



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 25 September 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: Phil Wye **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764637

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 3 MINUTES** 3 - 8
Of the meeting held on 17 July 2017, for confirmation.
- 4 CARE LEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT** 9 - 16
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 5 IMPROVING AND ACHIEVING GOOD OUTCOMES FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY'S CHILDREN IN CARE – MENTAL HEALTH** 17 - 28
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 6 CHILDREN IN CARE SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT: QUARTER THREE AND QUARTER FOUR 2016 - 2017** 29 - 32
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 7 ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT** 33 - 38
Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services
- 8 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**
Verbal update

9 CHAIR'S UPDATE

10 FORWARD PLANNER

39 - 42

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. 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 17 July 2017 from 2.31 pm - 3.40 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Councillor Liaqat Ali (left after item 5)
Councillor Jim Armstrong
Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Ginny Klein
Councillor Jackie Morris
Councillor Wendy Smith
Councillor Sam Webster (from item 6)

Absent

Councillor Sue Johnson
Councillor Marcia Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Sonia Cain | - | Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption |
| Clive Chambers | - | Head of Service – Safeguarding and Quality Assurance |
| Sharon Clarke | - | Service Manager, Children in Care |
| Steve Comb | - | Head of Children in Care |
| John Cooper | - | Fostering Recruitment Consultant |
| Sam Oliver | - | Children in Care Council |
| Jon Rea | - | Engagement and Participation Lead Officer |
| James Welbourn | - | Governance Officer |
| Jordan Whatman | - | Project Officer, Children in Care |

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Councillor Sue Johnson | - | other Council business |
| Councillor Marcia Watson | - | other Council business |

business

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Helen Blackman | - | annual leave |
| Gill Moy | - | other Council business |

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15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

16 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

17 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

Clive Chambers, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance introduced the annual report summarising activity and impact during the course of 2016/17 for the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs).

The following information was highlighted:

- (a) the number of temporary staff that the service had was a key issue, and created a financial challenge; significant work has been undertaken in this area and it is anticipated that by the end of October 2017 the service will be fully staffed with permanent officers;
- (b) it is really important that young people feel that review plans match their aspirations;
- (c) the service is moving from its efficacy framework to a live audit. This live audit will focus on fundamental issues such as the IRO seeing the Personal Education Plan;
- (d) 2016/17 has been a very busy year; the number of meetings listed in the annual reports is below the true number of meetings attended by the service as it does not include, for example, meetings chaired by the Local Authority Designated Officer;
- (e) the 'cause for concern' service is being reviewed, with an anticipated completion date for this review being October 2017;
- (f) the figures for emotional abuse in children fell in 2017; this is thought to have been due to how information is now captured, as there was an increase in the number of children with multiple categories;
- (g) the purpose of the IRO is to oversee implementation of the care plan. They may meet young people that they are responsible for outside of their reviews, but this would be down to the young person in question.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

18 PATHWAY PLANNING

Sharon Clarke - Service Manager, Children in Care and Leaving Care Service introduced a report including the current issues in relation to the legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council, in respect of those children eligible for a Pathway Plan. It focuses on the work required by Social Workers and Personal Advisors in relation to the assessment, planning, implementation and reviews of

Pathway Planning in order to ensure young people have a robust plan to aid transition into adulthood.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the Children and Social Work Act 2017 received royal assent in April 2017. Children's Services are still awaiting government guidance on this, particularly in regard to the care offer to support young adults up to the age of 25;
- (b) children in care have a social worker responsible for their pathway planning; post 18 years of age they have a personal advisor;

Following questions from Councillors, further information was provided:

- (c) there is nothing to suggest at this stage that additional funding will be made available from Government with regard to the extension of care leaving entitlement. If there are going to be extra responsibilities for staff, then extra resource may be required.

Previously, when there has been a change of this magnitude, officers would be involved in a consultation but there is again no information about this currently;

- (d) in terms of care leavers, the number in employment, education or training is higher than in other areas.

RESOLVED to continue to support and understand the required duties of Corporate Parents, in relation to Pathway Planning for children in care and care leavers.

19 FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Sonia Cain, Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption introduced a report addressing the strategies for the recruitment and retention opportunities of foster carers.

The following information was highlighted:

- (a) the Nottingham City Council (NCC) website is restrictive in terms of the content that can be presented to potential foster carers; as a result, there is now a dedicated website set up for this purpose;
- (b) working with other partners enables a wider audience to be reached; this can be seen through sharing posts on social media for example. The social media reach of NCC on its own goes so far, but if partner organisations are also sharing these posts, then more individuals can be reached;
- (c) a toolkit has been put together to help the "word of mouth" campaign for fostering. This toolkit can help people that might have already considered

fostering take their interest to the next stage, as well as being able to influence others that are likeminded;

- (d) the customer journey, that starts with an email or a phone call, is in the process of being reviewed to see if there can be any improvements; the service is looking to speed up the process of initial visits and cut delays
- (e) the service will look to call potential foster carers back on the same day if capacity allows;
- (f) at stage 2 of the fostering process the potential carer will be 'buddied up' with an existing carer to help them through the process;
- (g) there are around 28 people in assessment to be foster carers at the moment, indicating that the increased activity around recruiting foster carers is working. This in turn has led to a projected increase in panel approvals;
- (i) the East Midlands Local Authority Foster Carer Recruiter Forum looks at fostering recruitment. Staff from NCC will be attending this forum in the future, along with the West Midlands forum;

Following questions from Councillors, further information was provided:

- (j) two carers have retired since April, but this has been more than balanced out by new carers that have joined;
- (k) NCC advertises for foster carers through the East Midlands Shared Services (EMSS) jobs page. In addition to this, there has been a stand at the NCC Jobs Fair. It may also be possible to advertise through Nottingham Jobs;
- (l) around 25-30% of potential foster carers drop out of the assessment process nationally. Some will be filtered out at stage 1, some may change their minds about whether fostering is the right thing for them, and some have a change in circumstances.

The Fostering and Adoption service are aiming to eliminate any reasons why it hasn't been robust or thorough enough during the process;

- (m) a number of foster carers with private agencies have decided to come and foster for NCC; NCC can offer direct support such as the virtual school. We can also guarantee a constant placement in certain age groups, providing that the foster carer is suitable. A number of carers also have the position of principle to not foster for money making organisations.

RESOLVED to note the recruitment and retention performance of the Fostering Service and the activities undertaken by the service to recruit and support foster carers.

20 CHILDREN IN CARE JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This item was removed from the agenda by the Chair and wasn't considered.

21 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer gave an update to the Panel on the work of the Children in Care (CiC) Council. Since the last meeting, the following had taken place:

- A representative from the Department for Education was very impressed with young people's involvement in the Step up to Social Work assessment process;
- The CiC Council had a discussion about placement services. A key issue arising out of their session was the importance of ensuring that families were safe together;
- A corporate CiC Council was intended for July, but this was postponed until September because of other commitments;

The remaining members of the corporate group will be enjoying a night at the cricket. The group has worked really hard, and kept the membership going. The night at the cricket also gives potential new members a chance to get to know others in an informal way.

22 CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Board were shown a video featuring Larelle Flowers, someone who has previously been through the Children in Care service at Nottingham City Council.

23 FORWARD PLANNER

The forward planner was approved.

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – SEPTEMBER 2017

| | | |
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| Title of paper: | Care Leavers Annual Report | |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services. helen.blackman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk | Wards affected: All |
| Report author(s) and contact details: | <p>Sharon Clarke - Service Manager, Children in Care and Leaving Care Service sharon.clarke@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8765032</p> <p>Lynn Pearce - Team Manager, Leaving Care Service lynn.pearce@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8762464</p> <p>Alan Monaghan - Senior Personal Advisor, Leaving Care Service alan.monaghan@nottinghamcity.gov.uk (0115) 8762508</p> | |
| Other colleagues who have provided input: | | |
| Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant) | | |
| Relevant Council Plan Key Theme: | | |
| Strategic Regeneration and Development | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning and Housing | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Services | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy, Sustainability and Customer | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs, Growth and Transport | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adults, Health and Community Sector | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Children, Early Intervention and Early Years | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Leisure and Culture | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): | | |
| This report outlines the work undertaken and progress made by the Leaving Care Service since the Pilot Ofsted Inspection in January 2017. It is the Annual Report on the Service, to update the Board on services provided to young people transitioning from care into adulthood. | | |
| Recommendation(s): | | |
| 1 | The Board continues to support and understand the duties required of the Leaving Care Service, and forthcoming changes in legislation. | |
| 2 | To make the Board aware that the Government recently approved a new strategy document, entitled ‘Keep On Caring – Supporting Young People from Care to Independence’ (July 2016). We are expecting government guidance to be issued in January 2018, to be implemented by April 2018. This strategy will require Local Authorities to offer guidance and support to all care leavers up to the age of 25. ‘The Children and Social Work Act 2017’ has also been approved by the Government and guidance is expected by January 2018. There are potential budget and resource implications upon the Leaving Care Service; we are unable to quantify this until | |

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| statutory guidance is received. |
|---------------------------------|

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Nottingham City Council has a duty to provide services to those young people defined as Care Leavers under the Statutory Guidance; The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations; Volume 3, Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers, The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

1.2 Research and practice shows that young people who have been looked after will have the best chance to succeed as adults if those providing transitional care and support take the following principles into account

- Is this good enough for my child?
- Provide a second chance if things do not go as expected.
- Is the support package tailored to a young person's individual needs?

These are the principles which Nottingham City Council's Leaving Care Service uses to underpin the service they deliver to our Care Leavers. The service endeavours to ensure each young person is provided with a service that is tailored to meet a young person's needs, which is reviewed to ensure their transition into adulthood is successful.

1.3 The Leaving Care Service provides services to those young people as defined under the Act as 'Eligible', 'Relevant' or 'Former Relevant'. Recent amendments to the Guidance also determine that services must be provided to persons qualifying for Advice/Assistance.

- Eligible young people are those young people currently looked after and have been looked after for a period of 13 weeks or periods amounting to a total of 13 weeks which began after age 14 and ended on reaching 16.
- Relevant young people are those young people who are:
 - o Not looked after.
 - o Aged 16/17 and before this, ceased to be looked after as an eligible child.

This includes those young people (16/17) who were detained/secured or detained under the Mental Health Act in hospital and had been looked after for a period or periods amounting to 13 weeks after reaching age 14.

Regulation 3 (of 9.1) also states that a child who has lived continuously for six months or more with a parent/carer whom the child now ceases to live with be treated as a Relevant child.

- Persons qualifying for Advice/Assistance are defined as persons aged between 16 and 21, whereby a Special Guardianship order was in force.

1.4 Nottingham City Council has a duty to provide and sustain young people defined as Care Leavers with suitable accommodation. The Act defines suitable accommodation as the following:

- That which is reasonably practical and suitable for the young person with regards to their needs.

- That which the responsible Authority finds satisfactory with regards to the character and suitability of the landlord/provider.
- Accommodation that complies with Health and Safety legislation.
- That which takes into account young people's views, training, education and employment needs.

The Act also places a duty on the Council to take steps as far as is reasonably practical, to identify sufficient accommodation within its area to meet the needs of Care Leavers.

Current performance with regards to Care Leavers and suitable accommodation has declined recently. One of the issues affecting this performance is that young people in custody are not counted as being in suitable accommodation. Performance currently stands at 84%. Nottingham City Council is below its target, but is in line with comparative cities.

1.5 The Placement Service commissions accommodation from private providers for semi-independent living and Nottingham City Council also has a range of semi-independent provision within its residential estate. We do therefore provide a range of accommodation which reflects the diverse needs of its Care Leavers. This includes:

- Enabling young people to remain in the accommodation in which they lived whilst in care i.e. staying put.
- Foyers – supported housing.
- Small group homes.
- Independent accommodation with support.
- Shared accommodation with/without support.

1.6 As the majority of young people approach their 18th birthday, they will be working towards gaining their own tenancy. The Leaving Care Service works closely with Nottingham City Homes (NCH) who are extremely supportive of Care Leavers. There is a robust housing protocol in place which enables Care Leavers to be a priority for housing, with the aim being to ensure our young people are provided with good, safe, quality accommodation.

1.7 Personal Advisors work closely with NCH Housing Patch managers to ensure young people are provided with the necessary support to sustain their own tenancies. NCH will share information if young people are struggling and there may be a risk to their tenancies. NCH provides support to young people regarding finances and is well accessed by young people. They have also provided apprenticeships to Care Leavers.

1.8 There remains a national focus on young people 'Staying Put'. The Leaving Care Service has reviewed its policy and financial arrangements to make a complicated system easier for carers/young people to understand. The number of young people 'Staying Put' in their foster placements, residential homes (if appropriately registered) and within our residential semi-independent estate continues to increase

This allows young people to stay in placements post-18 if they wish to, if assessed as not yet ready for their own tenancy, particularly vulnerable or in appeal with respect to their immigration status. This includes a dedicated Personal Advisor to those young people exiting residential care.

We currently have 18 young people 'Staying Put' with a further 4 young people with plans to 'Stay Put'.

- 1.9 Making the transition to adulthood can be difficult for children in care, but one that can also help young people assert their own identity. The Leaving Care Service provides support to enable young people to choose how they furnish their own homes by providing a 'Setting Up Home' grant to ensure they have appropriate equipment and household items. This is assessed on an individual basis so that resources are allocated appropriately.
- 1.10 The Leaving Care Service has embedded the use of the 'Life Skills Booklet'. This tool helps identify gaps in independent skills so that appropriate support can be put in place.
- 1.11 The Leaving Care Service employs a qualified Social Worker, whose role it is to identify those young people who would qualify for Adult Services. The Transitions Worker has proved very beneficial in ensuring that our most vulnerable Care Leavers access the appropriate Adult Service in a timely manner, and if they are not eligible, identifying support such young people may require.
- 1.12 The Leaving Care Service are required to review Pathway Plans and support Care Leavers as they make their transition to adulthood, which is irrespective of other services provided i.e. if they are disabled, in custody or an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC). The Act required Pathway Plans be implemented and reviewed for all Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant young people.
- 1.13 Each young person's Pathway Plan sets out the actions to be undertaken by the Local Authority, young person, their Carers and the full range of Agencies so each young person is provided with the services they need.

The Leaving Care Service uses a Pathway Plan which is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely and incorporates the wishes and feelings of young people. Performance will be able to monitored on the production of a monthly report from the Analysis and Insight Team due shortly from the new Liquid Logic system

- 1.14 All young people eligible for a Pathway Plan must be allocated a Personal Advisor (P.A.). These are not necessarily qualified workers but have to possess the necessary skills and expertise to work with Care Leavers. Regulation 8 (of 9.1) sets out the function of a P.A. This includes providing information, support in relation to finances, housing, health, education, training and employment. They are the key professionals for co-ordinating Care Leaver support. They remain allocated to a young person until they are 21 or 25, if in full time education. P.A.s are required to visit young people statutorily every 8 weeks.
- 1.15 The Leaving Care Service recognise that the number of young people engaged in training, education and employment is crucial in ensuring young people succeed in transitioning successfully into adulthood.

Initially, RISE (Routes Into Sustainable Employment) was commissioned to provide opportunities for young people, however both Nottingham City Council and Ofsted recognised this as a poor investment in terms of outcomes and the contract ceased in April 2015.

The Service has been piloting an EET (education, employment and training) P.A. role for a year. The role of this P.A. is to work alongside other Personal Advisors, EET Providers, voluntary organisations, Futures and internal Departments to work with young people to ensure they are engaging with education, training or employment.

The EET P.A. offers ASDAN qualifications, timetables and opportunities based on young people's needs, particularly those young people who are further disadvantaged regarding opportunities such as young mothers, young people coming out of custody and those young people who struggle emotionally.

The EET P.A. works closely with a range of partners, such as housing, education and the Youth Offending Team, to share resources, learning and practice. We have made significant progress that shows this has been highly successful amongst some of our more disengaged young people, exemplified by EET figures increasing to 70.1% above National Average

The Nottingham Labour Manifesto 2015 includes the following pledge: 'It will offer permanent jobs or apprenticeships within the City Council to at least 10% of care leavers and encourage further employment opportunities for them across the city'.

1.16 The Leaving Care Service has an excellent relationship with Futures, a social enterprise which provides careers advice for skills and employment. There are three dedicated Futures workers who are considered part of the team. They attend team meetings to ensure that the learning/training pathways of young people are captured, and work closely with the dedicated P.A. for employability, education and training.

1.17 The Leaving Care Service is working hard to ensure the participation of Care Leavers in delivering appropriate services.

A Care Leavers group known as 'Your Voice' continues to meet regularly. They meet as a group to look at issues which affect them and have the opportunity to feedback about their experiences as Care Leavers. Strong liaison occurs with the Children in Care Council and members of the group feedback regularly to Corporate Members on issues which they themselves have identified.

1.18 Care Leavers are entitled to have full medical information as they leave care and this is a Government requirement. The Health Passport (known as Important Health Information following consultation with Care Leavers) has been implemented. There have been issues in these being produced in a timely way, but the Leaving Care Service is working closely with the Looked After Medical team to improve performance.

The Service recognises the importance of ensuring young people have their necessary health information, and monthly meetings are now being held to ensure this is monitored closely.

There is also a recognition that Care Leaver's emotional well-being needs to be included in their health information. Research clearly shows that loneliness/social isolation is a clear factor in determining a young person's well-being, and that children in the care system do not often engage with services offered prior to leaving care. As part of the E.E.T. P.A. role, we are now incorporating a counselling service known as 'Lasting Differences' which young people are engaging with.

- 1.19 The Leaving Care Service works closely with the Children in Care Police Officer, YOT, Police, Probation and other relevant agencies to ensure that if there are concerns, then the relevant support is implemented to mitigate against further risk.
- 1.20 The Pilot Ofsted Inspection in January 2017 identified that the Leaving Care Service needs to be more tenacious in ensuring the service maintains contact and support with older Care Leavers. Work has been undertaken to implement processes, and a 'Keep In Touch' policy to ensure the most vulnerable young people do not lose touch with the Service. Should this happen, work is undertaken to identify affected care leavers early and checks made with Housing, Prisons, Department of Work and Pensions and Futures to locate young people and robust attempts made to re-engage them. The service remains mindful that these young adults, 18 years of age and over, do have a choice as to whether they require a service and that their choices are respected.
- 1.21 The Nottingham City Council Leaving Care Service is an active member of the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF). There are now over 85 Authority Members from across the country within the forum, meeting to discuss best practice and policy updates.
- 1.22 Once statutory guidance is received relating to the implementation of 'Keep on Caring', the Local Authority will need a local offer in place covering a range of services. Work is underway on this.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Board have a corporate duty to understand and promote the services that Nottingham City Council has to undertake legally, to promote the outcomes and opportunities of its Care Leavers.

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 needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes

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

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

8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 The Children Act, 1989; Guidance and Regulations, Volume 3, Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.

9.2 The Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000.

9.3 Children and Young Persons Act, 2008.

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – SEPTEMBER 2017

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Title of paper: | Improving and Achieving Good Outcomes for Nottingham City's Children In Care – Mental Health | |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Helen Blackman – Director, Children's Integrated Services | Wards affected: All |
| Report author(s) and contact details: | Aileen Wilson – Head of Early Help Services Aileen.wilson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk | |
| Other colleagues who have provided input: | Matthew Jenkins – Team Manager, CLA CAMHS Team Matthew.jenkins@nottinghamcity.gov.uk | |
| Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant) | | |
| Relevant Council Plan Key Theme: | | |
| Strategic Regeneration and Development | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning and Housing | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Services | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy, Sustainability and Customer | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs, Growth and Transport | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adults, Health and Community Sector | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Children, Early Intervention and Early Years | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Leisure and Culture | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an offer from the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service to the Children in Care support networks, which include the carers and professionals, to ensure that there is effective support in place to ensure placement stability so children and young person can thrive. The offer will reflect the drivers of national and regional policy and legislation to improve access to psychological therapy and intervention, where assessed as appropriate, and to evidence the effectiveness of these. This will ensure that this resource is accessed on an equitable basis and is used effectively to support this group of children and young people. | | |
| Recommendation(s): | | |
| 1 | To continue to implement the CAMHS transformation plan in line with the Future In Mind Report to ensure appropriate and timely access to support. | |

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Following a review of the team in 2016 and with a renewed commitment to an integrated Health and Local Authority approach, ensuring there are revised governance

arrangements across the Local Authority and Health Trusts. On a day to day, operational level this means that the right policies and procedures are being used to safeguard children and young people, practitioners and the organisations (e.g. through improved recording, or better understood health and safety measures).

- 1.2 Children and young people in care have improved access to CAMH services and that we are clear about what 'improved' access looks like (i.e. timeliness and quality of referrals; reduced waiting times; robust assessment and planning; reducing drift); the service is responsive and flexible.
- 1.3 Revise and agree (across the Local Authority and the Health Trust) the management information which is needed to provide service oversight, inform planning and demonstrates that the service is making a difference.
- 1.4 The CLA CAMHS team is jointly funded and governed by Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (NHCT). The team consists of 3 clinical staff, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and a community health nurse and 6 specialist social workers, who can deliver therapy based advice and guidance and deliver direct therapeutic work.
- 1.5 Although the integrated model brings some challenges around organisational accountability, there are significant positives:
- 1.6 An integrated model brings the skills, knowledge and expertise of a multidisciplinary team offering different skills and expertise.
- 1.7 Children and young people who are looked after receive a service, which is attuned to their needs with joint working from the outset between health and social care to address complex behaviours.
- 1.8 An acknowledgement that children and young people in care are likely to have experienced trauma and can struggle with learning and social relationships. The team aims to improve responses to this throughout their support networks.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

Performance update: See Appendix 1 for data.

- 2.1 There is a trend of opening more cases that we close, which reflects the often complex nature of the issues the children, young people and their networks are faced with and demonstrates our graduated approach, where intensity of the team's intervention may alter depending on the changing needs of the network. The team are currently working with 159 open cases, which is a reduction in the number of cases open to the team last year (205 in March 2016) and results from an audit of long term cases last year by CAMHS Specialist Consultant, Viv McCrossen.
- 2.2 The CAPA framework, which manages capacity against demand, demonstrates that practitioners within the team are over-capacity and more work is being undertaken to embed proportionate intervention. The team aims to offer a Choice (initial) appointment within 4 weeks of referral. The majority of the capacity is used in the delivery of the network consultations and the balance being split across direct work in a range of settings and foster carer training. We are keen to ensure that we help professionals and carers build resilience through training and development (psycho-

education). Through our work with carers, residential social workers, supervising social workers and field practitioners, as well as other colleagues such as those in schools and independent organisations we support them to better understand the impact of developmental trauma, separation and loss and attachment.

- 2.3 The team's activity is very much focussed around the looked after population with a high (abnormal) SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) score, who would benefit from an initial consultation to assess the need and agree support. Whilst recognising the value of the SDQ as a tool to indicate difficulty, this cannot be used in isolation, therefore the team accept referrals where there are other concerning factors beyond the SDQ score.
- 2.4 The team continues to be represented at a number of key panels and meetings to promote the importance of emotional wellbeing for children and young people looked after, including:
- Placement Panel - The team offers a perspective on therapeutic needs / interventions in relation to placement considerations.
 - Profiling Panel - Ensuring that there is oversight of the support needs of particular young people.
 - NSPCC Life-story steering group.
 - National data set information and improvement information.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.

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

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

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

- 5.1 None.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE 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.

Yes



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

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

8.1 Nottingham City Council CAMHS CLA Service Delivery Plan 2016 / 17.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 PH28 Looked After Children & Young People National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) October 2010, modified 2013.

9.2 Future in Mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing (Department of Health, 2015).

9.3 Keep on caring: supporting young people from care to independence (Cabinet Office, 2016).

Improving the emotional and mental health of Nottingham City's Looked After Children

The CAMHS CLA Team

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Team Manager | Matthew Jenkins |
| Practice Specialist | Stuart Round |
| Consultant Psychiatrist | Dr Pallab Majumder |
| Clinical Psychologist | Avivit Dekel |
| Mental Health Nurse | Janine Smith |

Specialist Social Workers : Michael Forrester, Janet Bell, Pat Roughan, Philippa Eeles, Alice Skellon, Alex Hardy-Fry

2 vacancies

Current priorities

To refresh the offer to ensure:

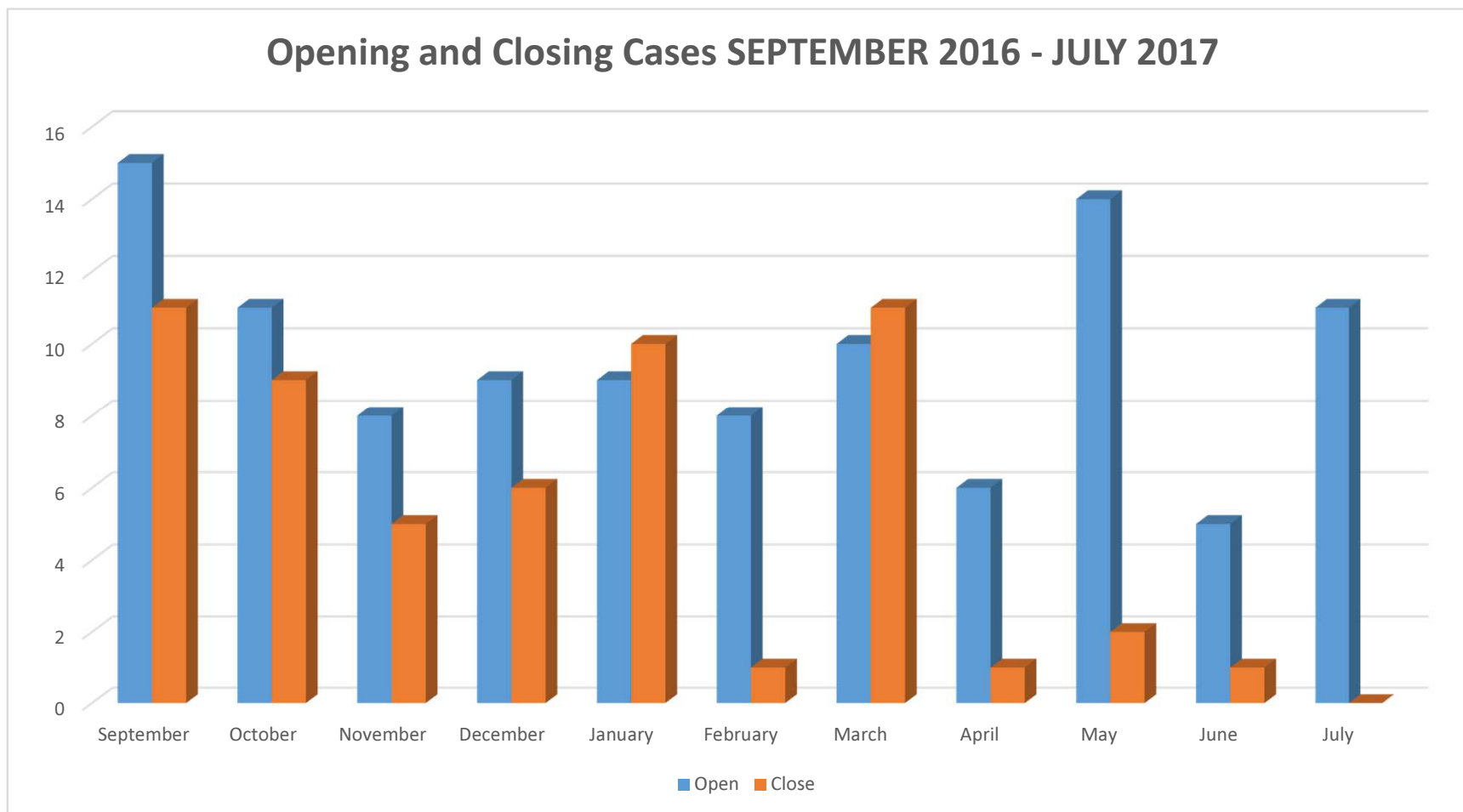
- Resources are being used effectively
- Compliance with the national transformation plan based on the Future in Mind Report

Key tasks:

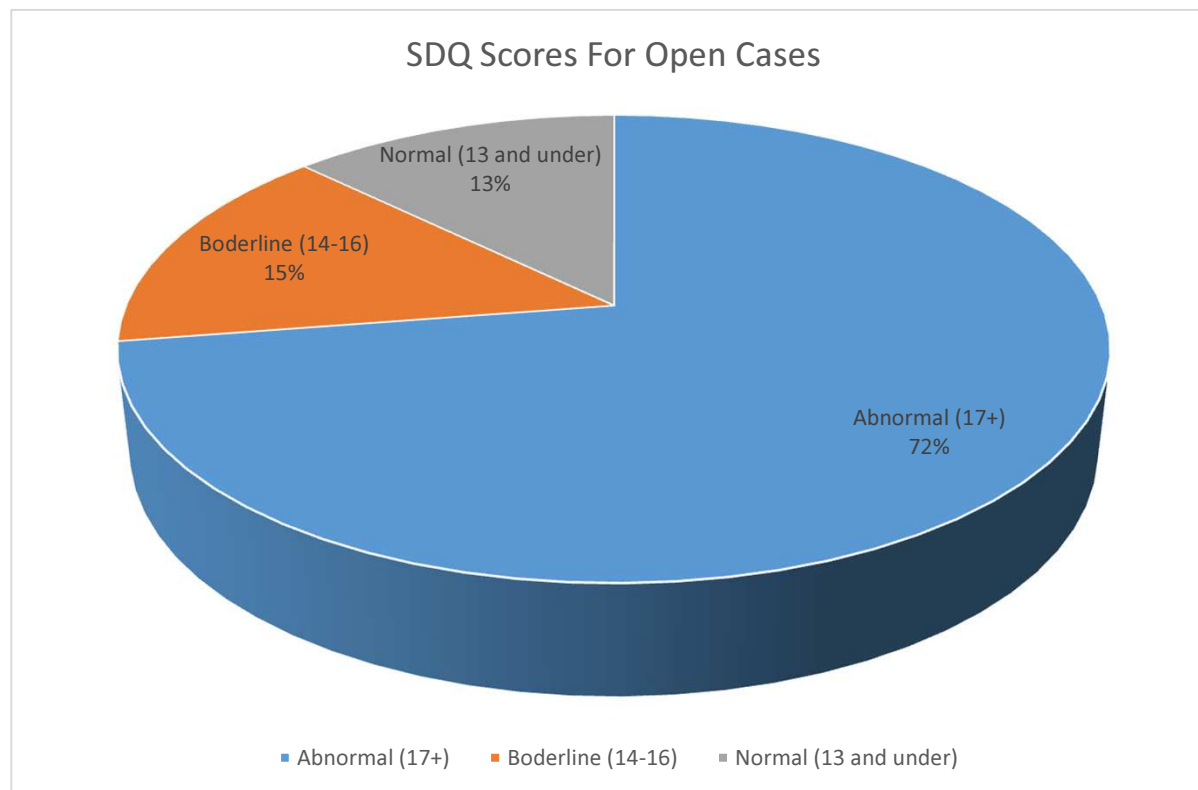


- Implementation of CAPA – Choice and Partnership Approach
- Use of performance measures to evidence the effectiveness of support for all children and young people
- Develop and share knowledge and skills around the impact of developmental trauma through direct work, psycho-education and consultation
- A memorandum of understanding between the Healthcare Trust and the Local Authority to ensure robust partnership working and governance

Performance Headlines

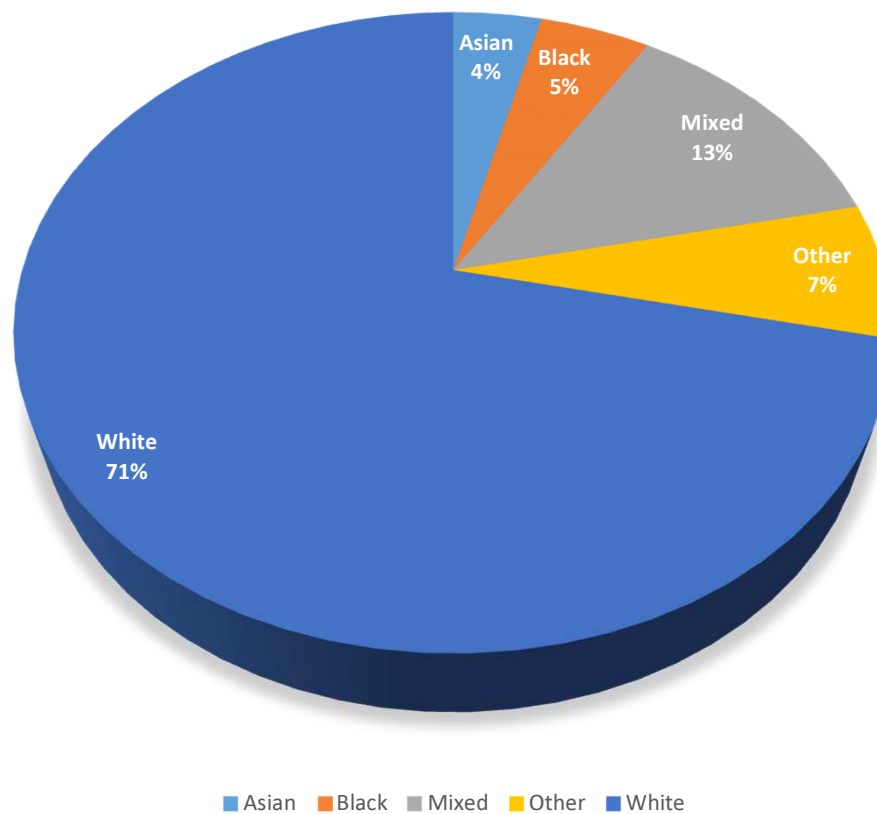


Performance Headlines



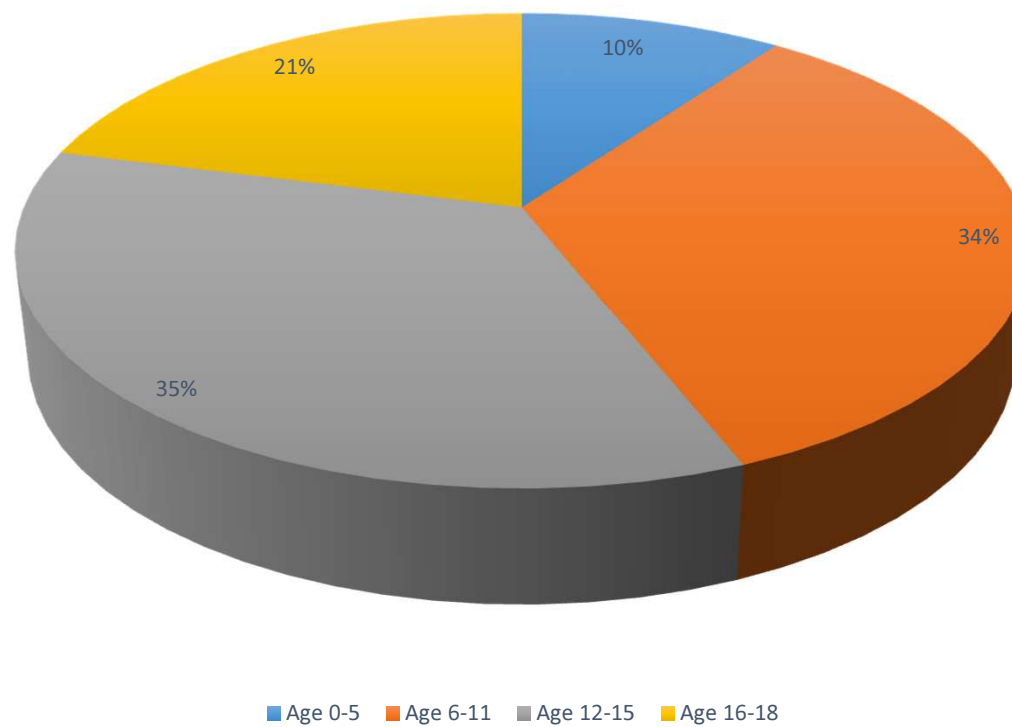
Performance Headlines

Ethnicity Breakdown September 2016 - July 2017



Performance Headlines

Total Open Cases September 2016 - July 2017 By Age



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – SEPTEMBER 2017

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Title of paper: | Children in Care Service Performance Report: Quarter Three and Quarter Four 2016 - 2017 | |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services | Wards affected: All |
| Report author(s) and contact details: | Steve Comb – Head of Service, Children in Care steve.comb@nottinghamcity.gov.uk | |
| Other colleagues who have provided input: | | |
| Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant) | | |
| Relevant Council Plan Key Theme: | | |
| Strategic Regeneration and Development | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning and Housing | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Services | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy, Sustainability and Customer | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs, Growth and Transport | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adults, Health and Community Sector | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Children, Early Intervention and Early Years | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Leisure and Culture | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): | | |
| <p>In order to ensure continual service development and to provide the best support to our children in care and care leavers, it is essential that the performance of the Children in Care service is monitored and open to scrutiny by Corporate Parenting Board ('Board') members. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the most up to date Children in Care performance data, relevant to the areas being discussed at the June 2017 Corporate Parenting Board meeting.</p> <p>The report highlights results covering the third and fourth quarters of the 2016-17 financial year.</p> | | |
| Recommendation(s): | | |
| 1 | To acknowledge the current performance position of the Children in Care service, against identified key performance indicators. Where necessary, members are invited to offer suggestion for remedial action in areas of poor performance and developmental suggestions in all other areas. | |

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 As Corporate Parents, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our children is paramount. It is not possible to establish how well we are supporting our children to achieve their full potential, without having a clear understanding of our performance in regards to key performance indicators.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 None.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

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

4.1 None.

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

5.1 None.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE 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 decisions.

Yes

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

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

8.1 Appendix 1: CiC Performance Report Q3-Q4 16-17

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 None.



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2017

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the most up to date performance overview in relation to Children in Care and to highlight results from October 2016 to March 2017.

| Area / Indicator | Statistical Neighbour Average | Out-turn 15/16 | Out-turn 16/17 | Service commentary |
|---|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Number of children in care as at September 2016. (rate per 10,000) | 797.3 (96.3) | 588 (90.5) | 623 (94.5) | We are currently above our target of 90 per 10,000. Demand for Social Care services remains high, with a significant number of requests for children to become Looked After in Q4. CAFCAS have stated that last year's national 30 year high in terms of children coming into care / court activity has been exceeded in 2016. High quality support interventions with identified families are supporting some of our children on the edge of care to remain at home with their families. Exit planning continues to be a key focus. At 94 per 10,000 our data is better than that of similar Councils, comparing to 96 per 10,000 with our statistical neighbours. The monthly children in care analysis meeting provides further focus on our looked after children cohort, in terms of exit planning and monitoring. Our weekly Placement Panel also continues to examine all purchased placements; we reduced the number of high cost external residential placements by nine in the previous financial year. |
| Fostering & Adoption | The new Fostering manager took up his post in January 2017. There is significant activity at the moment in relation to carer recruitment, which we hope will yield additional fostering households in Q1 and Q2 of the new 17/18 financial year. Additional events are being held in schools and with faith groups across the City. Carers contributed to evidence gathering for the commons select committee, which is looking at challenges around fostering recruitment and retention. Extra funding of over £100,000 has been agreed to assist with the recruitment of Foster Carers in 17/18. The Fostering and Adoption Service performed well in the January 2017 Ofsted pilot inspection. There were 144 active Fostering Households at the end of Q4: | | | |
| | Year | Actual | Target | Comments |
| | 14/15 | 135 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of political term Baseline + 20% increase by the end of the political term On average an incremental increase of 6.5 households per year |
| | 15/16 | 129 | 142 | |
| | 16/17 | 144 | 148 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 144 figure as at June 2017 |
| | 17/18 | ~ | 155 | |
| Children's Homes | Adoption activity continues to be strong, with the service also performing well in the Ofsted pilot inspection. Regional adoption discussions continue; the D2N2 permanence hubs have been discussed and are being implemented. The Department for Education have now ceased support for inter-agency adoption payments. We claimed over £250,000 from that fund last year, and tightened the criteria for adoption support fund therapy financial support. | | | |
| | End of year figures conclude that 48 children were adopted, 10 placed on Special Guardianship Orders and 15 on Child Arrangement Orders, providing a total of 73 former children in our care provided with permanent homes. | | | |
| Regulation 44 | All seven of our regulated children's homes have had their Ofsted main interim follow up in the round of 16/17 inspections. As at March 2017, all homes are showing improved or sustained effectiveness by way of Ofsted judgements. This is a strong performance under a new, tougher inspection framework. Our five semi-independent (unregistered) homes now have their own monitoring framework in place. | | | |
| Health | We are compliant with statutory regulations and DFE requirements. Our Regulation 44 inspectors constitute a wide range of professionals, who offer independence in their inspections of our homes. These include professionals from a number of settings within the Council, including the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years. Written reports are forwarded to Ofsted in line with statutory requirements. We have recently received positive feedback from Ofsted in relation to our compliance with the notification framework. We have now introduced similar quality assurance visits to our semi-independent homes that are not registered with Ofsted. | | | |
| Youth Offending | The percentage of Children in Care with an up to date Health Assessment stands at 89% YTD. Additionally, 83% of our children have an up to date dental check and 92% have received relevant immunisations. At the end of Q4, 63% of Children in Care who had been in care for 12 months or more had an up to date SDQ on file. Administration systems have been changed to provide a focus on these requests and appointments, as we are still below our target. | | | |
| Self-Assessment on Inspection Readiness | At the end of Q4 children looked after for 12 months or more, aged 10 or over, accounted for 4.6% (15 children) having a conviction or subject to a youth caution (including a youth conditional caution) under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 during the year for an offence committed while being looked after. This is historically good performance for the City and better than similar cities or national averages. The continued support of the Council in part funding the Children in Care Police Officer post has been a significant contribution in this area. | | | |
| The percentage of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan completed/authorised in the preceding 6 months | Not collected nationally. | Out-turn 80.8% | Work is taking place in relation to exit planning and reducing delays in the effective care planning for Children in Care. We are working with Business Support and Social Work Teams to improve the administration of health and dental checks, including SDQs, to improve data related to these key indicators. Resources in the Leaving Care Service are being reviewed post-inspection, with a focus on safeguarding for our older young people. Great Workforce leads from HR are actively involved in all Children in Care Teams. The Adoption scorecard is a significant measure of our ability to manage Adoption Services. We have improved our timelines. Performance in this area is improving in terms of timeliness, and we are on track to meet our target for the number of children progressing to adoption. Residential inspection outcomes are positive in terms of our profile as a Local Authority. Regular performance meetings are taking place in relation to Children in Care data. | |
| The percentage of Children in Care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP) | Not collected nationally. | Target 95% | Below our tougher annual target awaiting development of data capture on liquid logic, our target is to achieve 97%. We have already improved currently at 84.5 % at the end of June 2017. | |
| | | | 80% of Children in Care had a PEP in place at the end of Q4. The new Virtual School Head is currently gathering information and conducting an audit of data regarding PEPs, the governing body and the Virtual School PEP co-ordinator continue to hold regular meetings with the Children in Care management team to discuss the PEP completion rate and identify where they are incomplete. Under the latest Department for Education conditions of offer, the Virtual School Head will expect all schools to demonstrate how they will use the new Pupil Premium funding to close the gap for all LAC pupils. One-to-one tuition for pupils in Year 6 and Year 11 will continue, with an increased focus on analysis of impact. The Virtual School Head continues to drive PEPs and we are confident that we will continue to make progress towards all children having their PEP. The Virtual School Governing body chaired by the Lead Member also robustly monitors shortfalls in this data. | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (17-21 years old) | Statistical Neighbour Average 81.1% | Target 89.6% | Out-turn 83.3% | The focus on preparing our young people for independence continues, this cohort measured of 65 is impacted upon by small movements, because some of our young people have returned to parents, impacting on this indicator, alongside some entries to custody. Challenges in the wider housing market do impact on availability of suitable homes for our young people but our strong links with Nottingham City Homes help in reducing the challenges. |
| The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training (17-21 years old) | Statistical Neighbour Average 48.8% | Target 65.9% | Out-turn 70.7% | This is good performance that exceeds both statistical neighbours significantly and our own target by 5%. Our current measure is 70%. The focus is to continue to support more of our young people into education and employment. |

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – SEPTEMBER 2017

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Title of paper: | Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service Annual Report | |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services | Wards affected: All |
| Report author(s) and contact details: | Valerie Marshall – NYAS Service Manager, Midlands valerie.marshall@nyas.net | |
| Other colleagues who have provided input: | Senior Advocate NYAS IV co-ordinator, NYAS Salaried Advocate | |
| Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant) | | |
| Relevant Council Plan Key Theme: | | |
| Strategic Regeneration and Development | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning and Housing | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Services | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy, Sustainability and Customer | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs, Growth and Transport | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adults, Health and Community Sector | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Children, Early Intervention and Early Years | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Leisure and Culture | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): | | |
| <p>This report summarises the activities undertaken to date of the advocacy and independent visitor (IV) services provided by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) during the year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.</p> <p>The report will also highlight the benefits of providing good quality advocacy and IV services and how this contributes to safeguarding and improving outcomes for young people.</p> | | |
| Recommendation(s): | | |
| 1 | To acknowledge the advocacy and independent visitor activities being undertaken by NYAS. | |
| 2 | To recognise the importance of the advocacy and independent visitor services in safeguarding and helping children in care to get their views heard. | |

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 **To acknowledge the advocacy and independent visitor activities being undertaken by NYAS.**

It is important to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Board (the Board) has an understanding of the Authority's children in care advocacy and independent visitor arrangements and the activities being undertaken to ensure the best quality provision is being delivered. Ensuring the Board has a thorough understanding of what NYAS, as providers of these services, are contracted to deliver and the work being conducted to deliver these services, will place the Board in a position to better scrutinise the quality of advocacy and IV provision.

1.2 To recognise the importance of the advocacy and independent visitor services in safeguarding and helping children in care to get their views heard.

Children in care have a right to have their wishes and views concerning their care heard. Ensuring that this happens improves the child's experience of care, which in turn promotes positive outcomes for them in the future. Independent advocates play a vital role in ensuring that the wishes and feelings of looked after children are listened to and considered when making decisions that affect their care.

Independent Visitor visit young people in care every month, this regular contact with them ensure any concerns are identified. They can attend the young person's LAC Review and support them to refer to the advocacy helpline.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 NYAS was awarded the contract to provide advocacy services and independent visiting services commencing 1st April 2014. The service was awarded following a competitive tendering process. Prior to 1st April, 2014, the service was delivered by Barnardos. The contract is being extended for 6 months until the end of September 2017

The commissioned service provides –

2.3 ISSUE BASED ADVOCACY

- Advice and information for children and young people about their rights, including those contained in Sections 17 and 26a of the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This service is for children and young people up to the age of eighteen years, looked-after now or in the past, or up to twenty five for those with a disability or in higher education. This includes children and young people who are in short-term placements, in secure placements and those in out of county placements.

2.4 INDEPENDENT PERSONS SERVICE

This service is for all eligible children and young people subject to current Secure Accommodation Orders and provides Independent Persons for secure accommodation review panels as specified under the current Statutory Regulations. (Section 25 Children Act 1989, Children (Secure Accommodation) Regulations 1991, Children (Secure Accommodation) Amendment Regulations 1992)

2.5 INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE

This service provides suitable appointed volunteers to visit any child or young person

who is looked-after where it is deemed to be in the child or young person's best interests, in accordance with S47 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. This includes children placed out of the local authority area.

2.6 RESIDENTIAL VISITING ADVOCACY SERVICE

This service provides visits to all Children and Young People's residential children's homes and residential schools, whether provided by the Local Authority or an independent provider where a looked after child from Nottingham City or a Nottinghamshire County is placed. This includes those placements outside the City of Nottingham or the County of Nottinghamshire.

2.7 RESIDENTIAL VISITING ADVOCACY SERVICE TO SECURE ACCOMMODATION

This service provides residential visiting advocacy to Clayfields House in Stapleford on a weekly basis.

2.8 SPOT PURCHASE

NYAS provides an independent advocacy service for the following children and young people on a spot purchase referral basis. They include those who are-

- At risk of exclusion from school or have been permanently excluded.
- Involved in an Initial/Review Child Protection Conference,
- Referred by the Youth Offending Team/Service
- Placed in a residential setting by Council Educational Services or from an SEN disability tribunal
- Deemed to be in need of this service

2.9 SERVICE TRANSFER

NYAS utilised the services of independent advocates from other contracts to ensure that the most vulnerable young people were prioritised and received a service while the service was being transferred from Barnardo's to NYAS in 2014.

2.10 STAFF TEAM

The staff team is made up of a Service Manager, a Senior Advocate, a Salaried Advocate and an IV co-ordinator. The contract is overseen by the Service Manager - Midlands. In addition, NYAS currently has 21 independent advocates

2.11 PROGRESS TO DATE

Independent visitor service

NYAS have continued working hard to maintain the Independent Visiting service by; supporting current volunteers, recruiting new volunteers, delivering independent visiting training. There has been increase of volunteers applying to NYAS to become Independent Visitors in Q4.

Volunteer Support

All volunteers receive support from the IV co-ordinator over the phone and via e-mail to ensure they are fully informed of any updates and changes in the service. The IV co-ordinator has delivered one to one support to volunteers who are unable to attend any of the volunteer meetings. The IV co-ordinators continue to offer newly matched volunteer support, by offering a checking in an out system during their first few visits.

4 Volunteers meetings have taken place where best practice is shared, including an activity ideas and opportunities for additional positive activities newsletter which are paid for by NYAS. Volunteers have also attended safeguarding training.

The Service Manager and IV co-ordinator have met with key individuals within the local authority and provide regular updates on the progression of the recruitment of volunteers. This has included the Head of Service, Service Manager for Children in Care, Residential Home Managers and attendance at the foster carer's meetings.

In some circumstances there have been delays to NYAS receiving the necessary referral and Health & safety forms and we are not always informed when a new Social Worker has been allocated. The Service Manager for Children in Care has been supported NYAS to address this.

Looking forward into the next 6 months

The IV co-ordinator will continue to focus on recruitment and meeting with the children and young people referred to ensure the most suitable match takes place. The volunteers currently going through different stages of recruitment will be interviewed within 2 weeks and trained within 3 to 4 weeks and, once references have been received and verified, will be signed off and matched.

Children and Young People waiting to be matched will be given a voucher from NYAS additional positive activity funds.

The IV Co-ordinator will provide additional funding to support additional visits for those matched. This is an extra visit that will be to a particular place chosen by the young person and agreed with the Social Worker.

Advocacy Service

Referrals are received through our national helpline and passed through to the local co-ordinator for allocation. NYAS introduced an online referral procedure for Professionals and also developed and launched an Advocacy app. Advocates have been sourced from NYAS out of county contracts. NYAS normally allocates each case within 24 hours and the advocate makes contact with the child or young person within 72 hours.

There has been an increase in the number of advocacy referrals from April 2016 to March 2017. NYAS has implemented an outcome framework which includes a pre and post questionnaire to measure the journey and experience of the advocacy support. Children and young people have said they feel supported and empowered by the advocacy support and understands their Rights more.

28 NYAS self-employed advocates supported children and young people from Nottingham City who are placed in out of County placements across England and Wales over the last year

RESIDENTIAL VISITING

There has been a significant increase in the number of residential visits over the last year. The Service Manager has quality assured all services and has linked in with other leads within NYAS and identified advocates for those placed a distance from the Local Authority. More local advocates have been successfully recruited and are now working. The Service Manager and teams have linked in with Homes' Managers and in some instances have visited the Home and Teams to raise awareness of the services. Promotional material has been provided including information about how a referral can be made.

There is a barrier to visiting young people in semi-independence settings as often they move or they do not wish to engage in the 8 weekly visits. NYAS are not always provided with accurate updates on the movement of young people. The Service Manager has raised this with the City Commissioners at the quarterly monitoring meeting and work will be undertaken to improve this moving forward.

In addition, Clayfields House has received weekly visits during the reporting year in line with contractual requirements. NYAS has supported young people in secure accommodation reviews, most of which taken place some distance from Nottingham City. Local NYAS independent persons have supported these young people.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

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

4.1 The combined (City and County) contract has a value of –

1. Year 1. As per contractual agreement
2. Year 2. As per contractual agreement
3. Year 3. As per contractual agreement
4. Year 4. As per contractual agreement extension 30th September 2017

4.2 In addition, further costs will be incurred through the spot purchase arrangement. These are invoiced regularly to allow for close budget monitoring.

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

5.1 The service ensures that the wishes and feelings of looked after young people are considered when planning for their futures. Risk to the local authority is therefore reduced and managed as concerns and complaints are supported and effectively managed. Vulnerable children and young people are further supported through the residential visiting advocacy and the independent visiting service, with particular focus on minimising isolation and maintaining contact with the young person. The residential visiting service that is for all Nottingham City children and young people place in or out of County, across England and Wales is an extra safeguarding service for those placed away from Nottingham City as they are visited at least every 8 weeks.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE 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.

Yes



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

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

8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 None.

Corporate Parenting Board

Reporting Schedule: Forward Planner

2017 - 2018

| 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"> ▪ Quality Assurance Visits of Regulated and Non-regulated Residential Provision ▪ Adoption and Permanency (2) ▪ Pilot Ofsted Inspection ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Keep on Caring (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kay Sutt ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Helen Blackman ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Lynn Pearce ▪ Cllr Mellen | 8 th June 2017 | 10 th June 2017 | 15 th May 2017 | 22 nd May 2017 | 7 th June 2017 | 19 th June 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report (3) ▪ Pathway Planning (3) ▪ Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention ▪ Children in Care Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner (Verbal Update) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Sharon Clarke ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Grace Brough ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen | 31 st May 2017 | 7 th June 2017 | 14 th June 2017 | 21 st June 2017 | 5 th July 2017 | 17 th July 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care Leavers Annual Report (4)(5) ▪ Emotional Health (1) ▪ CiC Performance Report (Q3/Q4 16/17) ▪ Advocacy and Independent Visitor Annual Report ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharon Clarke ▪ Aileen Wilson ▪ Steve Comb ▪ Val Marshall ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen | 26 th July 2017 | 2 nd August 2017 | 9 th August 2017 | 16 th August 2017 | 6 th September 2017 | 18 th September 2017 |

Page 39

Agenda Item 10

| 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"> ▪ Statement of Purpose Fostering Service and Adoption Agency ▪ Children in Care Placements ▪ Physical Health ▪ Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2017/18) ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Holly Macer ▪ Kathryn Higgins ▪ Steve Comb ▪ Steve Comb ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen | 2 nd October 2017 | 9 th October 2017 | 16 th October 2017 | 23 rd October 2017 | 8 th November 2017 | 20 th November 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update ▪ Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming (1) ▪ Adoption and Permanency (2) ▪ Complaints Service Report ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Report Forward Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sonia Cain ▪ Caroline Riley ▪ Sonia Cain, Sharon Clarke ▪ Patrick Skeet ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen | 27 th November 2017 | 4 th December 2017 | 11 th December 2017 | 18 th December 2017 | 3 rd January 2018 | 15 th January 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational Attainment of Children in Care (4) ▪ NCSCB Missings Update Report ▪ Edge of Care Provision ▪ Reducing Offending Behaviour ▪ Children in Care Council: Have your Say 2016 ▪ Report Forward Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sarah Fielding ▪ Clive Chambers ▪ Kay Sutt ▪ Sam Flint ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Cllr Mellen | 2 nd February 2018 | 9 th February 2018 | 16 th February 2018 | 23 rd February 2018 | 7 th March 2018 | 19 th March 2018 |

- **SPS 1: Health**
- **SPS 2: Permanency**
- **SPS 3: Resilience and Independence**
- **SPS 4: Educational Attainment**

ATTENTION: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO REPORT SUBMISSION

All* reports scheduled to be presented to the Board must be produced and submitted through the corporate report management system – see link to access the system and for guidance

<http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/index.aspx?articleid=10263>.

When submitting the report for advice, you will be prompted to select reviewers. The following reviewers should be selected;

- Steve Comb
- Clive Chambers
- Jordan Whatman

When submitting the report for departmental sign-off, you will be prompted to select reviewers. The following reviewer should be selected;

- Helen Blackman

(* This only applies to reports produced by local authority staff. External partners should continue to submit reports via email to jordan.whatman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk no later than 10.00am on the date stated.)

Please note that additional reports may be added to the schedule by request of the Chair or other Board Members. Reports are also subject to schedule changes.

- SPS 5: Suitable Accommodation
- SPS 6: Offending Behaviour

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