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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Monday, 16 July 2018

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

g/suderell-

Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources

Governance Officer: Phil Wye Direct Dial: 0115 8764637

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3	MINUTES Of the meeting held on 21 May 2018 (for confirmation)	3 - 8
4	PATHWAY PLANNING Report of the Director Children's Integrated Services	9 - 12
5	FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services	13 - 18
6	CHILDREN IN CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q3 / Q4 2017/18) Report of the Director of Children's Integrated Services	19 - 22
7	CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE	Verbal Report
8	FORWARD PLANNER	23 - 26

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

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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 21 May 2018 from 2.31pm – 4.07pm

Membership

<u>Present</u> <u>Absent</u>

Councillor David Mellen (Chair)

Councillor Sue Johnson

Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice Chair)

Councillor Neghat Khan

Councillor Jim Armstrong Councillor Nicola Heaton Councillor Glyn Jenkins Councillor Wendy Smith Councillor Marcia Watson Councillor Cate Woodward

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

BB - Foster Carer representative

Clive Chambers - Head of Children in Care Service

Larelle Flowers - Children in Care Council Young Person representative - Director of Housing and Customer Services, Nottingham

City Homes

Michael Rowley - Market and Contracts Lead Officer

Kay Sutt - Service Manager, Residential and Targeted Support

Audrey Taylor - Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption

Jordan Whatman - Project Officer, Children in Care

Phil Wye - Governance Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Ginny Klein as Vice-Chair for the 2018-19 municipal year.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sue Johnson – leave Councillor Neghat Khan – other Council business Helen Blackman TM (foster carer representative)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 QUALITY ASSURANCE VISITS OF REGULATED AND NON-REGULATED RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

Kay Sutt, Service Manager, Residential and Targeted Support, introduced the report highlighting the following:

- (a) monthly Regulation 44 visits are required of all children's homes and units run by a local authority, or independent registered children's home provider. The visits must be undertaken by a person not employed by the home or directly responsible for it, and a written report of findings must be completed within a month;
- (b) in April 2016 a rota was also created for Nottingham City Council's semi-independent homes to be quality assured on a regular basis. This rota includes relevant professionals from various teams across the Council and Nottingham City Homes as well as Councillors;
- (c) young people in residential care and semi-independent provision are often highly vulnerable, so it is imperative that this provision is scrutinised independently to ensure that it is improving outcomes for children in care and delivering cost-effective services. Visits also ensure that young people have access to somebody independent should they need to complain or disclose information about the care they are receiving;
- (d) before being recruited onto the rota for visits, they are assessed to establish that they have the relevant experience, skills and qualifications before attending a training course on the standards and regulations;
- (e) since April 2011 residential services have been reconfigured into a Small Group Homes model. There are now 13 settled beds in five children's homes, four emergency beds and 21 semi-independent beds. Having more beds in the local authority area is better for stability of the young people and also cost-effective for the Council.

RESOLVED to

- (1) support continued involvement and recruitment of relevant independent professionals undertaking Regulation 44 visits and to welcome members' involvement in quality assurance visits of unregulated semi-independent homes for care leavers:
- (2) continue to receive regular updates in respect of outcomes of visits;
- (3) liaise with Board members about the possibility of undertaking visits of children's homes and semi-independent homes.

6 ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY

Audrey Taylor, Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption, introduced the report providing an overview of the permanency performance of the Local Authority and the number of adoptions, highlighting the following:

Corporate Parenting Board - 21.05.18

- (a) Nottingham City Council continues to make adoption plans for a significant number of children in its care, many of whom have complex medical conditions, belong to a sibling group, have a range of disabilities or have birth parents with complex histories;
- (b) in Nottingham City there are currently 98 children with adoption plans, 37 children who are currently matched with adopters, and 316 children who are being supported by means of a Special Guardianship allowance;
- (c) there were 34 children adopted in the last financial year which is fewer than the previous year where 42 were adopted. Neighbouring local authorities have also reported a reduction in adoptions. There has been an increase in the number of Special Guardianship Order placements, and also an increase in the number of contester hearings from birth parents;
- (d) plans are underway to establish an East Midlands regional adoption agency by 2020. Initially, Nottingham City is working with Derbyshire, Derby City and Nottinghamshire to establish a D2N2 adoption agency from September. Children will still belong to Nottingham City but workers will come under the agency, which will also provide postadoption support services;
- (e) a Permanency Panel has been established in order to make sure that adoption, Special Guardianship or fostering plans meet the needs of children and young people. Members of the Panel have commented on the recent improvement of cases presented to them;
- (f) there are 21 adoption matches to be considered between April to July which is a significant increase on last year, so the number of adoptions should rise this financial year.

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (g) birth parents very rarely win their case when they contest adoptions, but it does slow the process for at least a few months;
- (h) the regional adoption agency is being created at the behest of the government. This should be in place for the 2019/20 financial year, and Nottingham City, along with Derbyshire, Derby City and Nottinghamshire, is ahead of other local authorities nationally:
- (i) the decision for a child to be adopted goes through many stages of scrutiny before being finalised, including a review by an independent reviewing officer, a court process and the adoption panel with an independent chair.

RESOLVED to

(1) note the performance to date in relation to permanency planning for children in care, which can be found in the form of Adoption, Permanent Fostering or Special Guardianship;

(2) receive updates through the Adoption and Permanency report annually. The report will enable the Adoption Leadership Board data to be considered for the previous year, and performance in this area to be reviewed.

7 COMMISSIONING OF SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES 2018

Michael Rowley, Market and Contracts Lead Officer, introduced the report that informs the Board on a procurement process that has been undertaken to establish a set of accredited providers of semi-independent living services locally and across the country, highlighting the following:

- (a) high quality, value for money placements are required for young people in order to prepare them effectively for independent life. The new service specification sets out clear standards for accommodation and support and stipulates quality monitoring and contract management requirements;
- (b) approximately 30 providers have been successful in their applications and contracts are now being drawn up;
- (c) an open accreditation process offers an opportunity to improve outcomes, improve local sufficiency and consistency of quality and provide greater value for money.

The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

- (d) semi-independent living is available for young people up to the age of 18, although this can be extended for a short period whilst independent accommodation is arranged;
- (e) there is an expectation of providers that they will provide support to ensure a successful transition to adulthood. Provision will be consistently quality-assured to ensure that this happens;
- (f) the Council is investigating whether Care Leavers could be exempted from paying council tax. However, if this happens they must still be prepared for when they will need to begin paying tax;
- (g) historically, many Care Leavers' tenancies fail, but this is reducing due to improvements in the package of support available from Nottingham City Hokes and the Leaving Care Service.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the progress made in improving the quality and choice of provision of semi-independent living services for 16-18 year old young people in care:
- (2) note the more robust contractual arrangements being put in place in respect of this provision.

8 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

Jordan Whatman, Project Officer, Children in Care, informed the Board that there will be 2 workshops at NGY on 21 May: a session with SOVA and the Children's Society, and a

Corporate Parenting Board - 21.05.18

workshop on presentation and public speaking to prepare for a 5 minute speaking slot in Mansfield.

A regional Children in Care Council event will take place on 1 June at Mansfield Myplace with 9 representatives from Nottingham City. The Children's Commissioner for England will be in attendance.

Larelle Flowers, Children in care young person representative, informed the Board that he has recently returned from Tanzania as part of the International Citizenship Service learning about sustainable development, helping businesses and living with a host family. More details can be found at the following links:

https://raleighinternational.org/blog/tanzania-ics/international-day-forests-rural-tanzania-save-tree-save-future/

https://raleighinternational.org/blog/tanzania-ics/world-creativity-innovation-day-finding-business-niche/

RESOLVED to thank Jordan and Larelle for the information provided.

9 CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Clive Chambers, Head of Children in Care, delivered a presentation on changes to statutory guidance for Corporate Parenting, highlighting the following:

- (a) Seven principles have been outlined for Corporate Parenting of Looked After Children and Care Leavers, as outlined below:
 - to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
 - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
 - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
 - to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
 - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people;
 - for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
 - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living;
- (b) these principles are already reflected in the business of Nottingham City Council, but the Children in Care Strategy is being revised to cover them;
- (c) young people are now entitled to ask for a service up to the age of 25. There is no requirement to keep in touch with them on an ongoing basis, but they must be reminded annually about their entitlement;
- (d) there is a requirement to publish a Local Offer for Care leavers, including statutory services and additional support available on health and wellbeing, relationships,

education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society;

RESOLVED to thank Clive for the information provided.

10 FORWARD PLANNER

The forward planner was noted.

11 DATES FOR THE 2018-19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED to meet at 2.30pm on the following Mondays:

<u>2018</u> <u>2019</u>

16 July 21 January 17 September 18 March

19 November

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 16 JULY 2018

Title of paper:	Pathway Planning									
Director(s)/	Helen Blackman - Director, Children's	Wards affected:								
Corporate Director(s):	Integrated Services	All								
	magratou con nece									
Report author(s) and	Sharon Clarke - Service Manager, Reside	ential Development								
contact details:	Sharon.Clarke@nottinghamcity.gov.uk									
	Hayley Frame, Service Manager, Childre	n In Care and Leaving Care								
	Service									
	Hayley.Frame@nottinghamcity.gov.uk									
Other colleagues who										
have provided input:	(I. Destitallia Hallanda)									
Date of consultation wit	in Portfolio Holder(s)									
(if relevant)										
Relevant Council Plan										
Strategic Regeneration a										
Schools	nd Bevelopment									
Planning and Housing										
Community Services										
Energy, Sustainability and	d Customer									
Jobs, Growth and Transp										
Adults, Health and Comm										
Children, Early Intervention										
Leisure and Culture										
Resources and Neighbou	irhood Regeneration									
<u> </u>	3									
Summary of issues (inc	luding benefits to citizens/service users	3):								
·	_	•								
This report includes the	current issues in relation to the legislative	duties required by Nottingha	ım							
City Council, in respect	of those children eligible for a Pathway	Plan. It focuses on the wo	rk							
	kers and Personal Advisors in relation									
-	iews of Pathway Planning in order to ensu	ire young people have a robu	ıst							
plan to aid transition into	adulthood.									
D										
Recommendation(s):										
	s to support and understand the required do									
relation to Pathway I	Planning for children in care and care leave	ers.								

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Nottingham City has a legislative duty to ensure all young people have a robust Pathway Plan that is recorded and reviewed on their individual file.

1.2 Nottingham City has an E-Pathway Plan to ensure Pathway Plans are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely. The Pathway Plans measure outcomes, and provide evidence of young people's wishes and feelings. Recent audits have indicated that, generally, plans are of a good standard.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 In April 2011, Guidance was issued by the Government to Local Authorities / Agencies who provide services to care leavers. This was updated in May 2014, to include further duties in respect of Staying Put arrangements. The updated Guidance also included direction on providing young people access to their records. and guidance in respect of Personal Advisors assisting and supporting young people with access to training: "Young people do not need to have decided what education or training they would like to pursue. They can get in touch if they are wanting to pursue education or training and in such cases, the Personal Advisor should help the young person identify the best options suited to them" (3.56)." The main aim of this guidance is to ensure care leavers are provided with the relevant support and advice, so they can be supported to achieve any aspiration they may have and the right support to tackle any difficulty or challenges they may face. Further to this the Children and Social Work Act, 2017, received Royal Assent on 27th April. This policy document stipulates that all Local Authorities in England must formally produce a Local Offer for Care Leavers. Local Authorities are also required to support Care Leavers until age 25 although this is dependent on the views and wishes of each individual young person. It is also a requirement as per this policy that the Local Authority must provide a designated member of staff, who will be responsible for nurturing and assisting with the educational attainment of Care Leavers.
- 2.2 For all young people, the transition into adulthood can be a turbulent and challenging time. However, the transition time can be eased by living with Carers / Parents until ready emotionally and / or financially for independence. This is promoted by our Staying Put Policy and we encourage those young people who are not ready, or who we assess as not able, to sustain their own tenancies to Stay Put either with their foster carers or within a semi-independence placement to continue their support until they are ready emotionally and practically to live independently. As of the 6/6/18 we have 22 young people remaining in Staying Put arrangements. However, for young people leaving care, this may not always be offered by carers on an on-going basis. Therefore, as Corporate Parents, we need to provide support for our care leavers in the same way that reasonable Parents provide support for their own children.
- 2.3 It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to assess, plan, implement and review Pathway Plans, and support young people as they transition into adulthood. This applies irrespective of other services provided e.g. if they are disabled, in custody or if they are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).
- 2.4 The Children Act, 1989, requires that a Pathway Plan must be prepared for all eligible children and continued for all Relevant and Former Relevant Children. The Pathway Plan is derived from their Care Plan and sets out the necessary actions to be taken by the Local Authority, the young person, their Carers and Agencies so that each young person has an individual plan that provides them with the services

required in supporting a successful transition into adulthood. The Pathway Plan should be developed and reviewed with the young person and their input is extremely important in ensuring the plan meets their needs.

- 2.5 The Pathway Plan is incorporated into Liquid Logic, the social care electronic case recording system. It reflects the requirements of the act and includes:
 - Young person's health and development.
 - Education, training and employment.
 - Contact, supports and networks.
 - Young person's financial capabilities and money-management capacity.
 - Young person's views.
 - Input from Parent / Carer, providers of housing, Personal Advisor, health, education and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).
- Young people leaving care should have a Health Passport (referred to as Important Health Information) which gives their full medical history in consultation with a Looked After Nurse, if the young person wishes to co-operate. The Local Authority continues to collaborate with the Health Team, which is responsible for the production of Health documentation. A number of young people also refuse medical appointments, and creative methods are utilised to help these young people to engage. We are aware this is a challenge for us as well as a national issue and are working in partnership with our health colleagues to improve the number of Care-Leavers who have this information.
- 2.7 The Leaving Care Team employ a qualified Social Worker who acts as a dedicated Transitions Worker to work with social workers, Personal Advisors, young people and other professionals to input into Pathway Planning for young people who may require Adult Services or further support in their transition. The Disabled Children's Team retain responsibility for formulating Pathway Planning, for children in care who have a permanent and substantial disability. All care leavers who are eligible for Adult Services, also receive services relevant to their status as a care leaver.
- 2.8 Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) have both a leaving care and immigration status which means Pathway Planning can be complex. This requires a multi-faceted planning model; addressing planning for young people with permission to remain in the UK, for those who have been refused permission to remain, those who may want to return to their country of origin and those who have been granted time-limited discretion to remain in the UK. Nottingham City Council has a legal duty to support UASC who are post-18 and in an appeal regarding their immigration status. These duties include the allocation of a Personal Advisor, providing accommodation and financial support.
- 2.9 The LASPO Act 2012 (Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders) means Nottingham City Council has a legal duty to extend Looked After status to all young people remanded into custody. Therefore, once eligible, there is an expectation that these young people have a Pathway Plan.
- 2.10 All young people, from 15 years and 9 months of age, are required to have a Pathway Plan up until they are 18 years of age. These are formulated, implemented and reviewed by their allocated Social Workers. Post-18 care leavers are allocated a Personal Advisor who is then the key professional responsible for the continuation and review of the young person's Pathway Plan up until they are 25, if required

2.11 Performance in respect of Pathway Plans has remained a challenge in ensuring all young people have a compliant and authorised Pathway Plan, complete with an independent Personal Advisor viewpoint. We are currently working to develop a reporting facility to allow for more accurate, on-going performance management of this area of practice. Performance has continued to improve and Audits are being undertaken to test quality.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.
- 4 <u>FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)</u>
- 4.1 None.
- 5 <u>LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)</u>
- 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: the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

- 8 <u>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION</u>
- 8.1 None.
- 9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT
- 9.1 Leaving Care Act (2000) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents
- 9.2 The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers (2010)
 https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/pdf/PS The%20Children%20Act_Nov2012a.pdf
- 9.3 The Children and Social Work Act (2017) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/pdfs/ukpga 20170016 en.pdf

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 16 JULY 2018

Title	e of paper:	Foster Carer Recruitment and	I Retention		
	ctor(s)/ porate Director(s):	Helen Blackman – Director, C Integrated Services	children's	Wards affected: All	
	ort author(s) and act details:	Audrey Taylor – Service Man audrey.taylor@nottinghamcity		ng and Adoption	
have	er colleagues who provided input:	_			
	of consultation wit levant)	h Portfolio Holder(s)			
	vant Council Plan K			-	
	egic Regeneration a	nd Development			
Scho					
	ning and Housing				
	munity Services	1 Customor			
	gy, Sustainability and , Growth and Transp				
	ts, Health and Comm				
	dren, Early Intervention				
	ure and Culture	on and Lany Tears			
	ources and Neighbou	rhood Regeneration			
11030	ources and recignibed	Theod Regeneration			
Sum	mary of issues (inc	luding benefits to citizens/se	rvice users):	
	, ,	strategies for the recruitment		•	etor carore
11115	report addresses the	strategies for the recruitment	and retention	r opportunities of to	sier carers.
Rec	ommendation(s):				
1		that the Corporate Parenting Fostering Service and the act arers.			

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 According to the National Charity Fostering Network, Nationally over 9,000 new foster families are needed in the next 12 months to care for a range of children, with the greatest need being foster carers for older children, sibling groups, disabled children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Every 20 minutes across the UK a child comes into care in need of a foster family.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 The City has just over 632 children in their care as recorded on 1st April 2018. These are the most vulnerable children in the City, some known to services for some time, and many with

complex needs. The majority of our children are placed with foster carers, nearly 500 children are placed in foster care. The Department recognises that if children are unable to live safely with birth parents or their extended family, then a setting that offers the experience of family life is best. This is what a placement with a foster carer offers.

- 2.2 The Department places most children in our care with foster carers. We would wish to place many of our children with our own in-house mainstream carers. Cost of placement we save between 12 and 20k a year by placing children in-house according to an Empower study. A report by Empower shows that on average, each LA provided foster placement is as much as £17,000 per year cheaper than the average placement by an IFA, and that by increasing the number of LA placements with 18%*, from 67% to 85%, local authorities could save £150million a year on a national basis.
- 2.3 Many of our foster carers live in the City or the County and we would wish to recruit more carers living locally so that our children can be placed locally. They can then continue relationships with friends, and remain at the same school even if they are not living with birth families. We would prefer to place with our own carers rather than with an Independent Fostering Agency, which may be further away and disrupt established relationships.
- 2.4 For those children who are unable to live with their birth families, it is important where possible for them to retain close links with their birth family, and many will continue to have regular contact with their families. It is easier for support and contact to be maintained with local foster carers.
- 2.5 A placement near to home and within the Council makes communication easier for the child's social worker and the fostering supervising social worker, because they work for the same agency. Any successful placement is dependent on good communication between the staff concerned.
- 2.6 A successful placement also needs to be supported well. The support to the placement is easier to put in place when all work in the same department, as support from CAMHS, the Virtual School, and Targeted Support are all delivered from the same Council or linked Agencies.
- 2.7 It also makes efficient use of the budget to have more of our children with our own foster carers, as we do not have to pay the additional Independent Fostering Agency Fees.

RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

- 2.8 The City has a recruitment strategy aimed at recruiting more foster carers and retaining existing foster carers. We have two established and dedicated Customer Service Officers for both Fostering and Adoption, who are a point of contact for any prospective foster carer from the application stage through to approval. Each month Information Evenings are held at Loxley House, for anyone thinking about fostering. They are always attended by a foster carer and members of the fostering team to answer any queries those interested may have about fostering, and to share their own experiences of fostering. We advertise on Facebook, Twitter and on the Nottingham City Council website. We have launched our new refreshed web page as we recognise that for many applying to become a foster carer, using the internet is more convenient.
- 2.9 In May we took part in Fostering Sunday, a local campaign promoting fostering within local churches to raise the profile of fostering, and to recruit more carers. We are also working with the City Prayer Team who are co-ordinating churches across Nottinghamshire to

support in trying to recruit 100 foster homes within 3 years. We also had events in local schools, police and health services. We have recruited additional carers through these events. Audrey Taylor and Clive Chambers will be presenting a piece on Kemet radio regarding our recruitment opportunities for foster carers.

- 2.10 Fostering staff regularly attend local events such as the Riverside Festival, Caribbean Carnival, and Pride to promote fostering. Last year we attended 2 new events "Lark in the Park" in West Bridgford and "Glow Worm" a camping event in Clumber Park.
- 2.11 We appointed on a year's contract, a dedicated Recruitment Consultant and a Fostering Project Officer to assist with Recruitment. There was a target set of 12 for the number of foster carers to be recruited last year. We have exceeded this, we had a net gain of 20 carers. Due to the success in the increase in recruitment their posts have been made permanent. We currently predict we could recruit as many as 40 carers this financial year, if we continue with the current progress.

2.12 RECRUITMENT STATISTICS

			Foster Carers								am B	eds Only		Child Placements					
Month	Marketing Activity	Month	Enquirie <u>s</u>	<u>RO</u> <u>!</u>	Stage 1	Stage 2	Approval <u>s</u>	De- regn/ resign	Month	Availabl e		Vacanci es 'useable	Utilisati on rate	NCC	<u>IFA</u>		Month	NCC%	IFA%
Apr-17	Schools, Mosque & Trent Vineyard	Apr-17	0	1	8	5	0	0	Apr-17	221	166	29	75%	184	292	⇔	Apr-17	38.66%	61.34%
May-17	Fostering Fortnight	May-17	40	1	7	4	2	1	May-17	216	162	29	75%	193	292	⇔	May-17	39.79%	60.21%
lun-17	Bestwood Get Together, Lenton Abbey Fun Day	Jun-17	17	15	20	5	2	0	Jun-17	216	162	30	75%	199	292	⇔	Jun-17	40.53%	59.47%
ul-17	Pride, Splendour, Priority Families, Southglade Park Live, Penny Appeal	Jul-17	30	7	26	4	1	3	Jul-17	231	165	29	71%	193	292	0	Jul-17	39.79%	60.21%
Aug-17	Riverside Festival, Beach- Nottingham City Centre, Loxley House Pop Up Stand, Beeston/Hyson Green/Hucknall Market, Glo Worm, Lark in the Park	Aug-17	34	8	26	5	1	0	Aug-17	232	158	30	68%	197	284	0	Aug-17	40.96%	59.04%
Sep-17	Facebook Campaign, DWP and NHS talk.	Sep-17	26	9	28	10	0	0	Sep-17	226	166	25	73%	203	284	⇔	Sep-17	41.68%	58.32%
Oct-17	Beeston Market, Priority Families, Market, Church leaders meeting, Penny Appeal, Bus advertising, St Pauls	Oct-17	28	7	33	13	1	0	Oct-17	230	162	28	70%	197	283	\$	Oct-17	41.04%	58.96%
Nov-17	DWP tax Office, Facebook promotions	Nov-17	20	10	21	23	2	2	Nov-17	226	172	19	76%	213	283	⇔	Nov-17	42.94%	57.06%
Dec-17	Facebook promotions, information evening	Dec-17	21	6	18	22	5	0	Dec-17	218	179	22	82%	216	275	⇔	Dec-17	43.99%	56.01%
Jan-18	Facebook promotions, information evening	Jan-18	34	11	16	18	4	0	Jan-18	218	178	28	82%	215	270	⇔	Jan-18	44.33%	55.67%
Feb-18	Facebook promotions, information evening, Church leaders meetings, NHS meetings	Feb-18	50	6	10	22	6	0	Feb-18	226	175	32	80%	211	267	0	Feb-18	44.14%	55.86%
Mar-18	Facebook promotions, information evening, Church leaders meetings, Council Tax leaflet	Mar-18	35	5	15	16	8	0	Mar-18	236	177	42	75%	212	266	0	Mar-18	44.35%	55.65%
Apr-18	Facebook promotions, information evening, Church leaders meetings.	Apr-18	35	5	13	12	4	2	Apr-18	242	176	48	73%	202	266	\$	Apr-18	43.16%	56.84%
May-18	Fostering Fortnight- fostering Sunday, Walk in the Park awareness, radio, Notts TV , regional press.	May-18	40	6	15	18	4	2	May-18	243	184	46	76%	210	263	0	May-18	44.40%	55.60%
Jun-18	Heart Church information event, Facebook adv, Google Ad words	Jun-18	35	4	14	18	2	0	Jun-18	248	191	35	77%	218	247	\$	Jun-18	46.88%	53.12%

RETENTION STRATEGY

2.13 We continue to maintain our efforts to retain the carers that we have, and to look at innovative ways to "reward" our carers for what they do. We have a well-established, dedicated and experienced team of supervising social workers. Every foster carer has their

- own supervising social worker who regularly visits them, and who they can contact at any time regarding their fostering role. We are in the process of increasing the team of Supervising Social Workers to ensure foster carers are supported.
- 2.14 Our foster carers are regularly and formally reviewed where any changes to their status can be discussed and agreed. We run Support Groups for foster carers in Clifton and Lenton, where foster carers can meet with other foster carers in their area. We have introduced a Buddy scheme, offering peer mentoring by approved foster carers. We are looking to support the North of the City also with a support group.
- 2.15 The fostering team have developed a Therapeutic Support Team. The Therapeutic Support Team provides therapeutic based interventions, support, and advice, recognising that caring for children can feel overwhelming at times and sometimes patterns of behaviour and the way families get on together can become very stuck. They offer monthly consultation slots for foster carers and professional and also offer home visits.
- 2.16 There are six-weekly Fostering Business meetings that alternate between day and evening sessions. The meetings offer all our foster carers the opportunity to meet with Senior Managers within the Department, and for the Department to share current issues and concerns, and consult in relation to new initiatives.
- 2.17 The Service Manager, Virtual School regularly attends the Business meetings to address any issues in relation to education that carers may have. So far this year we have also had the NSPCC attend the Business meeting, in relation to work they are doing with life story work for children in foster care. Life story work is important for children who are in foster care for some time to help them maintain a clear understanding of their life history.
- 2.18 The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) has attended, to inform foster carers in relation to the contact that the Department has with them to provide advocacy for children in care, and children who are subject to Child Prevention Conferences. NYAS also provides an independent visiting scheme for children in care who are not regularly in contact with their birth families, and who have been assessed as requiring this service.
- 2.19 We have recently fully reviewed and updated our training programme for this year. Where we have received positive comments from foster carers, we will run a course the following year, or more than once during the year. We have incorporated foetal alcohol syndrome and transitions into adulthood training.
- 2.20 We pay for all our carers to be members of the Fostering Network where they can receive the latest information relative to developments in fostering, and they also access the services of the Fostering Network Advice and Mediation Worker.
- 2.21 We are constantly looking at different ways to reward our carers and acknowledge our appreciation of them.
- 2.22 Works Perks is an employee benefits scheme where staff can choose from over 6000 lifestyle discounts, we have recently extended this to include foster carers. This can include discounts at well-known shops, cinema, discounted holidays and travel, and local offers from businesses. We consulted with foster carers, and most foster carers have received their ID badges to access the scheme.
- 2.23 We are seeking to build an in-house supported lodging service. We are looking to place a number of care leaver's, young people age 16 plus with some on-going care needs, that

require guidance within supported lodging arrangements, to support them into eventual independence. These young people may have experienced placement breakdowns, and will be in need of support to help them achieve their potential. We are also working on specialist recruitment of foster carers for parent and baby placements, we currently only have 1 in-house parent and baby placement.

- 3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS
- 3.1 None.
- 4 <u>FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)</u>
- 4.1 None.
- 5 <u>LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)</u>
- 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: the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

- 8 <u>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE</u> DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION
- 8.1 None.
- 9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT
- 9.1 None.



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD –16 JULY 2018

Title	e of paper:	Children in Care Performance Report (C	3 and Q4 2017-2018	3)	
	ctor(s)/	Helen Blackman – Director, Children's	Wards affected:		
Cor	porate Director(s):	Integrated Services	All		
Rep	ort author(s) and	Clive Chambers – Head of Children in C	are		
conf	tact details:	clive.chambers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk			
	er colleagues who				
	provided input:	1. B. (C. P. 11.11. ()			
	e of consultation wit elevant)	h Portfolio Holder(s)			
	evant Council Plan k			_	1
	tegic Regeneration a	nd Development			1
Scho]
	ning and Housing nmunity Services]
	rgy, Sustainability and	Customer]
	s, Growth and Transp]
	ts, Health and Comm				1
	dren, Early Intervention	•			1
	ure and Culture	,]
Res	ources and Neighbou	rhood Regeneration			
		luding benefits to citizens/service use	•		
		al service development and to provide the			n in
		s essential that the performance of the Cl			
		rutiny by Corporate Parenting Board ('Bo e Board with the most up to date Childrer			OT
		g discussed at the July 2018 Corporate F			
10101	rant to the areas bein	g discussed at the sury 2010 Corporate i	arenting board mee	urig.	
Rec	ommendation(s):				
1		current performance position of the Child	Iren in Care service,	against	
		nance indicators, as detailed in the appe			nbers
	are invited to offer so	ggestion for remedial action in areas of p	oor performance and	d	
	developmental suga	estions 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 <u>LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)</u>
- 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 An EIA is not required as the report does contain proposals or financial decisions.
- 8 <u>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION</u>
- 8.1 Appendix 1: CiC Performance Report
- 9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT
- 9.1 None.



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT

JULY 2018

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 2017 to March 2018. Performance commentaries have been provided by the Head of Service.

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 17/18	Out- turn 16/17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Q3	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Q4	YTD	Service commentary
CC-1 (E)	Number of children in care (as at) (rate per 10,000)	762 (90)	90 per 10,000	616 (91.8)	622 (92.7)	628 (93.6)	643 (95.8		627 (93. 4)	625 (93.1)	620 (92.4)		620 (92.4)	Whilst still above target, the number of children in care appears to have stabilised, although there continues to be a high level of demand. We continue to invest in a range of diversionary schemes, which are helping us to manage this demand. There is ongoing scrutiny from senior managers in relation to decisions to admit children into our care and the timeliness within which they exit. Statistical neighbour performance is distorted as Birmingham are part of our comparator group and they have a particularly low rate of children in care. We have ranked 6 th lowest in the 11 statutory neighbour authorities since 2013 and this continued to be the case.
CC - 1a (E)	The number of children discharged as a result of a Permanent Outcome (SGO/Child Arrangement Order/Adoption Order)	See comments		74	3	7	5	15	9	4	5	18	66	There is no comparator data available for this area of performance, as it is not reported in this way by other authorities. We do have comparator figures for the number of adoptions, which averaged 57 across our SNG groups. This was higher than our performance. Compared to the previous year we saw a decrease in Adoption and Child Arrangement Orders and an increase in Special Guardianship Orders. SGO's and Adoption issues were discussed in detail at the previous Corporate parenting Board
CC-8 (NI62)	The percentage of Children in Care that have had three or more placement moves in the previous 12 months	10.3%		7.8%									8.4%	The comparator figure is from other authorities is from 2015/16, which is the most recent available data. Our performance in that year was 12.9%. The slight increase in children with multiple placements this year is more concerning than it may appear, as demand for foster placements is such a placement disruption can lead to children moving into residential care. Our fostering service is working with the Targeted Support Team to look at how we can sustain placements that are becoming challenging. We are also working with colleagues from Nottinghamshire and Derby City to explore other opportunities
CC-9 (NI63)	The percentage of Children in Care who have lived in the same placement for at least 2 years	67.2%		75%	72.5	72.6	72.6	72.6	72.6	71.7	73	73.0	73%	Comparator data relates to the 2015/16 period. There has been a slight reduction in performance compared to last year. As indicated, we are exploring measures to further strengthen our work in relation to placement stability.
CC-10 (R)	The percentage of Children in Care reviewed within the appropriate timescale	See comments		93%	97.3	94.7	96.8	96.1	93.4	93.1	95.1	93.9	93.9	There is no comparator information available from other authorities. Performance from the previous year has been maintained

Reference	Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Target 17/18	Out- turn 16/17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Q3	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Q4	YTD	Service commentary
CC-11 (R)	The percentage of reviews where the child participated	See comments		93%	96.6	91.6	88.1	92.2	93.9	97.7	92.9	94.7	94.7	There is no comparator information available from other authorities Performance from the previous year has been maintained
CC-12 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an upto-date health assessment	See comments		85.9%	86.4	84.5	83.5		84.1	85.8	84.9		85.9	There is no direct comparator information available from other authorities. National reporting is focussed on a particular cohort of young people. Data from that return shows our performance at yearend as 89%. The most recent reported performance from other authorities was 89%
CC-13 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with up-to-date dental checks	See comments		77%	78.9	77.7	77.5		79.9	79.4	74.5		74.5	There is no direct comparator information available from other authorities. National reporting is focussed on a particular cohort of young people. Data from that return shows our performance at yearend as 93%. The most recent reported performance from other authorities was 85.6%
CC-14 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with an upto-date Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	See comments		68.8%	56.1	68.7	69.5		67.8	68.3	70.1		70.1	There is no direct comparator information available from other authorities. National reporting is focussed on a particular cohort of young people. The most recent reported performance from other authorities was 71.6%
CC-25 (E)	The percentage of Children in Care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP)													Performance in relation to this measure is not reportable. It is tracked manually via the virtual school with breaches or non-compliance reported on a weekly basis. In June 2018 the performance reported by the Virtual school was at 63%, although we know that the actual performance is higher than this
CC-29 (R)	The percentage of placements that are over 20 miles from Nottingham	See comments		84%									84.5	There is no comparator information as this is a local target
CL-7 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (17-21 years old)	84%		85.4%									87%	Performance in this area continues to be positive. We are well supported by Nottingham Community Homes in this aspect of our support for care leavers.
CL-8 (R)	The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training (17-21 years old)	52%		67.3%									57.7%	Performance has deteriorated in comparison to the previous years out turn however; feedback from regional authorities indicates that it is higher than many other services. Ongoing management attention will be given to this area of practice to improve performance



Corporate Parenting Board Reporting Schedule: Forward Planner 2018 - 2019

	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
	 Quality Assurance Visits of Regulated and Non-regulated Residential Provision Adoption and Permanency Semi-Independence Provision Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Children and Social Work Act Statutory Guidance (Presentation) Report Forward Planner 	 Kay Sutt Audrey Taylor Mike Rowley Jon Rea Clive Chambers / Nick Lee Cllr Mellen 	2 nd April 2018	9 th April 2018	16 th April 2018	23 rd April 2018	9 th May 2018	21 st May 2018
Dane 73	 Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review Pathway Planning / Transitions Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention CiC Performance Report (Q3/Q4 16/17) Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Report Forward Planner 	 Clive Chambers Sharon Clarke Audrey Taylor Clive Chambers Jon Rea Cllr Mellen 	28 th May 2018	4 th June 2018	11 th June 2018	18 th June 2018	4 th July 2018	16 th July 2018
	 Care Leavers Annual Report Emotional Health Advocacy Annual Report Report Independent Visitor Annual Report Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report Participation and Engagement / MOMO (Verbal Update) Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Report Forward Planner 	 Lynn Pearce / Your Voice Aileen Wilson Children's Society SOVA Alison Platkiw (Case Studies) Jon Rea / Steven Beardsmore Jon Rea Cllr Mellen 	30 th July 2018	6 th August 2018	13 th August 2018	20 th August 2018	5 th September 2018	17 th September 6 2018 C

	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
	 Children in Care Placements / Placement Sufficiency Strategy Physical Health Performance Report (Q1 and Q2 2017/18) Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review Statement of Purpose Fostering Service and Adoption Agency (Verbal Update Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Report Forward Planner 	 Holly Macer / Mike Rowley Kathryn Higgins Clive Chambers Clive Chambers Audrey Taylor Jon Rea Clir Mellen 	8 th October 2018	15 th October 208	22 nd October 2018	29 th October 2018	7 th November 2018	19 th November 2018
Page 24	 Fostering and Adoption Panel Chairs Update Adoption and Permanency (2) Complaints Service Report Educational Attainment of Children in Care Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) Report Forward Planner 	 Audrey Taylor Audrey Taylor / Clare Hewitson Patrick Skeet Jasmin Howell Jon Rea Cllr Mellen 	26 th November 2018	3 rd December 2018	10 th December 2018	17 th December 2018	9 th January 2019	21 st January 2019
	 NCSCB Missings Update Report Edge of Care Provision Reducing Offending Behaviour Lord Laming Review Children in Care Council: Have your Say 2018 Report Forward Planner 	 Clive Chambers Tracey Nurse / Mark Ball Sam Flint / Natalie Pink Sam Flint / Natalie Pink Jon Rea / CiC-C Member Cllr Mellen 	28 th January 2019	4 th February 2019	11 th February 2019	18 th February 2019	6 th March 2019	18 th March 2019

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

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;

- 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.

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