiak	) Children in Care Council
Richard Warsop	) (& Care Leaver)
Jordan Whatman	- Children in Care Project Officer
Sharon Clarke	- Children in Care Service Manager
Sonia Cain	- Fostering and Adoption Service Manager
Helen Blackman	- Director of Children's Integrated Services
Clive Chambers	- Head of Safeguarding and Quality
Steve Comb	- Head of Children in Care
Michael Rowley	- Lead Contracts Officer, Placement Service
Sophie Russell	- Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement
Catherine Ziane-Pryor	- Governance Officer

**34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Sue Johnson – leave  
Councillor Marcia Watson – personal  
TM

**35 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

**36 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**37 CHILDREN IN CARE SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT: QUARTER ONE AND QUARTER TWO 2016 - 2017**

Steve Comb, Head of Service for Children in Care (CiC), introduced the report which presented the CiC Performance information for Quarters One and Two.

The report and appendix details the performance of the CiC Section with comparative figures statistical neighbouring authorities. It is noted that nationally the numbers of CiC has risen significantly since April 2016.

The following points were highlighted and Councillor's questions were responded to as follows:

- (a) with regard to the aspiration for all CiC, no matter what issues they may have, to be returned to their families or adopted, adoption matching remains a very thorough process. Ideally adoptions should be swift and although timeliness has improved, Nottingham City Council has been challenged by Central Government on the length of time taken for the matching and adoption process to be completed as the 'score card' time targets are not being met. This is particularly poignant where a child has complex needs. However, the focus remains to identify the best match of family for that child to ensure the best outcomes for everyone. Success of this has been evidenced by the outcomes of inspections where every individual case was examined and no fault found. Nottingham's thorough approach to matching should be used to challenge the 'score card' system which focuses on time and not results;
- (b) formerly the Performance Indicator (PI) target was for Local Authorities was to achieve an adoption rate of 10% of the children in their care. If Special Guardianship Orders (SGO) are included within the adoption rates, Nottingham is achieving this even though the SGO regulations have become more substantial;
- (c) with regard CiC not attending health checks, particularly dental checks, this is an issue nationally. It is recognised that some children can have a 'white coat phobia' which can be as a result of medical examinations and tests associated with early neglect and/or associated with being removed from their family. These Children can be reluctant to attend medical and dental appointments but this monitored and where appropriate, incentives such as the offer of event tickets or activities combined with a trip to the dentist have proven to be successful in encouraging CiC to attend appointments;
- (d) when children and young people enter care they receive a robust physical and mental health assessment from the specialist CiC Doctor who then provides a health and dental plan;
- (e) when the performance information is generated, if any areas of concern are identified, they are highlighted with managers and staff and mechanisms jointly proposed to address issues where this is possible;
- (f) a new Operations Manager is due to start in post at the Virtual School very soon and their primary focus will be on improving the quality and provision of Personal Education Plans (PEPs). There has been some performance slippage in this area which is being addressed;

- (g) the target of 95% of CiC having a quality PEP in place by the end of the financial year remains relevant and is achievable with progress already being realised. The introduction shortly of an electronic form (e-PEP) will aid real-time quality monitoring, responses and ensure that reminders of timelines for Social Workers (who complete PEPs in consultation with Schools) will be issued and can be traced;
- (h) the majority of care leavers are in suitable accommodation but the PI statistics provided include a few young care leavers who are in custody. This is not considered suitable accommodation but is outside the Local Authority's powers to change;
- (i) Nottingham City Homes (NCH) is currently trying to expand its offer of semi-independent homes for care leavers within the City;
- (j) Nottingham compares well with other authorities for the numbers of young care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET), but there is still room for improvement;
- (k) there has been some good news recently where a family of 6 children ranging in age from 6 months to seven years old were adopted as a family unit.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) to acknowledge the current performance position of the Children in Care Service, against identified key performance indicators (KPIs):**
- (2) for a detailed report on the work plan to achieve meaningful PEPs to be submitted to the January meeting of the Committee.**

## **38 ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY**

Sonia Cain, Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption, and Sharon Clarke, Service Manager for Children in Care (CiC), introduced the report which updates the Board on performance to date from 1 April 2016, of Permanency Planning for Children in Care.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) 25 children have been adopted so far this year and it is predicted that 45-50 will be adopted by 31 March 2017;
- (b) 24 children have been matched with adopters;
- (c) 294 children are being supported by Special Guardianships;
- (d) 84 children have adoption plans in place;
- (e) 14 children have had their adoption plans rescinded as all possibilities to find an adoptive home have been exhausted. Some of these children are likely to remain with their foster carer in a permanent arrangement;

- (f) the adoption timescales set by Central Government set can be hard to meet for children with complex needs and this is reflected in the City's overall performance;
- (g) when children cannot be matched with City adopters, interagency matches are sought. However the Central Government budget for interagency adoption is to be totally withdrawn which will place a significant pressure on the adoption budget;
- (h) 30 prospective adopters are being assessed with a further 30 approved and waiting to be matched;
- (i) 35 applications have been made or are in the process of being submitted to the Government's Adoption Support fund. All successful applications require match funding from the Local Authority;
- (j) plans to establish the East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency (EMRAA) by 2020 are progressing and the Chair of this Committee is a member of the EMRAA. Different local authorities have different models of working so there will need to be a single co-ordinated approach which is yet to be defined. It's not yet clear if there will be any staffing implications but the overview of the proposals will be presented to the Committee once they emerge;
- (k) the Permanency Panel ensures that legislation requirements are met in care planning for a child's permanence, it hears applications for Special Guardianship and ensures that the child's needs are met;
- (l) once a permanency plan is agreed, there is an expectation that the plan will be followed until the child reaches 18 years of age, sometimes beyond.

Councillors' comments were responded to as follows:

- (m) when foster careers adopt the child they have been fostering, they will receive an adoption allowance which is less than the fostering allowance but adoption provides permanency which is the best outcome for the child. They will also become eligible for child benefit. If the child, not babies, has more complex needs which meet criteria, they may be eligible for additional allowances;
- (n) adopters are supported and helped to build resilience by the Fostering and Adoption Team until the child reaches 18 years of age, and sometimes beyond. This includes helping to find and apply for benefits if the family financial circumstances change;
- (o) although the aspiration is to find a placement for every child, where children cannot be placed within 18 months, inter-agency arrangements are considered;
- (p) due to the number adopters wanting to adopt a child aged up to 2 years old, no further adopter applications are being accepted for this group unless they are willing to adopt a child of this age as part of a family group;
- (q) all applications for the Adoption Support Fund have been accepted but do require match funding from the Local Authority for amounts of £5,000 or over;
- (r) where SGOs are in place, it's important that guardians can approach the Local Authority for advice and guidance, wherever they are located.

## RESOLVED

- (1) to note the performance to date in relation to Permanency Planning for Children in Care, which can be in the form of adoption, permanent fostering or special guardianship;
- (2) to present the Adoption and Permanency report twice a year to the Corporate Parenting Board, to include a year-end report which will enable the Adoption Leadership Board data for the previous year to be considered and reviewed.

### **39 CHILDREN IN CARE PLACEMENTS – COMMISSIONING AND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2016-2018**

Michael Rowley, Placements Service Lead Contracts Officer, introduced the report which presents the Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for 2016-18.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) it is a statutory requirement to have a Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy in place;
- (b) as of 11 October 2016, 603 children were in care, 465 were placed with foster carers, of which only 191 were internal/Nottingham City selected foster carers, the remainder being external agency carers;
- (c) 50 children are in external placements outside of the City;
- (d) the numbers of children in residential care are not increasing;
- (e) there has been analysis of why placements have broken down to understand and prevent future breakdowns and roll out approaches which work well;
- (f) the East Midlands Regional Children's Framework (EMRCF) is now well established and able to provide advice on contracts;
- (g) Commissioning priorities are set out within the report.

Councillor's questions were responded to as follows:

- (i) recognising complex needs such as mental health issues, is improving with solutions and/approaches sought in conjunction with health colleagues. Although providing a good service, improvements continue to be sought, including to 'off the peg' model options;
- (ii) future commissioning arrangements will be kept under review to ensure improving outcomes and cost efficiency. Where good outcomes are not achieved, contracts will not be renewed;
- (iii) semi-independent living providers are private businesses which will attract young care leavers from other parts of the Country so not all of the places will be available to Nottingham care leavers.

Care Leavers commented that for placements there will be an element of trial and error, but everyone involved has to work together and ensure effective communication.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**40 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: FOSTERING SERVICE AND ADOPTION AGENCY**

The provision and presentation of the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service and Adoption Agency is a statutory requirement in setting out the aims and objectives of how each service will operate.

Copies of each Statement (revised October 2016) are included in the agenda.

**RESOLVED to note the report and contents of the Statements of Purpose for Fostering Service and Adoption Agency.**

**41 URGENT ITEM - UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKER CHILDREN**

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that this is an issue on which the Committee needs to be informed and it is not appropriate to delay the information until the next meeting.

Sophie Russell, Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement, verbally updated the Committee on the current position regarding unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), including answering the Board's questions and highlighting the following points:

- (a) Nottingham has always hosted UASC but the numbers entering the country are increasing and the Home Office have launched a national dispersal scheme to spread numbers to local authorities across the county;
- (b) there is a target for Nottingham City to progress towards supporting 45 UASC (0.07% of our child-age population). We are currently supporting 23 UASC. Only two of these have been transferred from other local authorities under the dispersal scheme (Northamptonshire and Kent);
- (c) nationally, the majority of UASC are young males aged 16/17 years old and generally of Middle Eastern and North African origin, but there is a mix of profiles and nationalities;
- (d) UASC can arrive in the City and ask for assistance outside of the dispersal scheme. The City Council will then assess their age and try to determine if they have relatives who can support them in the UK;
- (e) for those young people who can be reunified with family in Nottingham the family are visited by social work colleagues to assess and check that the environment is safe and suitable for the young person and that the family member/s are willing and able to support the young person. These reunified young people are considered to be



children in need and are not unaccompanied. This means that they are not deemed to be children in care;

- (f) any UASC in the care of the City Council will have the same full access to all relevant services as other children in care;
- (g) the CiC Doctor undertakes a full medical assessment of the young person, including dental, mental health and immunisations;
- (h) all UASC have access to ESOL as a priority to help them settle, enter mainstream schools and colleges and ease integration;
- (i) 30 care leaver asylum seekers remain supported by the City Council.

**RESOLVED to note the update.**

## **42 FORWARD PLAN AND CHILDREN IN CARE UPDATE**

Jordan Whatman, Children in Care Project Officer, presented the Forward Plan to which the Committee have added Personal Education Plan as an item for a future meeting.

Jordan introduced Julia Stachowiak and Richard Warsop, Children in Care Council (CiCC) Members who provided the following update:

- (a) on 25 November the Children's Commissioner's Takeover event will take place where young people can be 'buddied' to shadow professional people, possibly including a Councillor or MP, for the day. Care leaver Larelle will be 'taking over' in the Eat Culture Loxley House Canteen, with 3 other Children in Care Council members, serving a winter warmer menu designed by Larelle;
- (b) the last meeting of CiCC was held on 26 September and asked what would change to become a good care leaver, and what could the Local Authority change to help this. The next CiCC will be held on 28 November and will focus on the theme of 'Change and Change Management';
- (c) the Children in Care Club is currently recruiting new members aged 8-11 and will hold an event on Monday 19 December at the Council House from 4.30pm to 6.30pm with arts and crafts, Santa, and a forum discussion around young people's experiences in care.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) to note the forward plan;**
- (2) to note the Children in Care Council update and record the thanks of the Board to Julia and Richard for their attendance.**

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**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – JANUARY 2017**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Fostering and Adoption Panel Chair's Report	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Helen Blackman – Director, Children's Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	Sonia Cain – Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption <a href="mailto:sonia.cain@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">sonia.cain@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> 01158764526	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Clive Harrison – Chair, Panel One Phil Rogers – Chair, Panel Two Dagoberto Rojas – Chair, Panel Three Tom Elvidge - Chair, Panel Four Ian Crompton - Panel Advisor	
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)</b>		
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>		
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"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
<p>The Panel's primary responsibility is to safeguard children and young people, placed in foster care and adoptive homes / families by Nottingham City and beyond. The Panel takes its responsibility to protect children very seriously and is vigorous in its scrutiny of reports and assessments.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	To note the activity of the Fostering and Adoption panels.	

**1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Good practice as suggested by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF 2013; 2015) states that an annual report should be prepared detailing the work of the fostering and adoption panels. The report should detail the following:
- the numbers and profiles of foster carers and children
  - strengths and achievements of the service
  - performance targets and measurements and further areas for development

- 1.2 The report should be made available to elected members.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of members of the Board with information pertaining to the activity of the fostering and adoption panel.
- 1.4 In addition, the Panel Chairs are required to provide six monthly performance reports. This report contains a summary of these six monthly reports (see section 2.7).

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

### **Function of Fostering and Adoption Panels**

2.1 The primary functions of the fostering and adoption panels are to:

- Recommend the approval of prospective adoptive parents.
- Recommend the approval of prospective foster carers.
- Recommend the placing of children with approved adoptive parents (i.e. matching).
- Recommend the approval of adoption plans for relinquished children.

### **Fostering and Adoption Panels**

2.2 The Fostering and Adoption panels continue to make positive progress. As reported February 2016 the number of panels was reduced to three per month with a fourth panel held every quarter. This has enabled Panel to meet as demand requires, affording flexibility and responsiveness to need in a cost efficient manner.

In June to November 2016 we recruited three new panel members, who replaced those who were not able to commit to the role. The new members have enhanced the diversity and representative nature of panels including the voice of young adopted adults.

A new Panel Chair's checklist been introduced which includes the Panel providing considered and detailed feedback to the Agency on the timeliness and quality of every report and assessment presented to Panel. The Panel Advisor then confirms this feedback to presenting social workers and their manager. There has been a noted improvement in the quality of reports presented to Panel during the period, see section 2.6 and 2.7.

In the summer of 2016 the Children in Care Council ran an interactive workshop around fostering and adoption panels; one outcome of which was questions that the children felt should be asked of prospective adopters and foster carers. Each panel now identifies 2 to 3 appropriate questions from the list, produced by the CICC, which are directly asked of prospective adopters and foster carer's whose assessments and applications are being considered by panel. There has been interest from other Agency's in this innovative way of ensuring that the voice of these young people is present when considering prospective foster carers and adopters.

2.3 The merging of the Fostering and Adoption panels, which came into effect in September 2013, continues to be effective and offers availability and flexibility in regard to allocating time slots for cases to be heard.

2.4 The following is statistical information detailing the activity of the panel, according to the types of cases that have been presented.

### Fostering and Adoption Panel Activity April – Nov 2016

**Table 1 – Adoption Statistics**

	April 2016 – June 2016	July 2016 – Sept 2016	Oct-Nov 2016	April–Nov 2016
Foster to Adopt	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Applications	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>
Matches (Nottm)	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b> children with <b>16</b> families
Matches (Intera Agency) [IA]	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b> children with <b>7</b> interagency families
Total matches	<b>7</b> children with <b>5</b> families	<b>12</b> children with <b>10</b> families	<b>9</b> children with <b>8</b> families	<b>28</b> Children with <b>23</b> families
Termination of approval	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 2 –Fostering Statistics**

	April 2016 – June 2016	July 2016 –Sept 2016	Oct 2016- Nov 2016	April 2016– Nov 2016
Mainstream Applications	5	4	2	11
Mainstream Deferral	0	0	0	0
Connected Persons ( CP)	2	6	1	9
Connected Persons Extensions	4	3	1	8
Annual Reviews	8	10	3	21
Reviews following concerns	1	0	0	1
FC Notification of Resignation	5	15	2	22
Termination of Approval	1	2	0	3
Change Of Approvals	1	3	1	5
Home From Home/Short breaks	0	0	1	1
Home from Home/short Termination /resignation	0	0	0	0

## Summary of Foster and Adoption Panel Activity April 2016 - Nov 2016:

- 47 cases presented to Panel April–June 2016 (10 Panels held)
  - 20 Adoption
  - 27 Fostering
- 65 cases presented to Panel July –Sept 2016 (10 Panels held)
  - 22 Adoption
  - 43 Fostering
- 26 cases presented to Panel Oct –Nov 2016 (6 Panels held)
  - 15 Adoption
  - 11 Fostering

## Quality of Reports

2.5 The period April 2016-Nov 2016 has been a busy period for Panels, with 138 cases being heard at panel. Panel membership has a strong balance of skill and experience representing diverse sectors of the community. The Panel displays a high degree of commitment and enthusiasm to the work, and ensure that high levels of scrutiny are applied to assessments with the focus always being on meeting the needs of children and safeguarding their welfare. The Panel further recognises the responsibility it has in balancing this with a need to ensure that applicants and staff feel welcome and respected by the Fostering and Adoption Panel.

The Fostering and Adoption panel will continue to evolve to accommodate changes in policy, procedure, guidance and legislation. To support panel members they will be provided with training and development opportunities, plus panel specific training annually.

The Panels as a whole have the opportunity, in addition to the direct feedback to the Agency on the quality of reports presented, to highlight any issues, concerns, themes and acknowledgments of outstanding practice which are then addressed via the panel advisor. Matters that are routinely addressed are the quality of reports to panel and completion of Life Story Books, as well as the robustness of adoption support plans; this is in line with the government guidelines that require us to address future support needs of adoptive children in particular.

2.6 The quality of reports presented to Fostering and Adoption panels continues to be strengthened along with the quality assurance role of managers prior to the reports being submitted to panel. The Panel Advisor of which there is now one, previously two, provides panels with the consistent quality assurance and advice that panels require in order to make recommendations. The four Panel Chairs and panel

members in their annual appraisals, completed September 2016, have all reported significant improvements in the quality of reports being presented to the Fostering and Adoption panels. However, there is still one or two assessment reports that fall below the expected standard. This continues to be addressed and monitored by the Fostering and Adoption Service and Core Assets, who have an established good working partnership with the express aim of offering a professional and comprehensive service to citizens applying to becoming either foster carers or adopters. Regular meetings with Core Assets have gone a long way to ensuring sustained improvement in the quality of output.

## **Summary of Panel Chair's reports**

2.7 As mentioned earlier the Panel Chairs are required to produce a six monthly performance report. The reports of all four panel chairs have highlighted the following;

### Strengths

- Adoption and Fostering reports are of good standard including some that are now outstanding
- Agency Decision Maker timescales are being met
- Child centred services to children and carers
- Good summary and analysis for matching children with adopters
- Continued Improvements in timescales for adoption and fostering assessments
- A single Panel Advisor providing consistent advice and quality assurance
- Meeting with Service Managers to address needs identified by panel members
- Panel Steering groups meet quarterly, and the panel chairs and vice chairs are invited to this meeting, and that this is a useful group to drive continued improvements in the service

Overall, Fostering and Adoption panels are working well and the Fostering and Adoption Service are working towards ensuring continuous improvements to the panel and the processes of panel. Issues raised will continue to be addressed in a timely manner.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None.

## **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 None.



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

6.1 None.

**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 proposals or financial decisions.

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

8.1 None.

**9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

9.1 BAAF, Effective Fostering Panels: Guidance on Regulations, Process and Good Practice in fostering panels in England (2015).

9.2 BAAF, Effective Adoption Panels: Guidance on Regulations, Process Practice and permanency panels in England (updated Sixth Edition) (2013).

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**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – JANUARY 2017**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	Racheal Osborne – CSE Coordinator & Missing Children’s Team Manager <a href="mailto:racheal.osborne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">racheal.osborne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0115 8761203	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)</b>		
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>		
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"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
<p>Continued development of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) action plan that includes training for staff, parents, carers, and the community. Awareness raising for children and young people and information sharing where there are worries around possible CSE.</p> <p>Continued development of multiagency sexual exploitation group (MASE).</p> <p>Working within the guidelines of the Regional Standards.</p> <p>CSE co-ordinator appointed who also manages the Missing Children’s Team.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	To note the performance in the current action plan.	
<b>2</b>	To note proposed future developments.	

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition.

The Corporate Parenting Board received an update in this area in February 2016, specifically on;

- The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel
- The CSE Coordinators role
- The CSE Cross Authority Group
- The Regional Standards

- 1.2 This report will inform the Board of the actions to-date, particularly in relation to raising awareness and building a workforce confident and competent in recognising CSE risks and will highlight areas for future development. The proposals noted in this report ensure that children at risk of CSE are identified and supported to reduce risks, and that other children and young people, both those in local authority care and the wider community have access to awareness raising opportunities.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

### **2.1 Local Arrangements**

In Nottingham City we have had for many years a robust framework of policy procedure and practice in relation to CSE. This was further strengthened in August 2015 through the development of a Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation panel (MASE), chaired by the Director of Children's Integrated Services and is attended by local agencies. The purpose of the group is to track children at risk of CSE, and collate information relating to possible perpetrators and adults of concern as well as locations. The panel is held monthly and ensures that all members have a 'picture' of what is happening in Nottingham City in relation to CSE.

Nottingham City has also played a key role, both operationally and politically to develop regional standards. These were initially the focus of a regional event in October 2015. There was a further annual meeting in November 2016 to look at the progress that has been made. There were clear areas of development and improvement made by Local Authorities in the region and the regional CSE leads group will continue to take this work forward.

The post of CSE Co-ordinator was appointed to in September 2015. The CSE Co-ordinator takes the operational lead in driving practice and learning, as well as developing the operational responses to the work plan. In addition, the CSE Co-ordinator manages the Missing Children's Team, and authorises all return interviews across the city which enables swift identification and intervention for any young people at risk of CSE.

In addition the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group [CSECAG] is a sub-group of the Nottingham Safeguarding Children Board and has continued to meet at least bi-monthly to progress the child sexual exploitation strategy. CSECAG are accountable to the Safeguarding Children's Boards at both the City and the County, to provide a strategic overview of inter-agency working and its impact on the prevention and protection of children sexually exploited, or at risk of sexual exploitation. The work plan has 4 strands, which are continually reviewed. It was agreed that 'Recovery' will be added as a strand in the updated work plan; this is in the process of being done. The current strands consist of:

- **Prepare** – strong leadership, effective systems and partnership working to tackle CSE
- **Prevent** – raising awareness of CSE
- **Protect** – safeguarding vulnerable children and support victims, families and professionals who seek to reduce CSE
- **Pursue** – disrupting and prosecuting offenders ensuring a victim centred approach

In Nottingham we also have The Concerns Network Meeting (CNM) which offers staff the opportunity to share emerging concerns/worries about a child/adult with a view to preventing or disrupting any risks of sexual exploitation. It also collects intelligence relating to specific localities of interest. The CNM has grown in attendance and includes managers from Children's Care Homes, local youth centres, and representatives from the Missing Children's Team, Youth Offending Team, NSPCC, Health, Police, Social Care and Priority Families, Housing, Taxi Licensing and the voluntary sector. This network was highlighted in the September 2016 issue of the Home Office Bulletin as best practice.

## 2.2 Activity since the previous report

### **Prepare**

In February 2016 we conducted a workshop in partnership with the NSPCC called 'Have Your Say' with 7 young people who had been involved in CSE. They came together to give their views about services. The findings from the workshop have been shared at the MASE panel and will assist with future planning of work and how interventions are delivered with individual children and groups.

A procedural flow chart has been developed and will be disseminated to all agencies, both statutory and voluntary, across the city. This will ensure a coherent approach to identifying CSE and gives clear guidance on what to do.

The NCSCB has recently worked with the Children in Care Council to develop an E Safety strategy which contains information about trusted sources of information for parents/carers and young people,

The CSECAG has developed a multi-agency communication strategy, enabling a co-ordinated response to raising awareness and supporting events and campaigns, sharing best practice and evaluating success. This has been agreed by both the City and the County.

We are currently working with colleagues in Community Protection to ensure effective information sharing and plan to strengthen this by exploring how information from MASE can be shared in the Joint Tasking that takes place between Community Protection and the Police.

### **Prevent – raising awareness of CSE**

There has been continued training and awareness raising for staff, carers and young people including the voluntary and community sectors. The cross-authority multi-agency training strategy supported three face to face multi-agency training events during 2015/16 to 148 delegates, building on extensive previous years' training. The core e-learning programme has continued to be promoted and a further 1,298 courses have been completed

Other activities aimed at staff have included

- A range of activities linked to the national day of action in March 2016. This culminated in an event showcasing local work, which was opened by the Lead Member
- Briefings for Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools
- Briefing events for GPs and other health professionals
- Specific CSE training delivered to Magistrates who sit in the Youth Courts to assist with the recognition of CSE and presenting behaviours, which may lead to victims of CSE being criminalised.
- Lunchtime seminars have been delivered by a social care Service Manager and a colleague from the NSPCC. The seminars enable staff members to discuss concerns relating to specific cases, share good practice and raise their awareness of issues related to CSE and sexual harm.

Further CSE training has been delivered via 'Broken Dreams' to 797 professional and volunteer staff across the City, including teaching assistants in schools, colleges, PCSOs, security staff, foster carers and hospital staff, and those working with children in the community and in residential care

Operation Make Safe continues and training has been delivered to Hotels, Ice Stadium, Taxi Firms and Public Houses across Nottingham. This will continue, with the addition of developing safeguarding leads within each sector. Nottingham City is the only Local Authority that has worked alongside the Security Industry Authority to develop and deliver specific CSE training to private security staff to enable them to become further 'eyes and the ears' in the community. This has led to private companies starting to identify safeguarding leads within their firms to act as a single point of contact for other employees

In addition, training has been undertaken with 15 hotels this year within Nottingham City and 2,030 taxi drivers have undertaken safeguarding training as part of their licence application process to date. Work is nearing completion to further strengthen this by introducing a test, which drivers must pass in order to re-new their licence

Work has continued with partners in the voluntary sector in both promoting what action is being taken in the City regarding preventing and investigating CSE as well as developing links with groups that could offer support services.

The theatre production LUVU2 has been rolled out to schools, colleges, alternative provisions as well as young people in care, community and youth centres. There will be further sessions this academic year and there has been a good response from City schools. There has been a steady increase in the number of schools accessing this performance. To date this academic year 16 city funded performances have been booked with a further 8 additional independently funded performances. We also plan to contact each school who has not commissioned a performance to ask them to confirm what they are doing with their pupils to highlight the potential risks of CSE.

Letters have recently been issued to parents and children attending City Schools to highlight E-Learning specific to CSE. This tool is available on the Nottingham City and the Nottingham Safeguarding Children's Board websites.

**Protect** – safeguarding vulnerable children and support victims, families and professionals who seek to reduce CSE

The CSE risk assessment toolkit has recently been updated in partnership with Nottinghamshire to ensure there is a robust assessment which will address cross boundary issues. This toolkit is also going to replace the current risk assessment which Nottinghamshire Police use so that all relevant agencies are working to the same agenda. As a Local Authority we have identified further risk factors (for example siblings who may have been involved in CSE) and these elements have now been added to the toolkit. It is used by staff to assist in risk management. This tool is shared with the CSE Coordinator so that discussions can take place relating to young people at risk of CSE and safeguarding plans are reviewed. These cases will be reviewed at the MASE panel where appropriate.

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) continue to chair strategy meetings where there are concerns regarding CSE risk. For most part these meetings are chaired by the Principle Manager of the IRO team to ensure continuity. The CSE Coordinator will also attend a high percentage of these meetings. Before any strategy meeting the allocated worker is requested to complete a CSE risk assessment toolkit which will highlight the risk factors. From these meetings the data monitoring tool is completed and the information from this is added to the police held data base CARoSE (Children At Risk of Sexual Exploitation). This information is shared monthly with social care to ensure that both agencies are aware of the same children and young people and that there are appropriate plans in place.

The data monitoring tool and the CSE risk assessment toolkit have been uploaded onto the electronic recording system Liquid Logic. By recording the information in this way it will allow the authority to collate information regarding CSE in a more meaningful and useable manner, and for that information to be used both operationally and in strategic planning.

The NSPCC project 'Protect & Respect' continues to work with young people in order to disrupt and protect from sexual harm. The CSE Coordinator works closely with the NSPCC specialist Team Manager from Protect and Respect to ensure the service is being accessed by relevant children and young people. To date the full Protect and Respect programme has been delivered to 32 young people in the last

8 months.

(April – end of November), 6 more cases are to be allocated before the end of December. There have been referrals for 50 young people for 1-1 work into the service (April – 7<sup>th</sup> Dec) and CSE group work has been completed with 50 young people who are vulnerable to CSE (April – Dec). Protect and Respect have also provided consultation to 20 local authority staff & private staff working in residential care, TFST and social workers on direct practice in supporting young people involved in CSE.

**Pursue** – disrupting and prosecuting offenders ensuring a victim centred approach

Discussions take place at the MASE in relation to possible perpetrators and adults of concern. This has assisted with the development of a database of information relating to offenders and potential offenders. It assists with mapping issues across the city and supports professionals in understanding/identifying what leads people to offend in this way. In addition this has supported the identification of links between offenders and the possibility of young people being trafficked across the city and wider. This information is shared with members of the panel and each agency will do individual checks on any named adult and share information they hold.

The Assessment of Sexual Harm Arrangements (ASHA) is a meeting which takes place every three weeks to discuss cases of harmful sexual behaviour perpetrated by children under the age of 18 years. This offers a platform for identifying worrying behaviours and assists with the profiling of potential adult offenders. This panel is chaired by the CSE Coordinator. Nottingham City have also taken part in an NSPCC pilot to develop a National Framework for assessing young people who present harmful sexual behaviour. This will enable consistent approaches and interventions in such cases and would assist in the identification of possible future perpetrators.

Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) can be issued to specific adults in relation to children perceived to be at risk from that adult. CAWNs are issued by the police, authorised by an inspector or above and prohibit the adult from contact (direct or via social media) with the child. If the notice is breached, the police can arrest the adult for child abduction. Breach of this notice can carry up to 7 years imprisonment so they are a good deterrent as most adults comply with the notice. From January 2015 to date there have been 80 CAWNs issued by Nottinghamshire police, of these 22 relate to Nottingham City children (these were issued to 20 adults residing in the city and 2 adults residing in the county).

The Missing Children's Team is also influential in identifying cases of concern and highlighting such cases within Social Care.

### **Future Actions:**

The next steps will include the following:

- Continue to embed the working practices of the MASE panel to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.



- Working with regional CSE leads and tier 2 management group in progressing agreed regional standards
- Working with regional Local Authorities to provide more robust reporting of children who go missing from and in other areas.

### **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None.

### **4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

4.1 The CSE Coordinator Post is funded by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board until July 2017. Discussions are underway to secure funding beyond this point.

### **5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None.

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

6.1 None.

### **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 needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial assessments.

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

8.1 None.

### **9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

9.1 None.

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**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – JANUARY 2017**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Reducing Offending Behaviour	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	Natalie Pink - Case Manager, Nottingham Youth Offending Team (YOT) 0115 9159400 PC Sam Flint - Children in Care Police Officer (CiCPO) Nottinghamshire Police 0115 8763735	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Boyd Livingstone - YOT Analyst Nick Orders - Performance and Early Intervention Manager, YOT Shelley Nicholls - Strategic Lead, YOT	

<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)</b>	
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<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>	
Strategic Regeneration and Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services	<input checked="" 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"/>

<p><b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further reduction of offending behaviour within the children in care (CiC) population.</li> <li>• Use of a draft multi-agency Protocol in Nottingham City, led by Nottinghamshire Police, to reduce the criminalisation of CiC. Progress towards sign-off for Nottingham City via YOT Partnership Board.</li> <li>• Continuation of the Arrest Screening Programme for CiC.</li> <li>• Move from Network Meetings, co-chaired by the CiCPO and YOT Lead for CiC, towards Practitioner Forums for Local Authority and private children’s homes.</li> <li>• Senior Management liaison between Nottingham City Council and other Local Authorities placing complex young people in the City.</li> <li>• Update on training provision offered by CiCPO and YOT to Local Authority and Private children’s homes.</li> <li>• Publication of <i>‘In Care, Out of Trouble’</i> (2016), the Lord Laming Review, by the Prison Reform Trust and Charlie Taylor Review of Youth Justice (pending at time of writing).</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	
<b>1</b>	To recognise the further reduction of offending behaviour within the CiC population in the financial year 2015-16.
<b>2</b>	To recognise the importance of the role of CiCPO and YOT Lead in working together to reduce offending and safeguard CiC.
<b>3</b>	To support the YOT Board, who propose to formally recognise and adopt the Multi Agency Protocol (currently in draft form), to reduce the criminalisation of CiC for Nottingham City, working towards its adoption as a cross-authority protocol.
<b>4</b>	To note the continued drive for early identification and intervention in offending within the CiC population, to target resources and inform service development, and embed the use of restorative approaches to reduce the risk of offending across residential and foster care settings. This mirrors the YOT Plan 2016-17.
<b>5</b>	To support a self-assessment process, by Nottingham City Council, working with the Children in Care and Care Leavers Council and partners, to review our performance against the recommendations of 'In Care, Out of Trouble' (2016), Lord Laming's Review by the Prison Reform Trust. To consider findings and recommendations in light of the pending Charlie Taylor Review, in order to improve outcomes for our CiC and CL.

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1.1** It is proposed that the role of CiCPO and YOT Lead, working in close partnership, is a model of best practice, and this has been recognised by repeat Ofsted inspections. Other cities have looked to Nottingham City with a view to replicating this model. Nottingham City is the only known authority where a CiCPO and YOT Lead work in close collaboration, and this work has contributed to a marked reduction in offending within the CiC population over time.

**1.2** Formal sign-off of the existing draft multi-agency protocol and complementary tools by the YOT Board will enable its further promotion across services, provide accountability to carers and young people and improve confidence in reflective practice and decision making.

**1.3** By developing and promoting earlier identification and intervention, and improved 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.

**1.4** Late 2015 the YOT Lead for CiC, with input from the CiC/CL Council and colleagues, provided a submission on behalf of NCC, to an Independent Review process, Chaired by Lord Laming, looking at how life chances for CiC can be improved by protecting them from criminalisation. 'In Care, Out of Trouble' (2016) ([www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview)) has made a significant number of recommendations for policy and practice in this area. Review of our provision enables us as a City to continue to develop or refine our practice in line with these

recommendations. This will need to be set against the findings of the Charlie Taylor whole-scale Review of Youth Justice and continued cuts in funding streams.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

**2.1** National reporting data for the financial year 2014/2015 was published in December 2015 and reported at the Board in January 2016. This demonstrated a continued reduction from 2014 of 2.2 percentage points to 6.0% of the CiC population aged 10-17 having received a Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or conviction within the year. Significantly, this moved Nottingham City out of the worst performing quartile of local authorities to the second best for this indicator.

**2.2** For the financial year 2015/16, Nottingham City has reported a figure of 5.8% for the same measure. Nottingham City maintained its place in the second best performing 'quartile' in this area. The Local Measure, which reports on all CiC who have offended, regardless of time spent in care, follows a similar pattern to National reporting figures. This shows a continued reduction in offending among the CiC population and it is noted that the lower the reported figure, the more difficult any further reduction is to achieve. This is set in the wider context of increasing national offending rates for the youth population. Comparative data was published in December 2016 through the Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT), and shows our year on year improvement in this area over time (please note the 6.0% figure shown is a rounded figure, the figure we reported is 5.8%).

**2.3 Specialist roles:** The role of the CiCPO continues to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council, with the CiCPO located within a Social Care/YOT building. All workers within this building are to be relocated to as yet unknown premises by March 2017.

**2.4** The YOT remains committed to having a Lead for CiC. This role has been covered during a period of maternity leave, however statutory responsibilities, the introduction of ASSET+ as a new assessment system and budget reductions meant a focus upon core work with no case-load reduction. The YOT Lead returned November 2016 part-time in a Case Management post with a caseload restriction, given the CiC responsibilities outlined.

**2.5 CiC Arrest Screening:** The difficulty of early and effective identification of CiC on arrest was identified as a concern in 2015, and an Arrest Screening Programme devised to pro-actively divert CiC from prosecution where appropriate. The YOT Lead cross references daily arrest sheets with Social Care records to identify CiC following arrest, and puts the Officer in Charge in touch with the team around the child, to consider opportunities for diversion where suitable. Where prosecution is appropriate, this promotes the use of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) 10 point checklist, in order that the Court can make an informed decision as to how to proceed and prevent unnecessary adjournments (the CPS are asking for an adjournment in cases where this information is not available at first hearing.) Increasingly homes have prepared this information in advance of police requesting this, which assists in timely and informed outcomes. Work is ongoing with the YOT Data Analyst to integrate Social Care and YOT information on a routine basis, to aid and assist early intervention and support.

**2.6 Training:** The CiCPO and YOT Lead facilitated a training day for Local Authority and private providers in 2016, with attendees benefiting from presentations including

PREVENT, Child Sexual Exploitation and the Concerns Network Meeting, sexual health and Lifeline Journey. Evaluation gave a very positive response. The CiCPO worked with the YOT Police Officer to deliver training to Student Police Officers and Student Social Workers in September 2016.

- 2.7** The CiCPO has previously provided training to representatives of the fire service, foster carers, Community Protection Officers, City Centre Hotels and venues around Child Sexual Exploitation and intelligence sharing via the Concerns Network Meeting. In September 2016 the CiCPO will be training security staff at NCC, pubs, clubs and fast food outlets.
- 2.8** The YOT achieved a Restorative Justice Quality Mark in 2016 demonstrating its commitment to quality provision throughout the service. A Restorative Justice training programme is offered to all Local Authority and private children's homes by the YOT Lead for Restorative Justice. All Local Authority homes received initial training in the subject in 2015 and have been offered opportunity to progress this learning. Despite some interest, there has been limited take up of this opportunity during 2016. The YOT Lead has provided consultation and some direct work with young people through the year.
- 2.9** The CiCPO has developed an 'Admission and Discharge' form for private providers, which is shared with her, the Placements Team and Missings Team. This enables appropriate professionals to have an awareness of young people in our area, who may be in out of county placements, and may or may not be allocated to local services, in order to highlight any needs, risks and vulnerabilities that may assist in the management of risk.
- 2.10** Such pieces of work complement and inform a pro-active approach by Senior Management within Nottingham YOT, Children's Services and Nottinghamshire Police to address an identified concern for complex young people placed within the City by other Local Authorities. Members of Senior Management liaise with contemporaries in placing Local Authorities, in order to address any challenges and mitigate any risks associated with such placements. This is supported by Caretaking Policies that ensure necessary and timely information is provided by home Local Authorities, to effectively manage risk and vulnerability. Where concerns are identified, Escalation Policies work to highlight and address these at an appropriate level. Individual examples of good practice in caretaking cases from out of area were highlighted by the YOT Inspection 2016.
- 2.11 Protocol:** Led by Nottinghamshire Police, the CiCPO and YOT Lead have worked alongside the CPS, Service Managers for CiC and Placements with the aim of developing a cross-authority protocol, with a view to reducing the criminalisation of CiC, embedding restorative justice and early intervention. This is distributed as a draft within the city. While it is hoped this can be adopted as a cross-authority protocol, and efforts have been made to achieve this over time, there are no equivalent CiC specialist posts in the County and further consideration will be required to ensure this protocol meets the needs of the County. The YOT Board considered this document at their meeting in October and agreed to table this at the next Board meeting in January 2017, with the aspiration of signing-off any amendments required for Nottingham City.
- 2.12** The YOT Lead developed complementary 'traffic light' practice tools in conjunction with the CiC and CL Council and partners, to communicate the principles of the

Protocol to young people, enable them to participate and reflect upon any risk management needs and demonstrate our accountability to young people. They provide a framework of 'what we can expect from each other', structured debrief where incidents do not require prosecution, and equip CiC with information around consequences of offending in preparation for adulthood. Signs of Safety and Restorative Approaches are incorporated. Carers tell us these tools are now widely used across Local Authority and private providers, with very good feedback received. Carers say they appreciate the accessibility of the tools, which provide opportunities for further resources (at an appropriate level), or prompts to refer to services where additional support is required. Once signed-off the protocol will benefit from training in order to promote it's spirit and consistent practice.

**2.13** Where there is an identified risk of offending, and to prevent young people becoming first time entrants to statutory Youth Justice services, young people, including CiC, have access to the preventative resources of the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Team. Referrals are made and suitability discussed at area based Young People's Panels. This is a diverse team who is skilled in engaging challenging adolescents, with whom other statutory services have often struggled to engage. Workers within this team hold areas of special interest, one being CiC. This new development assists in the delegation of tasks and personal development.

**2.14 Network Meetings:** These meetings are chaired by the CiCPO and YOT Lead, with each provider invited to two per year. They are used as a preventative resource to identify any concerns or themes around offending in Local Authority/private provision, ensure good communication and sign post as appropriate. Resources are promoted and best practice shared. Given the increasing need for efficiency, two providers are now invited to attend each meeting. Where there is more than one provider, individual cases are not discussed within the body of the meeting, and there is a confidentiality policy in place. Positively this has proved successful, with providers appreciating the opportunity to share learning or training opportunities. We shall look to extend this further and resume inviting speakers to give presentations in a Practitioner Forum.

### **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None

### **4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

**4.1** The post of CiCPO is jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. Reduction of offending and missing reports has both a short and long term financial benefit across the Authority and partners, as well as safeguarding CiC and improving outcomes. We have observed that police reorganisation of provision has impacted on officers' ability to have relationships with homes, or provide non-emergency support to them or the CiCPO. Where homes do not have a known PCSO this further reduces resources available to them for prevention and diversion. Police resource contained within the YOT will continue support and develop the objective of reducing the criminalisation of CiC.

**4.2** The YOT Lead role is a specialism incorporated within a three day Case Management post. Whilst the YOT continue to be committed to having a YOT Lead post, the

continuation of this provision could be placed at risk through funding cuts, and the need to focus upon core services.

4.3 "The rate at which a minority of children move from care into the criminal justice system is not inevitable..." Good practice can dramatically reduce the long term costs that arise when young people get sucked into the criminal justice system unnecessarily – one study calculated a return of £3.41 for every £1 invested.' (*In Care, Out of Trouble 2016*)

4.4 Training in restorative approaches is provided to Local Authority homes by the YOT Restorative Justice Lead free of charge. A competitive fee is charged to private providers, which supports the capacity of YOT to continue specialist posts.

## 5 **LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT 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 is considered instrumental in consolidating and building upon work in this area to date, in an effort to strive for better outcomes for CiC in Nottingham. The CiCPO role has always been a sole post; with a wealth of specialist knowledge there remains a risk in the longer term should the post-holder move on. The CiCPO remains a serving Police Officer, and therefore can be, and is on occasion, called upon to attend specific events or operations. Whilst joint funding of the role minimises this risk, these duties can take them away from their CiC focus.

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

6.1 None

## 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)

The report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

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

8.1 Appendix 1: (Draft) Joint Protocol Between; Children & Young Peoples Services, Nottinghamshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service and Nottingham City and County Youth Offending Teams.

8.2 Appendix 2: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT).



9 **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

9.1 *'In Care, Out of Trouble'* (2016) [www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview)

9.2 *'Charlie Taylor Review'* [www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-youth-justice-system](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-youth-justice-system)

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**Joint Protocol Between;  
Children & Young Peoples Services,  
Nottinghamshire Police, Crown  
Prosecution Service and  
Nottingham City and County Youth  
Offending Teams**

**To assist in the determination of an effective and proportionate Police involvement if required in children's homes and semi independent placements. To prevent unnecessary criminalisation of children in care.**

**Created By**  
**Sgt Deborah Barton- Notts Police**  
**PC Sam Flint-Notts Police**  
**Natalie Pink- NCC YOT**  
**Joanne Reynolds –CPS**

**Supported by**  
**Insp James Woolley-Notts Police**  
**Sharon Clarke- NCC Children’s Social Care**  
**Shelley Nicholls- NCC YOT**

## **B**ackground

It is recognised that the vast majority of young people that enter the care system do not exhibit criminal behaviour and never become subject of police investigation. However, this group of young people are disproportionately represented in the Justice System and yet are society's most vulnerable children and young people.

This protocol is intended to provide guidance and support for decision making when a looked after child commits an act deemed inappropriate or criminal. It provides a structure to aid the level of response that should be made to address that behaviour.

The protocol and guidance takes due cognisance of the Crown Prosecution Services guidance "The CPS: Youth Offenders" , ACPO guidance on Out of Court Disposals and ACPO Children and Young People Strategy and OFSTED framework for inspection of Children's Homes 2015.

### **1. Introduction**

It is anticipated that the standardised approaches and guidance contained within the protocol will act as a framework for ensuring and embedding good practice for working with looked after children.

The protocol aims to strike a balance between the rights and needs of the children and young people who are looked after, the victim, the rights of carers and the providers decisions to instigate Police action.

The fact that carers report an incident does not mean that the police must follow pre-determined course of action, or in some cases any action at all. Wherever possible, as defined in this protocol, the action to be taken will be determined following discussions by all concerned, including, wherever possible, the young person, and any victim.

Carers will need to use their judgement about where the threshold for reporting to the police lies particularly if the information to hand is slight and the crime or suspected crime, is of a minor nature. Guides have been produced to assist in decision making \*( Appendix 1).

It is an expectation of this protocol that the police will provide a contact or local champion for carers as part of local policing arrangements.

Where ever possible regular liaison between local police and carers will also provide an opportunity to share more general views and information and to develop a better understanding of each agency's responsibilities and practices and build relationships.

It is the intention of this protocol to provide guidance around the options available and to emphasise the importance of flexibility in determining the most suitable option for dealing with some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

### **Requirement for Police involvement.**

The **nature** and **seriousness** of the incident should be considered before deciding whether to involve the Police immediately, at a later stage, or whether to involve them at all.

Communication between carers and the Police regarding the incident must be clear and factual.

### **Categories of Response**

It is recognised that caring for and managing vulnerable young people with a range of difficulties or challenging behaviours is an integral feature of residential social care. Carers will generally manage problematic situations within the home except where they are so severe that immediate Police involvement is essential to avoid physical assault on any person or excessive damage.

The protocol identifies three categories:

- **Internal**-considered low risk-no police involvement
- **Non immediate**- considered medium risk-requires scheduled police support and advice about the way forward.
- **Immediate**- high risk- requires immediate police investigation.

#### **“Internal” incidents-Low risk**

It is anticipated that relatively minor incidents will be addressed using a range of informal approaches that can include, behaviour contracts. Sanctions and or / restorative approaches. These may also be dealt with within regular community or house meetings and addressed with all residents of the home.

#### **“ Non-immediate”-Medium risk**

Is an incident where a crime has been committed and no immediate Police response is required. For example, where an incident of theft , assault or damage has occurred and there is no risk of re-occurrence or significant harm, the incident should be reported to the Registered Manager who then records the discussion with a carer if appropriate.

Foster carers should inform the child/young person’s social worker at the first opportunity to discuss the way forward.

The victim’s wishes should always be considered.

Where police advice and support is needed the Registered Manager should contact the local Police control room to request a delayed or scheduled visit.

Carers must be clear about their expectations of the police when reporting a 'non immediate' incident. E.g. Do they just want support in a matter that has already been investigated informally by the carers or do they want the police to investigate the crime. **(See crime recording below)** This is vital with regards to how the police initially record the incident.

Police taking a call for service must establish the reason for the call as in the paragraph above to prevent unnecessary police investigation or criminalisation of young people.

The preferred policed response to crime will be, Community Resolution, Cautions and Conditional Cautions options ( Out of Court Disposals) that are holistic. These are not part of an escalation process so allow the behaviour of the young person to be addressed without recourse to Court processes-

Carers need to be aware that all Out of Court Disposal methods mentioned in the previous paragraph do record a crime against an individual that can be released on Disclosure and Barring Scheme that could affect life chances later on.

### **“Immediate” - incidents High risk**

Incidents of violence or behaviours requiring an *immediate* Police response where children/young people or carers are at risk of immediate serious physical harm or where there is a risk of substantial damage to property or risk of significant disorder within the Home. In such situations carers should utilise the 999 system.

Carers will need to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to retain articles or preserve the scene of a crime relevant to any criminal allegations or potential Police investigations.

### **Disclosures**

Historic disclosures are considered 'serious' and should be reported through the police and social care systems at the earliest possible opportunity. However, they would not ordinarily require an immediate 999 response.

## **RECORDING**

### **Recording incidents by carers**

It is necessary for incidents to be accurately recorded to provide informed histories, assisting any assessments and liaison meetings.

All incidents must be recorded in the personal file for each young person and cross-referenced in the relevant log book.

### **The Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime states the following:**

“Whether to record - Except for offences dealt with by other agencies, any notifiable offence, which comes to the attention of the Police, should be recorded.

#### **And**

Offences dealt with by agencies other than the Police should not be recorded unless there has been a major contribution to the investigation by the Police,

“When to record – a crime should be recorded as soon as the decision to record has been made (or as soon as possible afterwards)”

To ensure compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules, offences that come to the notice of the Police must be recorded unless the matter has been dealt with by the other agency without a major contribution by the Police.

Therefore the requirement to record offences should be considered in conjunction with the desire to avoid unnecessary criminalisation of the young people in our care.

### **Recording of Internal incidents by carers**

Incidents that are considered suitable for internal resolution by carers or other agency, shall not be recorded as crimes by the Police. However, the Registered Manager should record full details according to social care arrangements

### **Recording of non immediate ” incidents by the Police**

Incidents, that are discussed by the police and Unit Manager at a scheduled meeting, need not be recorded as a crime related incident if the matter is being dealt with by the Unit Manager or other agency.



“Non immediate’incidents reported to the Unit Manager or foster carer, that are considered serious enough to warrant Police investigation rather than consultation, will be recorded as crimes, provided they meet the Home Office recording criteria.

### **Recording of “immediate ” incidents by the Police**

Given the immediate response aspect of this category, offences that come to the notice of the attending officers would be of such a nature as to **require** recording, unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances.

### **Prosecution requirements:- 10 point plan.**

When processing a young person in care for prosecution the following 10 point check list must form part of the prosecution information- CPS will not pursue a prosecution without adherence to this process.

The Checklist provides the investigation with a tool to assess that all other forms of disposal have been exhausted and sufficient information is available to CPS for a charging or prosecution decision.

Carers must provide the police with information to support the 10 point plan. Which should be completed jointly with the police, social worker or carer.

1	Disciplinary Policy of Children’s Home? Has the jointly agreed guidance been followed?
2	Why have the police been involved and is it as agreed in the policy? Evidence of factors taken into consideration.
3	Any informal action/disciplinary action already taken? Historic information about sanctions around the same offence
4	Any apology/reparation?
5	Victim’s views? Eg is the victim supportive of a prosecution
6	Social Worker’s views?
7	Care Plan for Looked After Child? Is there a move imminent?
8	Recent behaviour/incidents re looked after child?
9	Information about incident from looked after child (interview or other)? What are the thoughts of the young person about the incident and their own behaviour.
10	Aggravating and Mitigating Features?

## DECISION MAKING-

Factors to consider -These are in no particular order.

Consider:-

- Would a parent report such a matter to the police if it were in the child's own home?
- What does the victim really want?
- Reporting to the police does not automatically mean a prosecution but is likely to mean recording a crime against an individual.
- Severity of injury sustained/nature of threat received by victim.
- Potential impact on the child/young person following formal Police involvement.
- Future best interest of affected parties.
- Background of the child.
- Probability of a repeat incident.
- Previous relationship between victim and offender.
- Effectiveness of Police action/court proceedings- Can it be dealt with differently?
- Availability of alternative courses of action **with** consent of the victim, restorative approaches, informal sanctions –behaviour contracts.
- The child's communication skills and preferred method of communication
- Level/value of damage caused.
- Previous incidents of a similar nature by the same child or young person.- does this escalate the need for police involvement.
- Suitability and effectiveness of Police involvement
- Impact of Police involvement on the child's overall plan
- Referral to other agencies to address behaviour.

**Other factors:-**

### **Criminal Damage within the Home or to staff property**

The majority of incidents currently reported to the Police involve damage to property within the young person's Home. It is important to see these in the context of the needs of the child and whether a police investigation is an effective and proportionate response.

### **Violence by a child or young person on another**

Incidents between residents within the home can range from minor disagreements through to serious assaults where physical injury is caused. Having two vulnerable parties can complicate such incidents. Care staff will need to ensure that internal Health and Safety reporting and Anti-Bullying procedures are followed.

### **Violence towards carers by a child or young person**

Violence towards carers/residential care staff can vary from verbal threats to physical acts amounting to assault. Whilst each home has the responsibility of care toward the residents, and their staff everyone's welfare **must** be considered. Such incidents may be affected by factors similar to those listed above.

Where there is no immediate continuing threat of violence, it may be in the best interests of all to take time to discuss and consider possible options.

Following such incidents it is important that staff utilise standard debriefing processes and follow internal policies.

### **Theft within the Home**

Most offences within a home are likely to be of low value, although it should be emphasised that value is a subjective issue relative to a victim.

- Requirement for formal investigation (e.g. Insurance claim requires a report within 24 hours)
- An internal response can still attract a crime number. Police crime recording management systems disposal code 20 – 'dealt with by other agency.'

### **Disorder in or around the Home**

The area of disorder is subjective and requires judgement by staff to avoid unnecessary Police involvement for minor infringements of discipline. The main factors, that should be considered, are:

- The impact on the immediate community.
- The involvement of other agency e.g. Local Housing Officer, Outreach Youth Worker.
- Correct placement matching for the young people

### **Unwanted Visitors**

To avoid unnecessary Police involvement where a home receives unwanted visitors the home will exclude the visitor. Notify them in writing to inform them that their visits are unwanted. They should then notify a police officer to enable a record to be made on police systems.

## Substance Misuse

The misuse of controlled drugs within a Community Home is a serious issue and it is essential that the response is prompt and effective. In responding to incidents, carers will be guided by the Government's tackling Drugs Together Strategy, which proposes collaborative action to:

1. Reduce the acceptability and availability of alcohol and other drugs to young people.
2. Minimise the health risks and other damage associated with substance use by the young people.
3. Increase the safety of communities from drug-related crime.

Residential staff will need to balance these principles with their duty of care for the young people in the Home, and their role in managing young people's behaviour as part of their responsibilities, as well as their responsibilities to the wider community. In practice residential staff should inform the Police if it established that a young person is using illegal substances or illegal substances are found on the premises.

It is important that all action taken is recorded.

All materials should be removed from the young person. Drugs and drug-related materials should be stored securely in a safe, if available, before handing to the Police at the local police station.

These should **not** be disposed of by staff but can be handed over for disposal **without identifying the name of the young person** and no further Police action will be undertaken. The signature of the Police Officer removing the materials should be obtained.

A record of the removal should be kept by staff, that includes:

- The time and date the material is placed in secure storage
- A name of the person removing the material
- A description of the material
- The circumstances of the removal
- The time and date of the removal
- The signature of the person putting the article in to the storage countersigned by a second member of staff
- The time and date the material was removed by the Police
- The name and signature of the Police Officer removing the material

To ensure that controlled substances are not being stored in a Children's home any longer than is necessary it is important that every effort is made to ensure the Police attend at the earliest convenient time.

The officer attending is then responsible for recovering the suspected controlled substance into Police possession and if appropriate, conducting any subsequent investigation in line with existing Police policy.

Care Staff can dispose of alcohol and canisters but it is important that the disposal is witnessed and a record kept, which includes:

- A name of the person removing the material
- A description of the material
- The circumstances of the removal
- The time and date of the removal
- The time and date of disposal
- The name of the person instigating the disposal

Diversion and intervention for young people must be immediately addressed regarding substance misuse and Social Worker informed. **A referral to a drugs worker must be made by staff and social worker ASAP.**

## **Weapons**

Where-ever possible and depending on risk, the weapon should be removed from the young person. Where a weapon is subject of a police investigation it should be stored securely before handing to the Police.

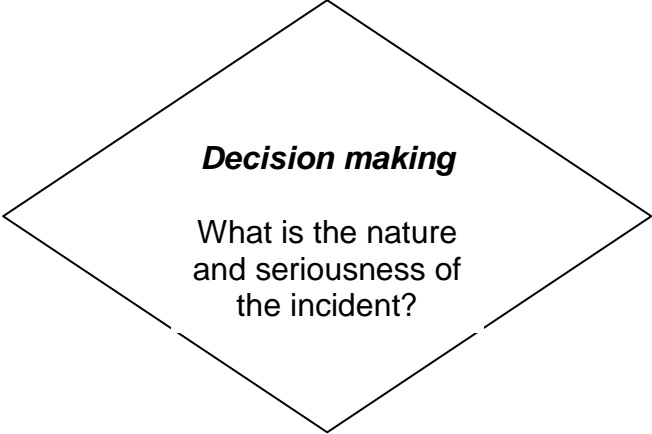
Where not subject of any police investigation these may be disposed of by staff or handed over for police disposal. However, where appropriate contact should be made with local police to ensure the information is recorded on police intelligence systems. The signature of the Police Officer removing any materials should be obtained.

## **Intelligence/data sharing**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It is vital in the prevention of offending and criminalisation, and protection of vulnerable young people that agencies develop and maintain an environment of information sharing.

- Information about probation hostels where they are in the vicinity of Children's Homes.
- Areas identified as used by drug dealers in the locality of the home
- Sex offenders living in or near residential homes.
- Young people who are active criminals or believed to be criminally active
- Those young people identified as criminally active being monitored including recording their clothing, times in and out of the home
- Any property appearing without formal recognition or identification.
- Sharing information where young people are a risk to the community  
Sharing information where young people may be at risk of CSE.  
(Concerned Network meeting)
- Unwanted visitors

**INCIDENT**



*Low risk*  
**No Police Involvement**

Internal Resolution

*Med risk*  
**Non immediate**  
*Discussion with police*

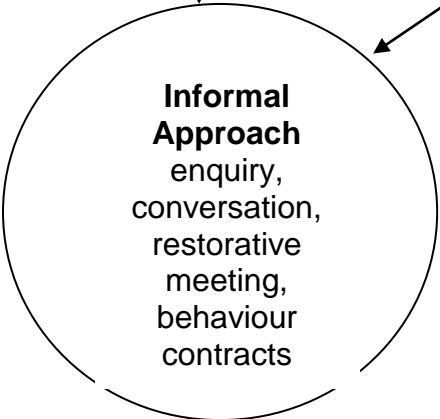
Police Consultation, Partnership approach

*High risk*  
**Immediate Police Response Required**  
(Unless historic disclosure)

Formal Investigation

If Charge-10 pt Plan

If deemed appropriate Court Process



Always consider TYS team referral/Lifeline referral etc.

Re-integration processes. Restorative approaches, mediation. Page 46

## **Monitoring the Protocol**

To evaluate compliance with the protocol liaison should be held between the local Police Authority, Social Services Unit Managers, Placement Service Managers and Youth Offending Service.

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:

For Nottinghamshire Police

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:

For Home Managers

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:

For Nottingham City Youth Offending Service

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:

For Nottingham City Children's and Young Peoples Service

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:

For Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:

For Nottinghamshire Children's and Young Peoples Service

**Signed:**

Dated:

Name:


For Crown Prosecution Service Nottingham



## Task/Implementation List;

Action	Complete	By Whom	When
All agencies sign off			
Training/awareness Children's Home staff			
Training/awareness Children's Home residents			
Training/awareness police Officers		Internal proceses	
Training/awareness Crown Prosecution service		Internal processes	
Regular Liaison		Police officers and care home	

## Draft: What we can expect of each other



**Internal  
No police response  
required**

*E.g. Testing boundaries, 'minor' damage*



**No immediate police  
response required**

*E.g. No ongoing risk of harm.  
Repeated / worsening behavior*



**Immediate response  
required**

*E.g. Serious assault or damage where a  
person / people are at risk of harm*

**Action**

- Carers manage situation, refer back to this agreement



**Action**

- Discuss behavior with Manager/Supervising Social Worker
- Record behaviour



**Action**

- 999
- Once staff and young people are safe, record behavior and inform Social Worker/EDT and YOT worker if there is one



- Informal restorative justice, agree sanctions/actions
- Record action
- Inform social worker / YOT worker if there is one
- Invitation to police to support internal actions, consider preventative support

- Discussion with the police (Beat manager PCSO, CiC Officer) and team around the young person
- Decision for police investigation, restorative justice or preventative work
- Record decision and outcome on young person's records

- **Police Investigation**

Charge to court: restorative justice will be considered as part of any sentence

No charge. Consider restorative justice or preventative work

Regular contact and meetings between carers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams to build relationships and communication

This shows the process that your carers will go through when thinking about how to respond if there is behaviour that needs to be challenged in your home, so that everyone can feel safe and supported. This process will be used in Nottingham City, in foster care, Local Authority and private homes so that everyone is treated in the same way.

**Rights:** Young people and carers have the right to;

- Be respected
- Feel safe
- For their belongings to be their own
- To have a voice and speak out

You are able to contact:

NYAS

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Nottinghamshire Police: 101 or 999 in an emergency (if you or someone else is in danger)

**Draft: Things to consider...**

*The following factors should be considered when deciding what action to take when there has been unacceptable behaviour by a child or young person.*

**The list is not exhaustive, and does not reflect any order of priority:**

- Nature and seriousness of the allegation
- Severity of any injury/threat received by the victim
- Wishes and best interest of the victim
- Previous incidents of a similar nature by the same child or young person
- Does the response need escalating?
- Previous relationship between victim and offender
- Previous behaviour or offending, bullying/peer pressure/duress
- Probability of a repeat incident
- Potential impact of formal police involvement on the child / young person
- Views of carers, Social Worker and other professionals including health & YOT where appropriate
- View of Beat Manager or CiC Police Officer
- Appropriateness of police action / court proceedings
- Future best interest of all parties concerned
- Message sent to other young people / confidence in being able to report crimes and in knowing they may not result in court proceedings
- Availability of alternative courses of action, e.g. restorative approaches with the consent of the victim, referral to the Youth Offending Service
- Level / Value of damage caused
- Requirement for formal investigation, e.g. insurance claim requires a crime reference report
- Potential impact on the young person, the placement or home including staff and residents if the behaviour escalates or is repeated or the young person has previously displayed this behaviour.
- The availability of any diversionary activity
- Reparation ideas (work best where come from young people and linked to offence)
- Could include: Tidying up mess caused, helping to fix damage, sit down meeting, letter of apology, chores etc.

**Draft: How do you feel now?**

Where would you score what happened using the Signs of Safety scale and why?



**Internal  
No police response**

**Signs of Safety  
score 7-10 (No risk)**

*E.g. Testing boundaries, 'minor' damage*  
Why?.....  
.....  
.....



**No immediate police  
response**

**Signs of Safety  
score 4-6**

*E.g. No ongoing risk of harm.  
Repeated / worsening behavior*  
Why?.....  
.....  
.....



**Immediate response**

**Signs of Safety score  
1-3 (Most risk)**

*E.g. Serious assault or damage where  
a person / people are at risk of harm*  
Why?.....  
.....  
.....

**Action**

- Carers manage situation, refer back to this agreement

**Action**

- Discuss behavior with Manager/Supervising Social Worker
- Record behaviour

**Action**

- 999
- Once staff and young people are safe, record behavior and inform Social Worker/EDT and YOT worker if there is one

- Informal restorative justice, agree sanctions,
- Record action
- Inform social worker / YOT worker if there is one
- Invitation to police to support internal actions, consider preventative support

- Discussion with the police (Beat manager PCSO, CiC Officer) and team around the young person
- Decision for police investigation, restorative justice or preventative work
- Record decision and outcome on young person's records

- **Police Investigation**

Charge to court: restorative justice will be considered as part of any sentence

No charge. Consider restorative justice or preventative work

**Regular contact and meetings between carers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams to build relationships and communication**

**To the person/s harmed (if present):**

**harm/conflict:**

What happened?

What were you thinking? Then? Now?

Now?

What has been the hardest thing for you?

What do you need to help repair the harm/  
the harm/

**To the person causing**

What happened?

What were you thinking? Then?

How were you feeling? Then? Now?

What do you need to do to repair

resolve this conflict?

Resolve this conflict?

**How do you think your community has been affected by your behaviour?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Do you have any needs individual to you that we need to think about when we are making decisions about your behaviour?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**How can you/we prevent this from happening in the future?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Do you need support from anyone else to do this?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Both share an example of when you (the young person) has done something nice/behaved well**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Actions**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Young Person)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Worker)

**What happens if I get in trouble?**

(This worksheet is aimed at young people over 13 years. It is a starting point to think about the consequences of offending behaviour as a young person and adult.)

## Quiz

1) Is cannabis legal?

***A: No, it is a Class B drug. Police can issue a warning or an on-the-spot fine of £90 if you're found with cannabis. The amount of drugs found and whether you have a criminal record will affect what happens if you are caught with cannabis. The penalty is likely to be more severe if you are found to be supplying or dealing drugs. Sharing drugs is also considered supplying.***

2) What is the age that a young person can legally consent to sex with:

- A young person of the opposite sex?
- A young person of the same sex?

Follow up question – At what point before or during sex can a girl or boy say no?

***A: 16 for both. Follow up question –A: At ANY point.***

3) Is it ok to send a picture of your or someone else's private parts to someone else or post on social media?

***A: No. This is a crime called Distribution of Indecent Images. A person can only give consent to share images of themselves with someone else at 18. This does not give the person receiving the image permission to share this with anyone else.***

4) Which of these could be an 'offensive weapon'?

- a) Screwdriver
- b) Pen knife
- c) Meat cleaver

***A: You would be committing an offence by carrying any of these items in a public place unless you have a good reason for carrying it i.e. for***

5) What sentence should you expect for carrying an offensive weapon in public?

***A: Your circumstances and those of the offence will be taken into account, but the 'starting point' for a young person would be a 4 month Detention and Training Order (custody).***

**Scenario:** You are out with friends when an argument starts with someone on the street. Your friend threatens and hits the person, and then takes their phone. You don't hit anyone but are standing close by. **Have you committed an offence? What would you or could you have done?**

***A: Robbery (joint enterprise)***

## What happens if I get in trouble over 18?

- You will not have an appropriate adult in police interview unless you have specific needs.
- You will go to the Magistrates Court (you may have to go to the Crown Court for later appearances if the offence is very serious). The public and the media are allowed in Court.
- Any Court Order will be supervised by the Probation Service.
- Probation will expect **you** to take responsibility for attending your appointments on time. You will usually be expected to attend office visits.
- If you fail to attend without an acceptable reason or evidence you should expect a consequence.
- Previous crimes or behaviour (including those as a young person) will be taken into account in your assessments about any risk of re-offending, to the public or your own vulnerability. However, this will consider your age, seriousness, and the circumstances at the time.
- If you have a history of breach, not attending Court or committing offences on bail you are at greater risk of being remanded to custody if you appear in Court for a serious offence. If you go to prison over 18 you will go to an adult prison.
- If you get in trouble as an adult, with an under 18, it would be assumed that you took the lead in any offence.

## Things you need to know

- You have a right to free legal advice. If you get in trouble it is important that you take advice from a solicitor before interview at the Police station. Tell your carer or Personal Advisor so they can support you through this process.
- If you fail to attend an appointment Probation will normally give a first warning if you don't attend without good reason. Any further unacceptable failures to attend are likely to mean you going back to Court for them to reconsider your sentence.
- A criminal record can prevent you from going to other countries e.g America in the future. In some cases it can also prevent you, or make it more difficult, to get insurance or a bank account.
- Everyone makes mistakes. We can all learn from them. If you got in trouble as a child or young person, this **does not** mean to say you will carry on getting in trouble.
- Previous convictions can impact on housing applications. Make sure your Personal Advisor is aware of any convictions before any application is made,



so that you can discuss the situation and any concerns they may have in advance.

- If you are worried about your behaviour or what might happen in the future talk to your carer, Personal Advisor or someone else you trust about it.

### Things I wish I'd known (quotes from Care-Leavers)

L.B *"I wish I had been told properly the consequences of how being in trouble will affect my future. Someone needs to be truthful and tell you how you get into a cycle and cannot get out of it. It's either offend and prison or not offend and be able to have your own place."*

D.B *"At 18 I think it should be all wiped off your record and you should be able to start afresh. I think young people need more things to do – boredom makes kids offend!"*

### Finding out more....

- To find out more about what sentence you can get for an offence (as a young person or adult) and how these are worked out visit **sentencingcouncil.org.uk**. Look out for 'You be the Judge'.
- How would an employer feel about taking on someone with a criminal record? **Nacro.org.uk** and **unlock.org.uk** support with the ongoing effects of criminal convictions, provide advice on whether you need to tell a potential employer about previous convictions and on how best to do it.
- **Openjustice.gov.uk** 2015 provides more information on statistics, sentencing, and has interactive resources. For instance, for the amount of money offending costs the country, we could hold the London Olympics every year.

### Notes/things I want to find out more about.....

.....  
.....

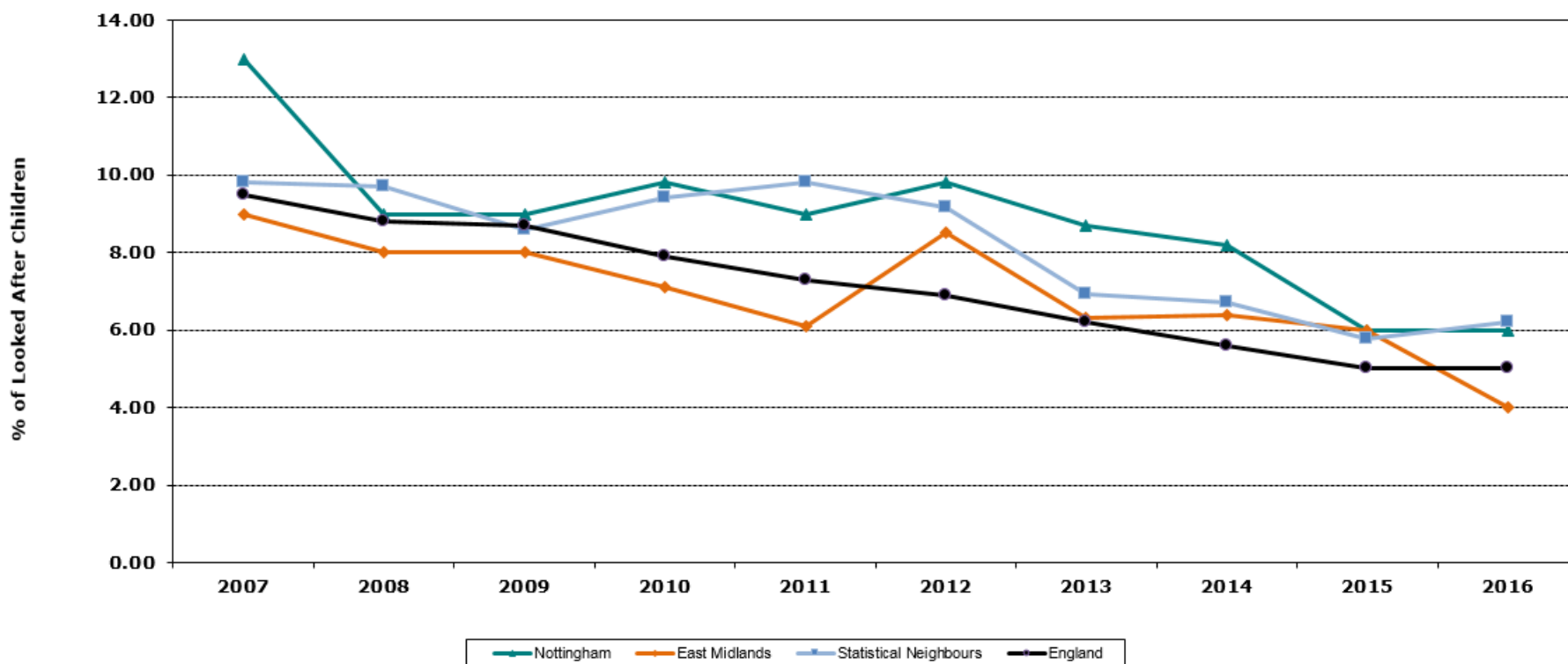
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Local Authority, Region and England

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change from previous year
892	Nottingham	13.00	9.00	9.00	9.80	9.00	9.80	8.70	8.20	6.00	6.00	0.00
983	East Midlands	9.00	8.00	8.00	7.10	6.10	8.50	6.30	6.40	6.00	4.00	-2.00
	Statistical Neighbours	9.80	9.70	8.60	9.40	9.82	9.15	6.91	6.71	5.78	6.20	0.42
970	England	9.50	8.80	8.70	7.90	7.30	6.90	6.20	5.60	5.00	5.00	0.00

					Quartile bands				
		Trend	Change from previous year	Latest National Rank	Quartile Banding	Up to and including	Up to and including	Up to and including	Up to and including
892	Nottingham	↔	0.00	51	B	4.00	6.00	8.00	15.00

% of looked after children subject to a conviction, final warning or reprimand during the year



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## Corporate Parenting Board Reporting Schedule: Forward Planner 2016 - 2017

Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement)	Report Lead	Draft Report submitted for Advice	Draft Report Submitted for Departmental Sign-off	Draft Report Submitted to Constitutional Services	Chair's Briefing	Final Report Submitted to Constitutional Services	Corporate Parenting Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quality Assurance Visits of Regulated and Non-regulated Residential Provision</li> <li>▪ Adoption and Permanency (2)</li> <li>▪ Performance Report (Q3 and Q4 2015/16)</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)</li> <li>▪ Report Forward Planner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kay Sutt</li> <li>▪ Sonia Cain</li> <li>▪ Steve Comb</li> <li>▪ Jon Rea</li> <li>▪ Cllr Mellen</li> </ul>	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report (3)</li> <li>▪ Pathway Planning (3)</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)</li> <li>▪ Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention</li> <li>▪ Report Forward Planner (Verbal Update)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clive Chambers</li> <li>▪ Sharon Clarke</li> <li>▪ Jon Rea</li> <li>▪ Sonia Cain</li> <li>▪ Cllr Mellen</li> </ul>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Care Leavers Annual Report (4)(5)</li> <li>▪ Emotional Health (1)</li> <li>▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review</li> <li>▪ Advocacy and Independent Visitor Annual Report</li> <li>▪ Complaints Service Report</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)</li> <li>▪ Report Forward Planner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sharon Clarke</li> <li>▪ Anna Masding</li> <li>▪ Steve Comb</li> <li>▪ Valarie Marshal</li> <li>▪ Patrick Skeet</li> <li>▪ Jon Rea</li> <li>▪ Cllr Mellen</li> </ul>	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

<b>Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement)</b>	<b>Report Lead</b>	<b>Draft Report submitted for Advice</b>	<b>Draft Report Submitted for Departmental Sign-off</b>	<b>Draft Report Submitted to Constitutional Services</b>	<b>Chair's Briefing</b>	<b>Final Report Submitted to Constitutional Services</b>	<b>Corporate Patenting Board</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Statement of Purpose Fostering Service and Adoption Agency</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Placements</li> <li>▪ Adoption and Permanency (2)</li> <li>▪ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2016/17)</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)</li> <li>▪ Report Forward Planner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sonia Cain</li> <li>▪ Anne Partington</li> <li>▪ Sonia Cain, Sharon Clarke</li> <li>▪ Steve Comb</li> <li>▪ Jon Rea</li> <li>▪ Cllr Mellen</li> </ul>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update</li> <li>▪ Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming (1)</li> <li>▪ Reducing Offending Behaviour (6)</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)</li> <li>▪ Report Forward Planner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sonia Cain</li> <li>▪ Caroline Riley</li> <li>▪ Sam Flint, Bob Uden</li> <li>▪ Jon Rea</li> <li>▪ Cllr Mellen</li> </ul>	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Educational Attainment of Children in Care (4)</li> <li>▪ Physical Health (1)</li> <li>▪ NCSCB Missings Update Report</li> <li>▪ Edge of Care Provision</li> <li>▪ Children in Care Council: Have your Say 2016</li> <li>▪ Report Forward Planner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Malcolm Wilson</li> <li>▪ Kathryn Higgins</li> <li>▪ Clive Chambers</li> <li>▪ Kay Sutt</li> <li>▪ Jon Rea</li> <li>▪ Cllr Mellen</li> </ul>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2017

- **SPS 1: Health**
- **SPS 2: Permanency**
- **SPS 3: Resilience and Independence**
- **SPS 4: Educational Attainment**
- **SPS 5: Suitable Accommodation**
- **SPS 6: Offending Behaviour**