Public Document Pack

Nottingham City Council
Corporate Parenting Board

Date: Monday, 26 July 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Place: **Please note the change of venue:** LB 31-32 - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

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

Director for Legal and Governance

Governance Officer: Emma Powley **Direct Dial:** 0115 876 4891

1	**Apologies for absence**	
2	**Declarations of Interests**	
3	**Minutes (for confirmation)** Meetings held on 18 January, 15 March and 17 May 2021 (for confirmation)	3 - 28
4	**2021/22 Q1 Performance Report Children in Care/Leaving Care** Report of Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services	29 - 42
5	**Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)** Report of Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services (Verbal Update)	
6	**Adoption and Permanency** Report of Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services, Children and Families	43 - 46
7	**Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy Review** Report of Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services	47 - 56
8	**Nottingham City Virtual School** Corporate Director for People, Children and Families	57 - 80
9	**Work Plan**	81 - 82

Report of the Chair

10 Future meeting dates

To agree to meet at 2.00pm on the following Mondays:

2021
20 September
15 November

2022
17 January
21 March

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.

In order to hold this meeting in as Covid-safe way as possible, all attendees are encouraged to:

- maintain distancing between themselves and others when entering and leaving the room and during the meeting.
- As far as possible, please remain seated during the meeting to minimise movement around the room.
- wear face coverings when entering, leaving and moving around the room.
- make use of the hand sanitiser available, and when moving about the building follow signs about traffic flows, lift capacities etc.

Nottingham City Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the meeting held remotely and livestreamed on YouTube on 18 January 2021 from 6.37 pm - 8.03 pm

Membership

Present	**Absent**
Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Chair)	Councillor Cate Woodward
Councillor Jay Hayes (Vice Chair)	
Councillor Nicola Heaton	
Councillor Phil Jackson	
Councillor Maria Joannou	
Councillor Neghat Khan	
Councillor Rebecca Langton	(minutes 25 to 29 inclusive only)
Councillor Georgia Power	
Councillor Maria Watson	

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Sharon Clarke	-	Children in Care Service Manager
Helene Denness	-	Consultant in Public Health
Sam Flint	-	Children in Care Police Officer
Jasmin Howell	-	Virtual School Service Manager
Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer
Tajinder Madahar	-	Head of Children's Duty and Targeted Services
John Matravers	-	Head of Service, Safeguarding
Natalie Pink	-	Leaving Care Service Manager
Jon Rea	-	Engagement and Participation Lead Officer
Debbie Richards	-	Housing Aid Service Manager
Audrey Taylor	-	Fostering and Adoption Service manager
Catherine Underwood	-	Corporate Director for People
Alison Wakefield	-	Acting CHS Service Manager

25 Apologies for absence

Councillor Woodward - other Council business
Helen Blackman
Sophie Russell

26 Declarations of Interests

None.

27 Minutes

The Board agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

28 Reducing Offending Behaviour (Children in Care)

Natalie Pink, Leaving Care Service Manager (LCS), and Sam Flint, Children in Care Police Officer (CiCPO), presented the report, which detailed:

- the published data for 2019/20 regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population (published 21/12/2020);

- the activity of the CiCPO and LCS Senior Personal Advisor 2020, working together to reduce offending and safeguard Children in Care (including how this had been impacted by COVID-19);

- an update on the review of the Multi-agency Protocol for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County to reduce the criminalisation of Children in Care.

In response to questions and comments, the following additional information was given:

i. Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) packs shared with staff at Children's Homes, aimed at educating staff and showing the correct pathways to use when there are CCE/CSE concerns, are also available to foster carers;

ii. to try to prevent CCE and CSE and stop 'county lines' issues, activities to help children feel more involved and part of a 'family' are available, but it is difficult to get them to engage;

iii. the Police have an SEIU (Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit) and a 'Disruption Team', with respective responsibility for training to identify the signs of CCE/CSE and visiting identified 'grooming' addresses to warn / arrest.

Resolved to note the data regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population and the importance of sustaining the work of the CiCPOs, supported by the LCS Senior Personal Advisor, to continue to improve outcomes for Children in Care, as detailed in the report.

29 Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report 2019/20

John Matravers, Head of Service, presented the Annual Report 2019/20, which detailed the contribution of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) to quality assuring and improving services for children that Nottingham City Council are responsible for, including evidence relating to the services in Nottingham City as required by statutory guidance, and stated that the core business of the team included chairing of Children in Care reviews and monitoring the activity of the Local Authority, as outlined in the IRO Handbook 2010.

In response to comments and questions, Mr Matravers gave the following additional information:

i. ethnicity is not always stated within the data his team receives, but they are currently working with the analysis and insight team to ensure that the system

returns a 100% ethnicity (in this annual report there are only 3 out of 620 that do not give an ethnicity);

ii. the IRO Handbook states that the caseload at any one time should be 50-70, and this is the first year the team have had number. There is a need for 2 more IROs for when the caseload goes above 70, but the funding is not available at present for any additional officers;

iii. the 'Dispute Resolution Policy' will be re-launched by end January/beginning February 2021.

Resolved to note the Annual Report 2019/20.

30 Foster Carer recruitment and retention

Audrey Taylor, Fostering and Adoption Service Manager, presented the report, which detailed the strategies for recruitment and retention of foster carers.

In response to questions and comments, Ms Taylor gave the following additional information:

i. in respect of low numbers of adoptions, nationally, courts are favouring family members rather than adoption and granting Special Guardianship Orders, although the Council still put forward adoption plans where it feels that is the best option for the child and will challenge the courts if necessary. There was also an impact on numbers due to courts closing for a time due to the pandemic;

ii. Therapeutic Relationship Training is provided by a foster carer and the content of the course should be available to be emailed to members;

iii. due to the pandemic, recruitment is now being done online through the '100 Homes' campaign – numbers of applicants are lower than normal, but there are still people applying;

iv. the 'Fostering Sunday' event will still take place in May, although it is not currently known whether this will be face-to-face or online, and information will be sent to members to publish on their websites etc;

v. if a carer needs to move to a larger property to be able to foster a child, the team work with Nottingham City Homes to try to expedite a move;

vi. the current backlog is mainly due to Foster Panel capacity and waiting for medical checks. Looking at how to resource additional Panels and have asked local GPs to assist with medical checks – 2 have agreed to start undertaking health assessments and a contract is currently being drawn up;

vii. for children with more challenging, complex needs, foster carers can access support through 'Starz Project', a scheme run jointly with Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Councils, which looks at the additional support that may be required to move a child from residential to foster care, with support for up to 2 years to maintain the placement. There is also support available through 'Safer Families', and a therapeutic training programme will shortly be rolled out.

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, as detailed in the report.

31 Fostering and Adoption Panel: Chair's report

Resolved to note the report, which summarised the activity of the Fostering and Adoption Panel, without discussion.

32 Children in Care Council update (including Health & Wellbeing themed discussion feedback)

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer, updated the Board as follows:

i. following the engagement meeting held prior to this meeting between service users and members of this Board, notes will be circulated to all members and Heads of Service, and discussions had on how best to respond to the matters arising;

ii. further engagement meetings are proposed every 4 months, the themes of which will be agreed between members, the CiC Council and carers;

iii. the CiC Council will continue to meet monthly, online during the pandemic but, hopefully, returning to face-to-face as soon as covid regulations allow;

iv. the Recruitment and Selection Panel for a new Head of Children in Care is being held in February.

Resolved to note the update.

33 Work plan

The Board noted the work plan without discussion.

34 Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 15 March 2021 at a time and venue to be notified.

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	**Absent**
Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Chair)	Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Jay Hayes (Vice Chair)	Councillor Neghat Khan
Councillor Phil Jackson	Councillor Rebecca Langton
Councillor Maria Joannou	Councillor Georgia power
Councillor Maria Watson	

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):

2021	2022
19 July	17 January
20 September	21 March
15 November	

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Nottingham City Council

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

- 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)

Nottingham City Council

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		

Nottingham City Council

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		

Nottingham City Council

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

Nottingham City Council

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

Nottingham City Council

Nottingham City Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council House, Old Market Square, NG2 3NG, on 17 May 2021 from 2.00 pm - 3.07 pm

Membership

Present	**Absent**
Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Chair)	Councillor Phil Jackson
Councillor Jay Hayes	Councillor Maria Joannou
Councillor Rosemary Healy	Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Nicola Heaton	Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos
	Councillor Maria Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer
Tajinder Madahar	-	Head of Children's Duty and Targeted Services
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Group Manager, Adoption East Midlands
Alison Wakefield	-	Children in Care and Leaving Care Service Manager
Helen Watson	-	Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services

1 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved that Councillor Joannou be appointed Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2021/22.

2 Apologies for absence

Councillor Power	-	other Council business
Councillor Jackson	-	unwell
Councillor Joannou	)	
Councillor Quddoos	)	personal
Councillor Watson	)	

Jasmine Howell
Holly Mackenzie
Jon Rea
Sophie Russell
Catherine Underwood

3 Declarations of Interests

None.

4 Children in Care Placements - Commissioning & Sufficiency Strategy 2021-23

Helen Watson, Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services, presented the report, which detailed the Council's strategic approach 2021-23 to the commissioning of accommodation for children in care (a statutory duty under Section 22G of the

Children Act 1989), including the City's vision and commitment, details of current gaps and opportunities and commissioning plans for the local placement market.

During discussion, it was stated that the City is currently discussing with carers what training is available / needed in respect of complex needs children as that is a factor in non-placement, alongside cost and distance.

Resolved to note the report.

5 Regional Adoption Agency: activity 2020-21

Shelagh Mitchell, Group Manager, Adoption East Midlands (AEM), updated the Board on activity undertaken during 2020-21 by the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).

Ms Mitchell stated that:

i. the RAA provides adoption services on behalf of Derby City, Nottingham City, Derbyshire County and Nottinghamshire County Councils;

ii. the service has been provided for the last 2 years and had placed 134 (1st year) and 153 (2nd year) children in adoptive families, with a further 261 Court Placement Orders during the period (to the end of February 2021), 23 of which were in Nottingham;

iii. AEM has supported approximately 600 families post placement, with requests such as support fund applications, direct work with a family, attendance at support groups, children's events and with services for adults requesting birth information;

iv. in April 2021, AEM received £324,232 from the Adoption Support Fund (a DfE emergency grant for use during the covid pandemic), which was used for things such as specialist group support, peer group mentoring, annual memberships, E-courses from the Adoption Academy and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.

During discussion, Ms Mitchell stated that due to covid, apart from some children's groups, most services were still being offered, and that AEM were starting to see some children having issues with interaction having been in lockdown/isolation for so long.

Resolved to note the report and record the thanks of the Board for the attendance by Ms Mitchell.

6 Feedback from themed discussion (Education and Employment) and Children in Care Council update

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

7 Virtual School Peer Review

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

8 Care Leavers Annual Report 2020-21

Alison Wakefield, Service Manager, Children in Care and Leaving Care Service, presented the report, which updated the Board on services provided to young people transitioning from care into adulthood and the work undertaken and progress made by the Leaving Care Service since an Ofsted Inspection in October/November 2018.

During discussion, Ms Wakefield stated that:

i. Nottingham City Council has a duty to provide services to those young people defined as Care Leavers under various statutory guidance;

- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations;
- Volume 3, Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers, The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000;
- The Children and Young Persons Act 2008;
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017;

ii. due to the pandemic, employment / apprenticeship opportunities at the council were currently limited.

Resolved

1) to note the report and confirm that the Board continued to support and understand the duties required of the Leaving Care Service;

2) to approve the proposals for service redesign of the Leaving Care Service;

3) that as this is her last meeting before leaving the authority, the thanks of the Board to Alison Wakefield for the work done in respect of children in care / leaving care, be recorded.

9 Children in Care / Leaving Care: Q4 2020/21 performance

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 January to 31 March 2021 (4th quarter 2020/21).

During discussion, the following additional information was given:

i. the pandemic has had an impact on placements, mainly in the 10/11-year-old group;
ii. the council's children in care target of 88 per 10,000 is historic and the service is currently discussing targets regionally as they are difficult to compare;
iii. improvements to Pathway Plans are being considered, including more in-depth questions and what the young person takes away from the process;
iv. whether a child has received a covid jab or not (once the relevant age groups are permitted) will form part of health assessments going forwards.

Resolved that the Board notes the report and that:

a) Social Care will continue to work with health partners to ensure routine dental checks resume as pandemic restrictions are eased;

b) the Head of Service will:

- **work with Virtual School to ensure any changes to the PEP for non-statutory school age children are strengthened in line with the Peer Review recommendations;**

- **continue to drive work on increasing the number of children in long-term fostering;**

- **ensure actions identified from audit activity are embedded to improve practice.**

10 Work Plan 2021-22

Resolved, subject to inclusion at a future meeting of the deferred items at minutes 6 and 7 above, to note the work plan.

11 Dates of future meetings

Resolved to meet at 2.00pm on the following Mondays, at a venue to be confirmed, during the 2021/22 municipal year:

2021	**2022**
19 July	**17 January**
20 September	**21 March**
15 November	

Corporate Parenting Board – 26th July 2021

Title of paper:	**2021/22 Q1 Performance Report Children in Care/Leaving Care**	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Watson, Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People	**Wards affected: All**
Report author(s) and contact details:	Tajinder Madahar, Head of Duty, Housing Aid, Children in Care and Leaving Care Services tajinder.madahar@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Sharon Clarke, Interim Head of Children in Care (Regulated Services).	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	5th July 2021	

Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	☒
Living in Nottingham	☐
Growing Nottingham	☐
Respect for Nottingham	☐
Serving Nottingham Better	☐

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):
This report outlines key performance information for Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers (CL) for Q1 period 01.04.2021 to 30.06.2021. This enables consideration and scrutiny by the Corporate Parenting Board of the effectiveness of services and support for CiC/CL and key outcomes for this cohort.

Recommendation(s):

1	That the Board note the contents of the report and, where appropriate, seek assurances about the action being taken to address areas of under-performance and maintain strong performance.

1 Reasons for recommendations

1.1 The Corporate Parenting Board has a statutory duty to ensure that we are delivering effective support for CiC/CL, and that Council and wider partnership services are having a positive impact for this cohort of vulnerable children and young people.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

Statutory Visits - Target 95%

2.1 Whilst the Q1 performance saw a slight dip this quarter to an average 80%, the year-end performance was 82%. Since March 2020 in the Covid context we have continued to see strong performance in visiting and this is borne out by the data we have been required to report to the DfE due to the Pandemic. We report on children and young people being seen within the preceding 4 weeks and 90% of Children in Care open to Fieldwork services in June had been seen within the previous 4 weeks. For children and young people open to the Children in Care service, they have permanency plans in care and

therefore their visiting frequency may be up to 12 weeklies. The reasons for some children not being seen are provided below:

- Those in custody where face to face visits were not agreed by the secure establishment and virtual contact was not in line with statutory frequency. More secure institutions are now permitting visits
- Self-isolation due to Covid has impacted on some visits not taking place in timescales, these are minimal now.
- Children and young people who are placed in stable long term foster placements have visits agreed at 12 weekly levels.

2.2 We are maintaining face to face visits unless it is not appropriate to do so; some are replaced with virtual visits with agreement from Service Managers and guidance has been issued regarding visits. Visits to Care leavers are undertaken at 8 weekly frequencies and as at the report to the DfE in May 66% of young people had been seen at that frequency with detailed scrutiny of those not being seen.

Health and Dental performance

2.3 Health Assessments-the expected target is 90% and Q1 performance remains below this at 83.9%. We have been working with Health colleagues to address delays identified in Initial Health assessments being requested. There are no issues about young people receiving medical attention when it has been required.

2.4 Dental checks-the expected target is 90% and we had seen a month on month deterioration in the measure which currently stands at 59.9%, at outturn 2020-21 this was at 49%. Dentists being shut during the Pandemic impacted on routine appointments, however as restrictions have lifted we are starting to see an improvement in this measure and expect this improvement to continue. We know that children have not been prevented from accessing treatment when required. This deterioration was expected and raised nationally. There is a working group including health and social care colleagues to address this locally.

Pathway Plans

2.5 % Pathway Plans, authorised in the last 6months- there are two measures that we report on because there are two services responsible for the split cohort e.g. care leavers and (eligible) Children in Care. The target for this measure is 95% and Q1 performance for:

- **CIC is 73.8% of children eligible for a Pathway Plan have had a plan authorised in the last 6months. These cases are held in Fieldwork, Children in care and Whole life disability services**
- **Care leavers is 93.8% an increase from 92% outturn 2020-21**.

2.6 Pathway Plans are key to supporting children in care and care leavers prepare for independence when appropriate to do so. It is an assessment of their needs, identifies any risks and any actions required to support their next steps. We are working on improving the template used to produce the Pathway Plan to make it more user friendly, having had feedback from young people.

It remains a challenge for the update of some Pathway plans especially for those young people at university, in secure institutions or not engaging with frequent visits, however colleagues remain tenacious in working with young people to complete or update their Pathway Plans.

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

2.7 PEP compliance

- The PEP reporting has continued to show improvement and the latest performance for PEPs was that they were at 86%, this being a marked improvement from the status of compliance in PEPs prior to them being electronic updates
- The Virtual School were the subject of a Peer review, a report is expected to today's Board regarding the findings and subsequent plan. The draft plan has been shared with Social Care leaders

Placement Stability

2.8 % of Children in Care who have had three or more placements in the previous 12 months has remained reduced over the last quarter to 7.2%, this is good because at outturn 2020-21 this was at 8.3% and we know our Statistical neighbour group (SNG) against whom we bench mark at outturn 2019-20 were at 11%. Having said this, we know that the Pandemic and a lack of placement choice can have a negative impact. A shortage of placement availability can limit choice in matching children to the most suitable placements. We have continued to offer support to foster carers both virtually and face to face to support stability. Movements for children in care are picked up by the Independent Reviewing Officer during statutory reviews.

2.9 % Children in Care who have lived in the same placement for at least 2 years-Our performance for Q1 has also seen a slight improvement at 66.4% from 65.3%. However, we are below our last year outturn which was 69%. Our target for this measure is 70%. Some positive reasons for moves:

- Moving children to adoptive placements contributes to this measure but should be considered as a positive move.
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children can sometimes move from residential accommodation to semi-independence quicker once an assessment is undertaken of their needs and will also contribute to this measure.
- Some Young people may ask to move on to semi-independence as they approach leaving care stage rather than moving straight into independence. This is considered to be a good move in line with young people's needs and wishes.

Type of placement

2.10 70% of our children in care are in foster care the remainder are in other types of placements which include Residential, Independent living, semi-independent living and other categories including health placements, placed for adoption, secure accommodation or with parents.

2.11 The ratio of fostered children homed with internal: external foster carers is at 53%:47%, this is good because our target is 50:50.

Fostered children that are in long-term fostering placements

2.12 The Department for Education target is for 40 to 60% of children fostered to be in long term fostering placements and our performance in Q4 was at 26.2% this is at 27% at Q1. A robust tracking process has been put in place setting timescales for all children and young people who have been in placement and are to remain long term fostered. The impact of this work is that children in care have a greater sense of security that they are remaining with their foster carers' long term.

2.13 We have streamlined some of our processes to secure the permanence arrangement of long term fostering for those children and young people for whom it is planned they remain with their carers long term. The Head of Service and the Service Manager are tracking progress on this work.

2.14 Of the 480 cohort as at the end of March 2021, in foster care we know that:

- 82 representing 17% had a plan to return home, for adoption or Special Guardianship and therefore we would not expect to agree a plan of long term fostering, and
- 55, representing a further 11% had been in care for less than 6months and therefore considering long term fostering with that placement would not be appropriate before they had been in placement for 12 months

2.15 Therefore, if we remove those 2 cohorts then as at 31st March 2021 our performance for this measure stood at 54% which is within the 40-60 range. However, we cannot report to the DfE in this way.

Children in Care numbers

2.16 The number of children in care has continued to rise and as at Q1 this stands at 710 this is a rise in our rate per 10,000 from 99 at outturn 2020-21 to Q1 being 102.5. The SNG for 2019-20 was 98.3 per 10,000 however we know that other local authorities have seen an increase between 4.7% to in their 20's%.

2.17 We have robust processes in place to agree entry into care. The increase in cost of placements has impacted on the overall cost of children in care.

2.18 We have 2 programmes to support step downs from residential care to foster care, external foster care to internal foster care and also to support re-unification back to parents and wider families with robust packages of support and these are through the STARS project and a new Re-unification programme.

Discharges

2.19 During Q1, 10 children have been adopted or discharged through Special Guardianship Orders and therefore are no longer children in care, this was at 8 in the last quarter. We know there have been delays in discharges through adoption, Special Guardianship and also revocation of Care orders when children are placed with parents and the local authority apply to discharge the care order. Senior leadership in Children's escalate their concerns about court delays to the Local Family Justice Board and CAFCASS.

2.20 We are still driving discharges through Special Guardianships which allows children to have more "normal" life experiences with wider family and friends rather than being involved in statutory social work services and the interventions in their families by social workers.

Children in Care Reviews

2.21 95.5% of Children in Care statutory reviews took place in timescale during Q1, and the target is 97%. This target was previously at 95% and was raised to be more aspirational and the service are determined to continue this improvement. The outturn for 2020-21 was 95%.

2.22 % of reviews where the child (excluding under 4's) participated in their review at Q1 is 94.4% which is an improvement on outturn 2020-21 when it was 91.7%. The Strategic Lead for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding has identified actions to improve the participation of young people in their reviews.

Suitable Accommodation/Sufficiency

2.23 We are working with Barnardo's to create a Supported lodgings scheme for supported accommodation for those children in care and care leavers who are not able to sustain a tenancy.

2.24 Barnardo's are working with the Government initiative "Place to Call Home "to recruit specific carers/ Hosts for Supported Lodgings for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children and young people also. We have a Panel set for August and September 2021 to approve identified hosts for the Supported Lodgings scheme which will allow us to formulate a needs led pathway for Care Leavers.

2.25 Gap Homes' has been costed out and we were scoping out the feasibility of providing supported accommodation to young people 16 to 18 with the option for those young people who require further support to remain until assessed as ready to sustain their tenancy. There is further work needed to determine the feasibility.

2.26 We engaged with a number of other local authorities with the Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA) which had launched a national market study into children's social care provision. The study was to examine the lack of availability and increasing costs in children's social care provision, including children's homes and fostering. The study was to actively seek views from a range of providers and other stakeholders, including private providers and local authorities. We await the findings from this piece of work.

2.27 We are currently working on commissioning further block contract beds for Residential care and a block contract for semi-independent provision which will increase sufficiency for our children to live locally.

Care Leavers

2.28 Suitability of accommodation and employment, education and training (EET) status are key issues in the lives of care leavers.

2.29 The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (age 19-21yrs) has dropped to 88.6%, the target is 90% and the outturn for 2020-21 was slightly higher than the target. Those young people in custody cannot be considered to be in suitable accommodation according to the definition we work to.

2.30 The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training (age 19-21years) has seen a drop to 57.5%, the target is 60%. We have implemented an Aspirations Champion Scheme to continue to support children and young people with their aspirations as well as scoping out with Barnardo's the implementation of the ASDAN Scheme which will provide certification of skills required for independence. Acknowledging the issues young people face in terms of loneliness and isolation we are also working with Barnardo's to implement a volunteer Befriender scheme to support young people in their transition. All of these schemes are launched.

Fostering Service

2.31 A dashboard has been set up on our data management system to monitor compliance regarding checks, visits, training for foster carers which is good. We know some of the data needs cleansing which is underway which will allow a more accurate reflection of performance. This was further highlighted in the DfE return which required manual data cleansing, this allowed us to reflect, the accurate data about the Service. We have identified a number of areas whereby Supervising Social Workers require training to ensure recording on Liquid Logic is accurate and pulls through to the Dashboard.

2.32 This will be underway shortly and regular meetings with Analysis and Insight are held to ensure this occurs. Currently compliance stands at 61.4 % overall but this is impacted by the low percentage of mandatory training undertaken through the pandemic (41.3%). As we progress our Covid Recovery Plan, we can start to undertake the training required face to face for foster carers and a robust training plan has been implemented for this year. The Service has a robust Improvement Plan in place and compliance in respect of Minimum Standards is the priority area we are working on. Recruitment has been maintained throughout the Lockdown periods and we continue to see an increase in Internal Foster carers. The percentage of children in internal fostering in comparison to external remains higher than target. We need to increase our fostering service in terms of placements to reduce the reliance on external provisions both fostering and residential.

Residential

2.33 Children's Residential have continued to deliver services to children throughout the pandemic. They remain rated by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding which is excellent. As the Pandemic eases Ofsted will resume Inspections, and we have maintained virtually our required Regulation 44 inspections on all of our Homes. Plans are in the early stages to increase the current provision to provide a further four bed home.

Next steps for the service

a) Social Care will continue to monitor performance regarding dental checks to ensure this improves as Pandemic restrictions reduce, and to address any barriers

b) Head of Service to work with the Virtual school to ensure any changes to the PEP for non-statutory school age children are strengthened in line with the Peer Review recommendations. A draft plan has been prepared.

c) Head of Service and Service Manager to identify the reasons for the dip in suitability of accommodation for care leavers and the Employment, Education and Training for Care leavers in Q1

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 None

4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

4.1 Not applicable

5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

5.1 Not applicable

6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decision relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure) (Area Committee reports only)

6.1 Not applicable

7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

7.2 No ☒

7.3 An EIA is not required as this report is not proposing any changes to policy or service delivery that would impact citizens.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Q1 Performance Report Children in Care/Leaving Care

Corporate Parenting Board

26th July 2021

Tajinder Madahar Head of Service

Sharon Clarke Head of Service Children in Care (Regulated Services)

Statutory visits-Target 100%

- Q1 saw slight dip from outturn 2020-21
- Face to face visits maintained unless reason not to, DfE reporting for Nottingham's performance is strong

Health and Dental-Target 90%

- 83.9% of children have an up to date health assessment and 59.9% of children have an up to date dental check-10% improvement on dental since end of Q4
- Routine appointments impacted by Pandemic-local and national challenge and drive to improve this

Pathway plan-Target 95%

- Children in Care at 73.8%
- Care leavers at 93.8% improvement from outturn 2020-21 of 92%
- Improved reporting and the template is being improved with feedback from young people and practitioners

Personal Education Plans

- 86% excellent improvement
- Consider recommendations of Peer review to further strengthen performance for early years and post 16yrs PEPs-tabled at Board today

Placement Stability

% of children that have had less than three placements in the previous 12months

% of children that have lived in same placement for at least 2years

Both measures have seen an improvement which is good, we know there are good reasons for some children moving eg move to adoptive placements, or transitioning to semi-independence.

Fewer moves provide stability for children,

Pandemic impact-Challenge supporting carers when they don't always want face to face contact

Type of placement

Our target for numbers of children in internal fostering to external is 50:50 and we remain above target

Higher proportion of children in residential are in external provisions

Fostered to Long term fostering (permanency)

DfE target is to have 40-60% children in care permanently in long term foster placements and our performance has remained at around 26.2%. However if we remove those children not eligible for consideration for long term fostering then our performance is 54% which is good

Robust process and tracker set up to drive this

Children in Care numbers-Target 88 per 10,000

At Q1 we have seen a rise to 710 children in care at 102.5 per 10,000

Statistical Neighbour Group is at 97% per 10,000

Focus on our review of placements

Discharges

- Court delays can impact on discharges especially when seeking to revoke Care orders following successful reunifications under Placement with Parent regulations
- Q1 achieved 10 discharges through Adoptions and Special Guardianship orders, in Q4 this was 8
- Escalations through Local Family Justice Board and CAFCASS is taking place

Children in Care Reviews-Target 97%

- Q1 performance is at 95.5% which is strong
- Improvements in participation of children (4yrs and over) in reviews

Suitability of accommodation

- Slight dip noted
- Work to increase options through Supported lodgings/Gap homes model is ongoing
- Nottingham City engaged with the Competition and Marketing Authority re a market awaiting outcome/learning

Care Leavers

- Slight dip% Care leavers in suitable accommodation, custody is not accepted as suitable.
- Prioritising with Barnardo's and Mental Health Foundation to assist with suitable accommodation when criteria for Adult services is not met
- Dip in Percentage of care leavers in employment, education and training 57.5%. Care Leavers Annual report outlines steps taken to improve this measure including ASDAN which supports young people develop skills for learning, work and life
- **Fostering**
- Dashboard –Improvement plan and check on compliance in respect of minimum standards

Residential

- All Children's Residential are judged by Ofsted to be Good or Outstanding

Next Steps and Impact

1. Social Care will continue to monitor performance regarding dental checks to ensure this improves as Pandemic restrictions reduce, and to address any barriers-impact dental needs identified and met early
2. Head of Service to work with the Virtual school to ensure any changes to the PEP for non-statutory school age children are strengthened in line with the Peer Review recommendations-to improve the quality of PEPs for early years children and post 16
3. Head of Service and Service manager to identify the reasons for the dip in suitability of accommodation for care leavers and the Employment, Education and Training for Care leavers in Q1-to improve aspirations for our children in care and care leavers

Corporate Parenting Board - 26 July 2021

Title of paper:	Adoption and Permanency	
Director	Helen Watson - Director for Children's Integrated Services, Children and Families	**Wards affected:** All Wards
Report author and contact details:	Audrey Taylor - Service Manager - Fostering and Adoption, Children and Families Audrey.taylor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Clare Hewitson - Team Manager, Children and Families	

Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	☒
Living in Nottingham	☐
Growing Nottingham	☐
Respect for Nottingham	☐
Serving Nottingham Better	☐

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

The report provides an overview of the permanency performance of the Local Authority. The report will primarily focus on adoption activity as this continues to be the plan for a significant number of the Authority's children in care; however, brief reference is made to Special Guardianship Order figures.

The report highlights actions that are being taken to address delays.

Recommendation(s):

1	To note the performance to date in relation to Permanency Planning for Children in Care, which can be in the form of Adoption, Permanent Fostering or Special Guardianship.
2	To enable the Corporate Parenting Board to consider the Adoption Leadership Board data

1 Reasons for recommendations

1.1 It is important that members of the Corporate Parenting Board are kept informed of the activities being undertaken, to achieve permanency for children that the Local Authority has corporate parental responsibility for.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Nottingham City continues to make adoption plans for a significant number of children in our care. Many of these children have complex medical conditions, belong to a sibling group, have a range of disabilities, or have birth parents with complex histories. Adoption plans are made knowing that many of these children are considered “hard to place”, but with a strong belief that if children cannot live with their birth family then a permanency option should be considered.

2.2 The Adoption Scorecard (introduced in 2012) allows Local Authorities and other adoption agencies to monitor their performance, and compare it with that of others at critical points in the child’s journey towards adoption. Successfully placing children that are more complex can negatively affect our timelines, which affects our performance in some of the scorecard measures.

2.3 The Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption continues to hold regular Adoption Tracking Meetings with Service Managers to progress every child’s adoption plan and minimise delays.

2.4 There has been significant delay due to the current pandemic we are in, timescales for children have become increasingly length due to court timescales. This has been raised with the LFJB (Local F Justice Board) and with HH Judge Rogers through the chair of the board. We continue to challenge and push for timely proceedings. Monthly meetings have been set up between the permanency and Legal managers with the courts.

2.5 We have also seen an increase in parents challenging the making of adoption orders again this adds delay in the child’s journey as court availability time to hear challenges do not take precedent over care proceedings.

2.6 we have had 24 adoption orders made at the end of the financial year, this is significantly lower than previous years as outlined above this is mainly due to COVID 19 and the court availability to hear cases where birth parents have challenged the making of the order. 12 out of the 24 orders granted were challenged.

2.7 We remain committed to home finding for our harder to place children. We have had successes in placing larger sibling groups for adoption with one set of 3 siblings living with their adoptive family, another sibling group of 3 (that are of BME descent) in the introductory stages and a sibling group of 4 and 2 who are awaiting panel.

2.8 There has been adoption disruption of a sibling group of three whose placement ended in February. Their plan will change to long term fostering.
There are five children waiting to have their Placement Orders rescinded due to their plans changing and adoption not being achieved for them. They have secured permanency through long term fostering.

2.9 The department continues to make good use of adoption as a permanency outcome for children in care:

In Nottingham City currently there are:

- 12 sibling groups: 8 are placed for adoption, 1 disrupted, 2 matched, 1 homefinding.
- 29 Children Placed for adoption (lodged on 18 at present)
- 6 Children matched with adopters – awaiting introductions (sib group of 4 & 2)
- 13 children we are currently Homefinding for
- 4 (1 sibling group of 3, 1 single child)
- 8 Adoption orders granted since April 2021
- Children placed with Adoption East Midlands adopters: 14
- External adoptive placements: 6 (4 of which were siblings groups / children of colour)

Estimated Adoption Orders by end of March 2022: 43

2.10 We make strenuous efforts to home-find for children; we do change plans if this will not be achieved within a set timescale. 5 children currently have plans for their adoption plans to be rescinded. This is for children who we have exhausted all possibilities to find an adoptive home. Many of these children will remain cared for by their foster carer in a permanency arrangement.

2.11 **Special Guardianship Post Order**

2.12 Nottingham City Council is committed to permanency planning for children. This can be in the form of Adoption, Permanent Fostering or Special Guardianship Orders.

2.13 Under Care Planning regulations, the consideration of permanence for a child should begin if not before, then immediately after a child is accommodated. As such, Social Workers immediately start to care-plan the best route for permanence. The objectives are laid out and viabilities explored, prior to a child's Looked After Review at 20 days. Proposals for a Special Guardianship Order are considered as part of the court process.

2.14 The recommendations, are ratified by the Nominated Senior Manager (Head of Service, Children in Care) and the Director of Children's Integrated Services, both in respect of the plan and the financial expenditure it will incur. 28 Special Guardianship Orders were made in total in the last financial year, nationally courts are favouring the making of SGOs rather than adoption. Our BME children are still underrepresented in this area.

2.15 As part of the making of an SGO, a package of support is identified as part of the Special Guardianship support plan this can include a range of options such as therapeutic support and or financial commitment. More and more families are requiring support post order.

2.16 We currently have one full time qualified social worker supporting families post order:-

- 80 SGO children are known to us with 51 children requiring support at the moment.
- 8 more families will have had orders made by October.

- 10 Adoption Support Fund applications have been approved and 9 are in the process of being considered.
- Support meetings for carers are termly with the first being in Autumn 2021 since COVID 19.

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 (EIA)

7.1 None

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 – 26th July 2021

Title of paper:	**Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy Review**	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Watson, Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People	**Wards affected: All**
Report author(s) and contact details:	Treza Mann, Interim Service Manager for Children in Care and Leaving Care Services	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Tajinder Madahar, Head of Duty, Housing Aid, Children in Care and Leaving Care Services	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	5th July 2021	

Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	☒
Living in Nottingham	☐
Growing Nottingham	☐
Respect for Nottingham	☐
Serving Nottingham Better	☐

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Board against the priorities and actions outlined in the Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leaver (CL) Strategy.

Recommendation(s):	
1	To note the progress made with regards to delivery of the Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy.
2	To note that a refresh of the Strategy is being prepared for consideration by the Board in September 2021.

1 Reasons for recommendations

1.1 As Corporate Parents, we are required to publish a CiC and CL Strategy, to outline how we will work together to deliver good support and services for this cohort of vulnerable children and young people.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

Leadership Changes

2.1 There have been some key changes in Leadership roles following the tragic loss of Helen Blackman, our Director for Children's Integrated Services. Helen Watson has been covering this role as the Interim Director, and recruitment has recently commenced.

2.1 With the previous Head of Children in Care leaving in January 2021, we now have 2 Heads of Service; Tajinder Madahar as Head of Children's Duty, Children in Care, Leaving Care and Housing Aid. We have a separate Head of Service for Regulated Services; Mary Ann Cosgrove who is commencing the role at the beginning of August. This post is currently covered by Sharon Clarke, covering Children's Residential, Fostering and Adoption, Permanency Team and the Placement Service.

2.3 Alison Wakefield, Service Manager for Children in Care and Leaving Care has also left the service and this role is being covered in the interim by Treza Mann.

Covid-19

2.4 During the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns the Council has followed Government guidance and the safety of staff, the professional network, children, young people and families has remained our priority. There has been continued and managed use of PPE in day to day practice. We have needed to change our ways of working at times due to the pandemic restrictions and carers and children being worried about face to face visits. We know some young people have engaged more with their allocated worker through virtual means and have expressed preference to continue this as practices have returned to normal.

2.5 We have seen some significant impact on health data during the pandemic which we are working on to address since restrictions have relaxed.

Survey Feedback

2.6 The **Have Your Say** survey previously identified three specific areas for further focus through Children in Care Council meetings. Progress against these areas has been impacted by Covid-19, however this remains is a focus going forward.

a) **Changing the culture of care**

We are working towards ensuring that children in care have stability through permanent living arrangements. We have established a tracking system to identify all children in care who have been in a stable placement for 12 months to consider if the carer is able to offer permanency through long term fostering for the child if it is in their interest. We are able to address barriers to achieving this. We are assessing the potential for children to return to their parents or wider family through 2 projects; STARS and Reunification, each one has staff who work closely with children, young people and families to support with the transition and permanency.

b) **Improving opportunities for CiC and Care Leavers to prepare for independent living and successful adulthood**

Through a newly established Transitions Panel we are identifying the support young people may need to support their independence plan. Through this work we are identifying additional support that can be accessed with referrals to Adult Service post 18, Aspirations Champion, ASDAN, and the Local Offer

c) **Supporting the Have Your Say survey**

We are engaging more care experienced children and care leavers to support as peer interviewers to encourage more children in care and care leaver to share their views, experiences and ideas for change.

We are looking at more opportunities for care experienced young people to be involved in training of social workers and foster carers, and participate in recruitment processes for Children's Social Care staff.

Although this survey was an electronic version due to Covid-19, it has had limited success, therefore the PA's have encouraged care leavers to visit the office and speak to them on a 1-1 level to complete their survey. Going forward we are recognising that a range of approaches to seek feedback is necessary.

Mind of my Own

2.7 Nottingham City is currently using Mind of my Own, an application (app) designed to help further capture the child's voice in a digital forum. The use of the app by children in care remains low and we need to understand the barriers to address this. We are continuing to roll out training on the use of Mind of My Own to frontline staff and including the training for Independent Reviewing Officers who chair our CiC Reviews so that they can promote the use of the App. We have also worked with foster carers to increase their confidence in the use of the App so that they can support children in care to have their wishes and feelings captured.

CiC Reviews

2.8 The outturn for 2020-21 the percentage of children in care (aged over 4years) who had participated in their statutory review stood at 91.7%. As at the end of May 2021, the year to date stood at 94.2% The IRO's are visiting children and young people in between their reviews or via virtual calls to also seek views from children.

Care Leavers Local Offer

2.9 The Local Offer is uploaded to Ask Lion webpage to support Care Leavers. The Local Offer, seeks to increase access to an Aspiration Champion, which provides mentoring support, and work experience within the city council.

2.10 Following changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Care Leavers will be able to ask for support from a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25, whether they are in education or training or not. We have been asked to complete a survey, something the DfES had committed to review at the time the new requirements came into force. Whilst the DfES had undertaken an assessment of the financial burden, it had been difficult to assess how many young people would continue to want Personal Advisor support. This survey is being completed for the 27th July 2021. In addition to this survey the DfES have had a series of "deep dive" discussions with a number of local authorities to collect more detailed information.

Jobs

2.11 ASDAN courses provide young people with the opportunity to achieve employability qualifications (from entry level to level 2). The training programme commenced on 5th July 2021 which offers training to staff from the Leaving Care Service, internal residential staff, trainers from the workforce development, Independent Reviewing Officers, fostering service and Barnardo's, this was to ensure practitioners could than continue this training within their own work settings, and encourage learning opportunities for Care Leavers. This will be rolled out to everyone, starting with the internal residential homes, fostering carers, semi independence and this will lead to internal agencies.

Work Experience

2.12 We now have an Aspiration Champions scheme which has recruited volunteers from within the Council and Partners to support care leavers through a mentoring scheme. This is not live just yet, due to still recruiting staff across the council, to support care leavers, however, 16 Aspiration Champions have fully signed up. 11 more are currently undergoing the training process. One young person has signed up so far (and a successful match has been made).

2.13 Staff from the Leaving Care Service will be able to set up more work experience and work tasters internally within the City Council. This will be coordinated through the Aspirations Champion referrals and our internal Education, Employment and Training co-ordinator (EETC) with support from our dedicated FUTURES workers at Leaving Care.

Apprenticeships

2.14 The Employability Service have been currently delivering the Nottingham Works 4 You (NW4U) programme since April 2021. This Project is recognised and supported by the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP), maintaining the criteria for eligibility for Universal Credit claim, and move onto Education, Employment and Training (EET). The project is specifically for Nottingham City Care Leavers to support them with training into positive outcomes of EET. The designated Employability Training & Support Coordinator supports activities to extend employment opportunities and develop a skilled workforce. They have close links with alternative provisions to support young people into college and training, such as Catch 22. They encourage Care Leavers to take employment opportunities within Nottingham City Council as a Corporate Parent and accommodate in house support where necessary. Currently this has been on hold across the Local Authority due to Covid19, however, as restrictions are now easing, this will be progressing as normal.

CiC CAMHS

2.15 A dedicated CiC CAMHS service is jointly commissioned by the Greater Notts CCG and Nottingham City Local Authority to support with emotional and mental health needs of children in care. The team provides a specialist service and training to support and maintain the emotional and mental health needs of our young people. The team also ensures the emotional health needs of young people are reflected in care planning.

Health Outcomes

2.16 In May 2021, our performance headlines in relation to health were as follows:

- 82.8% of children in care have had a health assessment recorded in the last 12 months.
- 57.4% of children in care have had a dental check recorded in the last 12 months
- 75% of children in care have had a strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) recorded in the last 12 months.

2.17 All of the above have been impacted by the Covid19 pandemic; dental checks being the most impacted due to lockdown periods when dentists remained shut. We are working with health partners and carers to rectify this now that restrictions have been lifted. Dental treatment was still accessible for our children in care.

CIC Police Officers

2.18 Since 2006 Nottingham City have had an established Children in Care Police Officer (CICPO) post which continues to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. In January 2018 a second CICPO joined us and we are pleased to report that capacity for the role in the City has now been permanently expanded to two Police Officers. It may be noted that in March 2020. Nottinghamshire Police also successfully recruited a CICPO for the County, jointly funded by Nottinghamshire County Council. This was provide parity of service and improve outcomes for children across Nottinghamshire.

2.19 Up until (and including) the year 2016/17 we were able to report a 5 year trend in reducing offending behaviour within the children in care population. In 2017/18 we maintained our performance in terms of the numbers of children in care who offended. The figure for 2018/19 reduced to 3%. We can now report a figure of 4% for 2019/20. This is felt to represent a maintenance of performance. It may be noted that data is rounded to the nearest whole number, and figures are now so low that some fluctuation is likely to appear significant.

2009	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**
9.80%	9%	9.80%	8.70%	8.20%	6%	6%	5%	6%	3%	4%

(Source https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait)

2.20 We are encouraged that other Authorities continue to seek out advice and guidance from Nottingham City regarding reducing criminalisation, with a view to improving outcomes for Children in Care.

2.21 As mentioned a refreshed Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy will be presented to Corporate Parenting Board at the next meeting.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 None

4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

4.1 Not applicable

5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

5.1 Not applicable

6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decision relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure) (Area Committee reports only)

6.1 Not applicable

7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No ☒
An EIA is not required because: this report is not recommending any change to policy or service delivery that would impact service users.

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

Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy Review

Corporate Parenting Board

26th July 2021

Treza Mann Interim Service Manager

Helen Watson Interim Director Children's Integrated Services

- Leadership changes
- Covid context
- Have your say survey
  - Changing culture
  - Preparation for independence and adulthood
  - Support for survey

- Mind of My Own
- Training/promotion
- Looked After Reviews
- Care leaver offer
- Employment
- Work experience
- Apprenticeships

- Looked After CAMHS
- Health
- Police

Corporate Parenting Board 27 July 2021

Title of paper:	**Nottingham City Virtual School Peer Review**	
Director/ Corporate Director	Nicholas Lee **-** Director of Education Services Catherine Underwood - Corporate Director for People, Children and Families	**Wards affected:** None
Report author(s) and contact details:	Jasmin Howell - Head of Virtual Schools, Jasmin.howell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	N/A	

Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	☒
Living in Nottingham	☐
Growing Nottingham	☐
Respect for Nottingham	☐
Serving Nottingham Better	☐

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

The Nottingham City Virtual School Peer Review provided a positive external scrutiny of some of the arrangements and processes in place to support the Virtual School to meet its duties in promoting and supporting the educational outcomes of Nottingham City children in care.

The Nottingham City Virtual School Peer Review highlighted some of the effective arrangements in place to enable the Virtual School to meet its duties, it also made recommendations of areas to improve.

The Nottingham City Virtual School have included most of the recommendations for improvement from the Peer Review in its Self-Improvement Plan.

Recommendation(s):	
1	The Board is asked to note the feedback from the Peer Review.
2	The Board is asked to confirm agreement with the recommendations for improvement being taken forward in the Virtual School Self-Improvement Plan.

1. Reasons for recommendations

1.1. The Nottingham City Virtual School Head has a statutory duty to put arrangements in place that promotes and improves the educational outcomes of its authority's children in care. In order to successfully and effectively fulfil its statutory duties, further developments and improvements, as highlighted by the Peer Review, is required.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1. Over the last 3 years, the Nottingham City Virtual School Head has implemented a number of changes to the Virtual School structure, processes and arrangements in order to successfully and effectively fulfil its statutory duties to promote and improve the educational outcomes of Nottingham City children in care.

2.2. The Review undertaken was the National Association of Virtual School Heads (NAVSH) Peer Review business process, developed through extensive consultation with its members and builds on the peer review model developed by the Local Government Association (LGA). There are also strong links with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).

2.3. The Peer Review was undertaken by a team led by Paula Sumner, Assistant Director Education and SEND for Leicestershire's Children's Services. The team included Helen Moxon, Virtual School Head in Derbyshire and Sally Kelly Virtual School Head in Bromley and was managed and coordinated by Alan Clifton former VSH in North Yorkshire and a former Chair of NAVSH.

2.4. The team spent a day and a half interviewing colleagues in Nottingham City, online, based on a timetable drawn up in collaboration with Jasmin Howell, the VSH. The review team collected evidence with which to frame their findings and then drew together and presented their conclusions on the afternoon of the 29th March. This activity took place on Thursday 25th March and Friday 26th March 2021.

2.5. Prior to the virtual on-site activity, we shared a wide range of information with the Review Team to support its preparations. As well as a desk–based analysis of the documentation provided, the peer review process included a range of interviews and focus group activities, with over 50 participants; the team met officers at various levels within children's services, and a number of learning provider representatives.

2.6. The four Areas of Focus for the Peer Review was as follows:

- How effective is the Virtual School structure? Do the roles and responsibilities of staff enable the team to meet statutory duties to monitor, track, report and support the education of children in care?

- The Virtual School has recently implemented the ePEP. What are the potential benefits for children in Care and partners? Will the ePEP support effective, efficient and quality PEP completion for the authority's children in care?

- The Virtual School intends to change its arrangements for the distribution and monitoring of PPP; will the new arrangements enable the Virtual School to ensure its children in care are receiving funding timely and appropriately. Will effective systems be in place to enable the Virtual School to monitor the effective use of PPP to improve attainment, progress and emotional wellbeing for its children in care.

- Are the Virtual Schools current arrangements for tracking, monitoring and supporting children who have been excluded, are without a school place or are on part-time tables effective in ensuring these children are accessing appropriate and quality education, with minimal delay and drift?

2.7. The attached presentation details the findings of the Peer Review.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1. Not applicable

4. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

4.1. Not applicable

5. Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

5.1. Not applicable

6. Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decision relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure) (Area Committee reports only)

6.1. Not applicable

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1. Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No ☒

An EIA is not required because this report and the actions are based on a Review undertaken of the Nottingham City Virtual School Service and its effectiveness in meeting its statutory duties. .

8. List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

8.1. Please see attached Power Point Presentation.

9. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

9.1. None.

This page is intentionally left blank

Nottingham City Virtual School

Peer Review

25-29 March 2021

Review Team

Lead Peer : Paula Sumner, AD Leicestershire.

Diagnostic Manager: Alan Clifton former VSH

Helen Moxon, VSH Derbyshire.

Sally Kelly, VSH Bromley

Scope

- How effective is the Virtual School structure? Do the roles and responsibilities of staff enable the team to meet statutory duties to monitor, track, report and support the education of children in care?

- The Virtual School has recently implemented the ePEP. What are the potential benefits for children in Care and partners? Will the ePEP support effective, efficient and quality PEP completion for the authority's children in care?

- The Virtual School intends to change its arrangements for the distribution and monitoring of PPP; will the new arrangements enable the Virtual School to ensure its children in care are receiving funding timely and appropriately. Will effective systems be in place to enable the Virtual School to monitor the effective use of PPP to improve attainment, progress and emotional wellbeing for its children in care.

- Are the Virtual Schools current arrangements for tracking, monitoring and supporting children who have been excluded, are without a school place or are on part-time tables effective in ensuring these children are accessing appropriate and quality education, with minimal delay and drift?

General Observations (strengths)

- There is evidence of strong and effective leadership from the VSH.
- There is a clear aspirational vision and analytical use of data.
- The Governing Body sends a strong message on the importance of Corporate Parenting.
- The provision for UASC through NEST is strong and a strength within the local authority

General Observations (strengths)

- Preparatory work for the peer review was extensive and immensely helpful in enabling the peer review team to focus its activity.
- The team received excellent co-operation and support throughout the process.
- It was evident to the team that all those we met online were interested in learning and continued development

Strengths
Area of Focus 1:
Effectiveness of the structure and roles

- The Virtual School Head provides strong and effective leadership for the Virtual School team.
- The team are dedicated and well-motivated to support the education and life chances of children and young people in care.
- There are well established specialisms within the team.
- Partners spoke enthusiastically about members of the team, this included schools and Designated Teachers, Further Education Providers and specialist ‘Alternative Provision’.

Strengths
Area of Focus 1:
Effectiveness of the structure and roles

- The recent appointment of a Team Manager has provided additional support at a more strategic level for the VSH.

- The VSH has strong working relationships with senior leaders across CYPS.

- The Virtual School team is meeting all statutory responsibilities for those who are post LAC -providing appropriate support and guidance

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 1:
Effectiveness of the structure and roles

- The Virtual School is mainly funded through DSG and this funding may be difficult to sustain in the future. It is important there are contingency plans to ensure the Virtual School team continues to be effective and thrive.

- Make more of data to inform practice. Use the data to influence decisions regarding direct intervention at a case work level.

- Consider a member of the Virtual School team acting as the ‘school SENCO’

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 1:
Effectiveness of the structure and roles

- The Virtual School is mainly funded through DSG and this funding may be difficult to sustain in the future. It is important there are contingency plans to ensure the Virtual School team continues to be effective and thrive.

- Make more of data to inform practice. Use the data to influence decisions regarding direct intervention at a case work level.

- Consider a member of the Virtual School team acting as the ‘school SENCO’

Strengths
Area of Focus 2:
Implementation of the ePEP

- Unequivocally the correct decision has been made to make obsolete a ‘paper’ version of the PEP and replace it with an electronic version.

- There is evidence of extensive research being undertaken before commissioning the ePEP system from Welfare Call.

- Partners spoke highly about the quality of the multi- agency training put in place to help all those involved to fully understand the capabilities of the new ePEP system.

- There is a strong administrative team who will be able to work with the new ePEP system to develop and use reporting systems to improve the compliance and quality of PEPs.

Strengths
Area of Focus 2:
Implementation of the ePEP

- Social work colleagues appreciate when Virtual School team colleagues attend PEPs due to their education knowledge around target setting and being able to take a Lead role.

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 2:
Implementation of the ePEP

- The Early Years and Post 16 PEP completion and monitoring arrangements need to be strengthened.

- PEPs in all age cohorts should be completed termly.

- PEP reports can only be generated termly on the new system. This meant it was difficult to identify outstanding PEPs, and ones that are scheduled.

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 2:
Implementation of the ePEP

- Further guidance on who might Chair a PEP meeting and their role might be helpful as there appears an inconsistency in approach.

- Consider the development of a QA Framework for the PEP process.

Strengths
Area of Focus 3:
Arrangements for distributing PPP

- The Virtual School has a published PPP policy that is shared with all partners.
- The policy provides helpful advice on good practice and outlines approaches that can be effective in supporting children in your care.
- The Virtual School has a generous and pragmatic view to supporting those awaiting a school place, whether this is within or outside of the local authority.
- Funding is provided for commissioning educational provision so a child is not disadvantaged due to delays in securing provision. This support is commendable and is higher than most Virtual Schools provide nationally.

Strengths
Area of Focus 3:
Arrangements for distributing PPP

- The new ePEP system has been designed to generate impact reports on pupil premium, once fully implemented, reports will be able to consider intervention types and whether the child has subsequently met their PEP targets.

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 3:
Arrangements for distributing PPP

- Consider how the Virtual School and local authority might celebrate the best practice in the use of Pupil Premium Plus.

- Once Early Years PEPs are included on the ePEP system it will be easier to consider the distribution of Early Years Pupil Premium Plus funding in line with all other children.

- The Virtual School Head should have a role in the distribution of Early Years Pupil Premium funding and the subsequent monitoring of impact.

Strengths
Area of Focus 4:
Arrangements for monitoring, tracking and supporting CiC.

- A number of services have been commissioned by the Virtual School to support the educational progress of children in care who lack motivation, are out of school or who are awaiting a school place.

- The commissioned services were very supportive and complimentary about the Virtual School and the members of the team.

- Delays in admission are considered in line with, but separate to, the In Year Fair Access (IYFA) policy. This approach is in line with statutory guidance which places children in care outside of IYFA approach.

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 4:
Arrangements for monitoring, tracking and supporting CiC.

- How the Virtual School support those children placed out of area requires clarification. It is important children placed out of city receive equitable services.

- Consider how best to develop a consistent approach to analyse and use data available to track children who are excluded, out of area and without a school place.

- It may be helpful for the VSHs in the East Midlands to compare their systems and their impact in tracking the attainment and progression of those children placed out of area

Consideration Areas
Area of Focus 4:
Arrangements for monitoring, tracking and supporting CiC.

- Placement and school places should be planned at the same time whenever possible.

Main Recommendations

- Ensure arrangement for Post 16 young people and Early Years in your care are as strong as all other cohorts.

- Ensure there is a balance between compliance and quality of PEPs as you move through this transition period. Both areas require improvement.

- With the planned reduction in DSG support for the Virtual School, explore the most effective ways to maintain staffing levels for the benefit of children in your care.

Corporate Parenting Board
Work Plan
2021 - 2022

Report (Corresponding Strategic Priority Statement)	Report Lead	Corporate Parenting Board
▪ 2021/22 Q1 Performance ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update) ▪ Securing Permanence for CiC – long-term fostering, Adoption / Special Guardianships, reunification. ▪ Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Review	▪ Tajinder Madahar? ▪ Jon Rea ▪ Tajinder Madahar / Sharon Clarke ▪ Tajinder Madahar	**19 July 2021**
▪ Feedback from Themed Discussion with CiC Council – Homes and Housing ▪ 2021/22 - Q2 Performance ▪ Reducing Offending Behaviour ▪ Fostering Service Update	▪ Jon Rea / Lead Board Members ▪ Tajinder Madahar? ▪ Sam Flint / Natalie Pink ▪ Audrey Taylor	**20 September 2021**
▪ IV Service Report ▪ Advocacy Service Report ▪ Complaints Service Report ▪ Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report ▪ Children in Care Council (Verbal Update)	▪ CGL ▪ Children's Society ▪ Patrick Skeete ▪ John Matravers ▪ Jon Rea	**15 November 2021**
▪ Feedback from Themed Discussion with CiC Council – Health ▪ Health of Children in Care ▪ CAMH Services for Children in Care ▪ 2021/22 – Q3 Performance	▪ Jon Rea / Lead Board Members ▪ Kathryn Higgins / Katharine Browne ▪ Sharon Clarke / Matthew Jenkins ▪ Tajinder Madahar	**17 January 2022**
▪	▪	**21 March 2022**

ATTENTION: IMPORTANT NOTE ON REPORT SUBMISSION

All reports from City Council staff for presentation to the Board MUST be produced and submitted through the corporate report management system, at: http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/index.aspx?articleid=10263.

When submitting a report for advice, you will be prompted to select reviewers.
You should select the following reviewer:

- **Sophie Russell**

When submitting a report for departmental sign-off, you should select the following reviewer:

- **Helen Watson**

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