

## Corporate Parenting Board – 16 March 2020

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Reducing Offending Behaviour (Children in Care)	
<b>Director:</b>	Helen Blackman Director, Children's Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Report authors and contact details:</b>	Natalie Pink – Leaving Care Service, 0115 8761206  PC Sam Flint - Children in Care Police Officer, Nottinghamshire Police 0115 8763735	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	PC Rebecca Dalby – Children in Care Police Officer  Boyd Livingstone-Navin – Youth Justice Service Principal Analyst  Thomas Cullen – Operational Manager, Nottingham City Youth Justice Service	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>		
Nottingham People		<b>X</b>
Living in Nottingham		
Growing Nottingham		
Respect for Nottingham		
Serving Nottingham Better		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To update the Board of the published data for 2018/19 regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population.</li> <li>• To update the Board about the activity of the Children in Care Police Officers and Leaving Care Service Case Manager 2018/19 in working together to reduce offending, safeguard Children in Care, and meet the needs of the Directorate.</li> <li>• To highlight the review of the Multi-agency Protocol for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire, to reduce the criminalisation of Children in Care, further to the publication of the National Protocol for reducing the criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers, 2018.</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendation:</b>		
<b>1</b>	That the Board notes the 2018/19 data regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population, and recognises the importance of sustaining the work of the Children in Care Police Officers, supported by the Leaving Care Service Case Manager, to continue to improve outcomes for Children in Care.	

### 1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The role of Children in Care Police Officers and Leaving Care Service Case Manager (previously known as Youth Justice Service Lead for CiC), working in partnership, has

previously been suggested as a model of best practice. This has been recognised in repeat Ofsted inspections: “The dedicated children in care police officer successfully supports restorative justice interventions, and there have been impressive reductions in offending rates.” “Joint work with the police, youth justice service and community-based services results in shared strategic approaches to providing swift and flexibly deployed resources, reducing the risk of young people re-offending.” (Ofsted 2018).

- 1.2 Nottingham City is the only known authority where Children in Care Police Officers and Leaving Care Service Case Manager work in collaboration and to this model. We believe that this has contributed to the marked reduction in offending within the children in care population over time.

## 2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 National reporting data is submitted annually, based on the Children in Care population whose home Authority is Nottingham City, who have been in care for a year or more, are aged 10-17, and have received a Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or conviction within the year.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 We are pleased to report that the figure for 2018/19 has reduced to 3%, which sees us returning to the best performing quartile, ranking 21 out of approximately 155 Authorities (table 1).

### 2.4 Table 1

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

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

- 2.5 We are encouraged that other Authorities continue to seek out advice and guidance around reducing criminalisation from Nottingham City, with a view to improving outcomes for Children in Care.
- 2.6 **Specialist roles:** Both Children in Care Police Officer posts continue to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. PC Rebecca Dalby joined PC Sam Flint in the role of Children in Care Police Officer in January 2018. The Leaving Care Service Case Manager holds a caseload of young adults, supports management and performance. Elements of the previous Youth Justice Service Lead role are now embedded within the Youth Justice Service.
- 2.7 **Multi Agency Protocol:** The Leaving Care Service Case Manager, Children in Care Police Officers and Nottinghamshire Police worked alongside the Crown Prosecution Service, Service Managers for Children in Care and Placements to develop and implement a protocol for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, with a view to further reducing the criminalisation of Children in Care. This Protocol embedded restorative justice and early intervention, including tools for carers. A renewed focus was placed upon the completion of a Crown Prosecution 10-point checklist, to provide information to the Prosecutor/Out of Court Disposal Panel, to ensure the most appropriate action is taken (if

any), following offending behaviour by a Child in Care. The then Youth Offending Team Board ratified this document in 2017.

- 2.8 This existing Protocol was agreed prior to the publication of the National Protocol on Reducing Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked-After Children and Care Leavers, November 2018. Though this protocol is already reflective of the spirit and many of the practices put forward in this national document, it was felt its publication should prompt a multi-agency review. The national protocol asks “would this [response] be good enough for my child?” and extends a consideration beyond children and young people to care leavers. This review was initiated by the Children in Care Police Officer and Leaving Care Service Case Manager in 2019. Stakeholders have been consulted and a draft revised document prepared for view by signatories.
- 2.9 **Children in Care Arrest Screening:** The difficulty of early and effective identification of Children in Care on arrest was identified as a concern in 2015, and an Arrest Screening Programme devised to pro-actively divert Children in Care from prosecution where appropriate. The Arrest Screening Programme is now embedded within the Youth Justice Service, with the Leaving Care Service Case Manager providing consultation only.
- 2.10 **Practitioner Forums:** These Fora are chaired by the Children in Care Police Officer’s and Youth Justice Service Lead, for the benefit of Local Authority, Private providers, foster carers and invited representatives of Childrens Services and the voluntary sector. Resources are promoted, guest speakers present and best practice is shared. We aim to offer participants 2 Fora per year. Though we remain committed to this offer and see its benefit, the limited availability of large meeting rooms available at no cost to the Authority continues to present a challenge.
- 2.11 Evaluation has been wholly positive, with key themes being the opportunity to network and share learning from each other and guest speakers. The most recent meeting 28.02.2020 focussed on Child Criminal Exploitation, Leaving Care Service and the review of our Protocol.
- “County lines is an area I have worried about and I feel I understand more. Informative as always. Thank you” (Residential)
- “A lot of information was put across very well in a short space of time – very useful” (Foster carer)
- “The team provides me with up to date information to work on my practice – highlights concerns we are currently aware of and enables me to be signposted to the correct person/team” (Private Residential)
- 2.12 **Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation:** The Children in Care Police Officers continue to liaise daily with children’s homes, supporting workers to implement our protocol, identify indicators and promote the use of tools to safeguard young people. Children in Care Police Officers continue to chair the Concerns Network Meeting, where over 20 agencies meet to discuss and share intelligence, and implement disruption tactics. Children in Care Police Officers continue to work alongside with hotels, nightclubs and venues in order to protect our young people and raise awareness.
- 2.13 **Diversions work with young women:** The Children in Care Police Officers lead a girls-only boxing provision in collaboration with Jawaid Khaliq, World Champion boxer, to empower young women. Nottinghamshire Police have now funded this project for 12 months.

- 2.14 “Coming to the boxing club has stopped me from assaulting other young people in my home. It has taught me how to control my anger.” (Young person, 2018)
- 2.15 We are delighted to report that this class has resulted in 3 young women becoming police cadets and one completing work experience with the Crown Prosecution Service in 2019.
- 2.16 **Restorative Approaches:** The Restorative Service Quality Mark was renewed for Nottingham Youth Justice Service in Spring 2019. The Youth Justice Service has established an Out Of Court Disposal Triage system and this Panel meet every week in an effort to reduce the numbers of young people entering the Youth Justice System. There are established protocols and working practice guidelines with Victim Care to ensure all ‘person’s harmed’ have a voice.

### **3 Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 3.1 None.

### **4 Finance colleague comments**

- 4.1 The post of CiC Police Officer is jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. Reduction of offending and missing reports have both a short and long term financial benefit across the authority and partners, as well as safeguarding Children in Care and improving outcomes.
- 4.2 “The rate at which a minority of children move from care into the criminal justice system is not inevitable.....“Good practice can dramatically reduce the long term costs that arise when young people get sucked into the criminal justice system unnecessarily – one study calculated a return of £3.41 for every £1 invested.” (In Care, Out of Trouble 2016)

### **5 Legal, Strategic Assets & Property and Procurement colleague comments**

- 5.1 None.

### **6 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 6.1 Not required because the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

### **7 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

- 7.1 Joint Protocol Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire (Revised Draft)

### **8 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 8.1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>