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Nottingham City Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the meeting held remotely and livestreamed on YouTube on 15 March 2021 from 2.05 pm - 3.30 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Chair)
Councillor Jay Hayes (Vice Chair)
Councillor Phil Jackson
Councillor Maria Joannou
Councillor Maria Watson

Absent

Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Neghat Khan
Councillor Rebecca Langton
Councillor Georgia power

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Melanie Bracewell	- Children's and Adolescent Services, NHS
Katharine Browne	- Senior Children's Commissioning Manager, County Council
Sharon Clarke	- Children in Care Service Manager
Jasmin Howell	- Virtual School Service Manager
Matthew Jenkins	- CAMHS CLA Team Manager
Mark Leavesley	- Governance Officer
Tajinder Madahar	- Head of Children's Duty and Targeted Services
Sophie Russell	- Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement
Andy Shone	- Children's Learning Improvement Specialist
Alison Wakefield	- Acting CHS Service Manager
Helen Watson	- Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services

35 Helen Blackman

The Chair announced that Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Integrated Services, had recently passed away.

It was stated that she had been a champion for children in care and that the thoughts of this Board were with her family at this sad time.

36 Apologies for absence

Councillor Heaton)	work commitments
Councillor Langton)	
Councillor N Khan	-	other Council business
Councillor Power	-	personal reasons

Kathryn Higgins
Jon Rea
Kay Sutt

37 Declarations of Interests

None.

38 Minutes

As the minutes document of the meeting held on 18 January 2021 had been omitted from the agenda, at the request of the Clerk the Board deferred this item to a future meeting.

39 Health of Children in Care

Katharine Browne, Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council, presented the report, which detailed key achievements during the last year and priorities for the year ahead in respect of improving and promoting the health and wellbeing of children and young people, delivered in the context of the Local Authorities duty as corporate parents to children and young people who are looked after or children in care.

During discussion, the following comments were made and additional information given;

- i. in respect of the health and wellbeing questionnaire, the statutory requirement is for it to be undertaken a minimum of every 12 months, however, there is also a requirement that assessments must be based on information that is no more than 3 months' old;
- ii. in respect of unaccompanied asylum seeker children:
 - one of the main challenges is interpretation due to the range of languages / dialects that are presented, and how to address this issue is being discussed regionally with other authorities and health colleagues;
 - the numbers have remained stable during the pandemic, with currently 33 children being in the system;
 - due to a lack of capacity due to the pandemic, the authorities did not participate in the 'Kent relocation scheme' this year;
- iii. in respect of dental care, access to dentists has been an issue during the pandemic. This has been raised with NHS England and an escalation process has been created, with NHS England agreeing that young people will be classed as a 'priority group' to help clear the backlog.

Resolved that the report be noted.

40 Children in Care CAMHS update

Matthew Jenkins, CAMHS Team Manager, presented the report, updating the Board on the development and implementation of the Nottingham City Children in Care CAMHS 'offer' over the last 12 months, and on a currently ongoing review.

During discussion, the following additional information was given:

- i. the main cohort of referred children was in the 11 to 18-years group, although referrals were made from the age of 3 to 4 years;

- ii. the Art Therapy offer started in September 2020 and, although re-configured recently, has continued throughout the pandemic since then;
- iii. while not down-playing the seriousness of the pandemic, it has helped children that do not cope well in large groups, such as in a school environment, by being able to be schooled at home and receive 1:1 online learning;
- iv. going forwards, the CAMHS Team are increasing the number of groups for carers, starting a Foster group in April 2021 and moving the Schools group online (offering strategies to assist teachers and staff);
- v. an ongoing service review over the next few months will look at how the service is delivered and the content of the offer.

Resolved to note the report.

41 Children in Care / Leaving Care - Q3 performance 2020/21

Tajinder Madahar, Head of Children's Duty and Targeted Services, presented the report, which detailed key performance information in respect of children in care and care leavers for the period 01 October to 31 December 2020 (3rd quarter 2020/21).

During discussion, the following additional information was given:

- i. in comparison to statistical neighbours, Nottingham City is about average, but we are performing above our own performance targets. The Department for Education has also stated that Nottingham is 'performing strongly';
- ii. there is an audit framework in place, which looks at the quality of service;
- iii. the statistics can be broken down into age groups if necessary.

Resolved that the Board:

1) requests the following items be added to the work plan:

- a) Personal Education Plans;**
- b) Placement Sufficiency and Stability;**
- c) Permanence (including long-term fostering and adoption and an update from Adoption East Midlands);**
- d) Suitable accommodation;**
- e) Fostering Service performance;**

2) notes the report and that:

- a) Social Care will continue to work with health partners to ensure routine dental checks resume as pandemic restricts are eased;**
- b) the Head of Service will:**

- **work with Virtual School to access interim data for ePEP information to ensure an improvement in the numbers, and will consider completion of ePEPs without attainment and assessment data;**
- **continue to drive work on increasing the number of children in long-term fostering;**

3) requests the Head of Service to submit to a future meeting:

- **the audit findings in respect of the quality of service;**
- **a breakdown of the statistics to show the changing needs of users by age group, including how those changing needs are met.**

42 Have Your Say survey feedback

The Board received a presentation (appended to these minutes) by Sharon Clarke, Children in Care Service Manager, and Andy Shone, Children's Learning Improvement Specialist, detailing the findings from 45 responses (4.7% of the cohort) to the 2nd online annual children in care / care leavers Have Your Say survey, undertaken during the period 01/11/20 to 31/01/21.

During discussion, the following additional information was given:

- i. relationship issues were to be expected due to the nature of the experience the young people were going through;
- ii. the service works with the young person on 'healthy relationships' and 'building supportive networks', and foster carers and residential care workers go through a 'Semi-independence Skills' booklet with young people moving to independence and leaving care;
- iii. the service is currently working with Barnardo's to create an Asdan programme around relationships. It is also working with the Mental Health Foundation on peer-monitoring for those leaving care, subject to Lottery funding being received.

Resolved to note the presentation and request that the Head of Service submit a copy of the Semi-Independence Skills booklet to a future meeting for discussion by the Board.

43 Children in Care Council update

Alison Wakefield, Children's Social Care Service Manager, stated that the Council had not met since January due to unavailability of staff, but will re-commence meeting from the end of March.

Ms Wakefield also stated that all members of this Board have an open invitation to meetings of the Council, however, the maximum at any meeting should be 2 or 3 Councillors as it would be overwhelming for the young people if all members attended, therefore Jon Rea would invite members on a rota basis.

44 Work Plan

The Board noted the work plan for the municipal year 2021/22 and requested the Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement amend it as discussed during this meeting.

45 Meeting dates

The Board agreed, due to a return to face-to-face meetings as the remote meetings legislation will end on 06 May 2021, that the next meeting will be held at the Council House, Old Market Square, at 2.00pm on Monday 17 May 2021.

It also noted the proposed meeting dates for the municipal year 2021/22, to be held at 2.00pm on the following Mondays (to be confirmed at the 17 May meeting):

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
19 July	17 January
20 September	21 March
15 November	

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Children's Integrated Services:

Annual Children In Care/Care Leavers Have Your Say Survey

Winter 2020/21

**Andy Shone
Children's Learning Improvement Specialist
Strategy & Improvement
March 2021**



**Nottingham
City Council**

Context

- This is the second time the annual CiC/Care Leavers Have Your Say survey has been conducted online
- Open from 1st November 2020 to 31 January 2021
- CYP asked about themselves, the people around them AND their placement/life.
- Promotion of the survey was via emails to colleagues from Clive Chambers (former HoS), Directorate newsletters and PIMMS.
- Statistical summary reports have been produced for each age group and by gender with the results in this report concentrating on ALL responses as a collective

Demographic Overview

- 45 responses were received which equates to 4.7% of the CiC/Care Leaver cohort as at 31 January 2021. **2019 we received 86 responses (13.9%) and is a significant reduction.**
 - 10 (22%) – 11 years or under
 - 23 (51%) – 12-18 years
 - 9 (20%) – Care Leavers Aged 18+
 - 3 (7%) – On behalf of a Child in Care/Care Leaver

All age ranges saw an improvement except for Care leavers aged 18+

- 28 (62%) completed the survey themselves with others being supported by their carer(s) or support workers
- 25 (56%) Male and 18 (40%) Female completed the survey with 1 stating that they were Non-Binary and 1 preferring not to say.
- 29 (64%) CYP stated that they had been in care for more than a year and were by far the largest response group based on the length of time in care



Section 1 - About you and the people around you (1/2)

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- 91% of CYP stated that they were treated either 'Most of the time'/'All of the time' with respect by their workers/carers and that 84% had enough time for them - **this is an improvement on 2019**
- 93% stated that they know who to go to if they have a problem or to make a complaint (**this is an improvement on 2019**) and 83% know where to go if they want to speak to someone who is not their carer, social worker or personal advisor (**this is a deterioration on 2019**)
- Mostly CYP stated that if they had a problem with their carer, social worker or personal advisor **they could speak with their carer, friends and school**



Section 1 - About you and the people around you (2/2)

- Where 'Most of the time'/'All of the time' was chosen, 95% believed that they were listened to with 80% feeling that their opinions are heard and do make a difference to decisions made in their life
- 41% attend their Looked After Review/Pathway Plan Review and tell their social worker/personal advisor what they think during the meeting with only 2 (5%) stating that they did not attend or want any involvement. The rest do not attend but do contribute to their reviews
- 81% stated that their voices are heard in their reviews and 84% get support preparing for them



Section 2: Your placement and your life (1/3)

- 81% believe that where they are living at the moment is right for them **this is an improvement from 2019.**
- Where 'Most of the time'/'All of the time' was chosen, CYP rated highly that they feel safe where they live, at school, further education, work or in their neighbourhood. 6 (14%) stated that they felt worried-this is a reduction which is positive
- 93% stated that they are healthy
- 72% stated that they are doing well or above at school, further education or work **this is an improvement from 56% in 2019.** 9% are not doing well and 16% do not go to school, further education or work (this may be age specific)
- For those still in Education, where 'Most of the time'/'All of the time' was chosen, 79% (85%) know about their Personal Education Plan with 71% happy with it and 61% involved in drawing it up. 32% stated that they would do better with more help



Section 2: Your placement and your life (2/3)

- Of those who were new to care in the last 12 months, 19 said that had had a change of home (2% increase from 2019), 17 had a change of social worker (2% increase from 2019) and 14 had a change of carer (8% increase from 2019)
- 94% rated the help that they received as 'Ok' or above
- A third said that they see their family quite often. 44% said not as much as they liked and 22% never
- Where 'Most of the time'/'All of the time' was chosen, 19% see or speak to their old friends, 2 (9%) go to their houses', 1 (5%) has friends around and 37% have made new friends



Section 2: Your placement and your life (3/3)

- Three quarters are either happy/very happy with the way Nottingham City Council cares for them with 16% unhappy/very unhappy
- Of those who answered 65% and 63% would like further support to write a CV and prepare for an interview respectively. 52% wish to know more about finding jobs or applying for further education
- 40% know what is in their Pathway Plan, 44% do not and 16% did not know they had one (this could be age specific)

CiC and Care Leavers were invited to answer the following questions (1 of 6)

What are you worried about?

Being a failure	Family x8	Money x2	Mental Health x2
Getting into trouble	Friends x2	Semi-Independence / Transitioning x4	Covid
Relationships	Future education / work	Disabilities	New school
Being alone	Don't think about it		

CiC and Care Leavers were invited to answer the following questions (2&3 of 6)

How do you find out about being healthy?

Exercise / Being sensible x9	Healthy eating x5	Online x9	Parents / Family / Carers x11
GP/Optician/Dentist x5	Support/Social Worker x11	Not sure x2	School x 4

What do you do in your free time / What do you like to do?

Clubs / Extra curricular activities x5	Exercise / Sports / Outdoors x24	Gaming x14	Friends/Partner x14
TV/Youtube x15	Pets x3	Volunteering	Shopping x2
Arts/Crafts x8	Music x2	Family x7	Reading
Playing	Nothing x2		



CiC and Care Leavers were invited to answer the following questions (4&5 of 6)

How is your Pathway Plan helping you prepare for leaving care?

Independent skills	Conversations about what support is out there	Keeping to the Plan	Trial independence programme
Budgeting	Completing enhanced independence workbook	Recording my views	Planning 6 months ahead

About your care, what have you enjoyed/what we did well?

Going out/Being trusted x2	Being supported by professionals x7	School/College x3	New place to live x2
Everything is good x4	Carers x3	Pocket money	Toys
Family x4	Pets	Friends x2	Mistakes are good x2
Being safe	Nothing	Birthday cards / Christmas vouchers x3	Memory book



CiC and Care Leavers were invited to answer the following questions (6 of 6)

What could we have done better?

Being there for me	Stay in 1 foster placement	Don't know x2	Nothing x7
Just happy	Not to be in care	Don't want a Social Worker x3	Not being lied to
Family contact x2	Stay with adopted sister	Worried about mummy	Did mummy get the pictures I sent her?
Too long in residential care	Not being listened to	Being in unsuitable accommodation	Not to treat me like a child