

Corporate Parenting Board - 21 November 2022

Title of paper:	Reducing Offending Behaviour (Children in Care)	
Director:	Ailsa Barr: Children's Integrated Services (NCC) Supt James Woolley - Nottinghamshire Police	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	PC Sam Flint BEM - Children in Care Police Officer, Nottinghamshire Police Sam.flint@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk PC Rebecca Dalby – Children in care Police Officer, Nottinghamshire Police Rebecca.dalby@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Natalie Pink – Leaving Care Service Jonathan Hurst – Data Analyst	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder	N/A	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:		
Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Safer Nottingham	X	
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Healthy and Inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
To update the Board on the published data for 2020/1 regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population, and on the activity of the Children in Care Police Officers, working together to reduce offending and safeguard Children in Care.		
Recommendations:		
1	To note the data regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population.	
2	To recognise the importance of sustaining the work of the CiC Police Officers to continue to improve outcomes for Children in Care.	

1. Reasons for recommendations

1.1 This information is provided to the Board annually.

2. Other options considered in making recommendations

2.1 None

3. Consideration of Risk

- 3.1 PC Sam Flint retires from Nottinghamshire Police in 2023. There is a proposal for PC Sam Flint to return to post part time.

4. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 At 2020/21 we are reporting a figure of 2%. This figure is now so low that we cannot analyse the figure itself. It is positive to note the overall reduction in the percentage over time.

4.4 Table 1 (Children's Social Care Benchmarking Tool)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Nottingham	6%	6%	5%	6%	3%	4%	2%
East Midlands	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Statistical Neighbours	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%
England	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%

- 4.5 Specialist roles: Children in Care Police Officers posts continue to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. After March 2023 it is proposed that PC Flint will be retiring from the Police Service as a Police Officer but will be coming back into The CIC role, which will continue to be jointly funded.
- 4.6 Multi Agency Protocol: Children in Care Police Officers, Nottinghamshire Police and the leaving care service senior advisor worked alongside the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Service Managers for Children in Care and Placements, to develop and implement a protocol for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This was with a view to reducing the criminalisation of Children in Care. We are now lucky enough to have a Children in Care equivalent who covers the County. This streamlines joint working when city children are placed within the county and vice versa.
- 4.7 This Protocol was originally ratified in 2017 prior to the national protocol on reducing unnecessarily criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers in November 2018. The national protocol asks, "would this [response] be good enough for my child?"
- 4.8 Both protocols were reflective of each other which prompted a Multi-Agency review. It is recognised that the Reducing Offender Behaviour protocol is a fluid document and continual consultation is crucial.

In 2022 an updated version of the protocol was signed off by all agencies. Consultation has also taken place in relation to the 10 Point checklist, to possibly reduce this to a 5-point checklist. Nottingham have led with the consultation with the CPS regarding this.

- 4.9 A renewed focus was placed upon the completion of the (current) 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. This focus has also included awareness training for magistrates to highlight the importance of recognising trauma when dealing with young people in court.
- 4.10 Nottinghamshire Police, Children in Care Police Officers for City and County, representatives from the City and County Youth Justice Services and CPS, meet virtually to share information, develop services, identify, and address any issues for offending behaviour by children in care across Nottinghamshire.
- 4.11 Children in Care Arrest Screening: The difficulty of early and effective identification of Children in Care on arrest has always been a concern. Due to this, together with partners we devised an arrest screening tool to identify when a young person in care is arrested. Further to that in 2022 a screening tool was implemented by Nottinghamshire Police which alerts Children in Care officers to every call made by every Childrens home and semi-independent home. This allows them to intervene at the very earliest opportunity if any offences have been committed or even to prior to this to problem solve as issues arise. Children in Care officers have worked closely with crime recording teams in using different outcomes to prevent criminalisation of children in care.
- 4.12 Multi Agency Working: Children in Care officers liaise on a daily basis with all Childrens homes, semi-independent providers and foster carers where needed. Officers support and guide, advise on safeguarding, implement protocols and promote the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) toolkit. They liaise with the sexual exploitation unit and CCE coordinators. Children in Care officers provide up to date knowledge, promote and share several positive resources for children in care and carers, offering education, work opportunities, preventative resources and packages for key work sessions. They provide up to date knowledge and share any new resources that are available.
- 4.13 Children in Care officers are also in direct contact with Ofsted.
“The dedicated children in care Police Officers successfully support restorative justice interventions, and there have been impressive reductions in offending rates.” (Ofsted 2018) “Really appreciate your input and insight, it is priceless” (Ofsted July 2021)
- 4.14 Children in Care Officers maintain their accessibility for young people to contact them. This remains a very important part of the role. Children in Care officers also have access to specialist careers advisors and engagement officers who continue to focus on those young people who need extra support. These specialists can support young people to become part of the police cadets and have also helped support one of our young people who will be joining Nottinghamshire Police as a police officer in October 2022.
- 4.15 The Children in Care Police Officers have created an awareness video package which is presented to all new police recruits to promote trauma informed practice and the vulnerabilities of working with children in care. This has resulted in much discussion and awareness raising. Nottinghamshire Police have now recognised the importance of Police staff being trauma informed and using a trauma informed lens when working with young people.
- 4.16 The Concerns Network Meeting has relaunched going from strength to strength and better than ever, with full support of the sexual exploitation unit. We expect this to continue to grow. We still have over 20 agencies keen to meet on a regular basis to share intelligence and implement disruption tactics. This is now hosted by Basford Hall College.

4.17 The Children in Care Police Officers lead a girls-only boxing provision in collaboration with Jawaid Khaliq, World Champion boxer, to empower young women. This group has gone from strength to strength and has been running every week for 4 years. 2 years funding has been secured from an independent scrutineer NSCP. This has allowed the group to expand the activities available, which has been greatly beneficial to the young people.

4.18 Restorative Approaches: The Youth Justice Service has 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. The Children in Care Police Officers are invited to attend the Panel when a child in care is discussed. There are established protocols and working practice guidelines with Victim Care to ensure all 'person's harmed' have a voice.

5. **Finance colleague comments**

5.1 The CIC Police Officers are 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 Car and improving outcomes.

5.2 "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)

6. **Legal colleague comments**

None.

7. **Other relevant comments**

None.

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

N/A.

9. **Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

N/A.

10. **Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

N/A.

11. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

11.1 An EIA is not required as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

12. **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

12.1 A DPIA is not required.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A CIA is not required.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 Joint Protocol Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

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