

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD REPORT 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Reducing Offending Behaviour	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected: All</b>
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	<p>Natalie Pink – Nottingham Youth Justice Service (YJS) Lead for Children in Care, seconded to Leaving Care Service (LCS) 0115 8761206</p> <p>PC Sam Flint – Children in Care Police Officer (CiC Police Officer), Nottinghamshire Police 0115 8763735</p>	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	<p>PC Rebecca Dalby – (CiC Police Officer) Boyd Livingstone – YJS Principal Analyst Shelley Nicholls – Head of Early Help Services Hugh Shiel – Restorative Justice Lead, YJS Sonia Burton – Practice Specialist, YJS Chief Inspector James Woolley, Nottinghamshire Police</p>	
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)</b>	18 March 2019	

**Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:**

Strategic Regeneration and Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- To update the Board of the published data for 2017/18 regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population.
- To update the Board about the activity of the CiC Police Officers and YJS Lead 2018/19 in working together to reduce offending, safeguard Children in Care, and to meet the needs of the Directorate.
- To report on the improved sustainability of this work through increased CiC Police Officer capacity.
- To highlight the use and promotion of the Multi-Agency Protocol for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire to reduce the criminalisation of Children in Care.

• To inform the Board of the publication of the National Protocol for reducing the criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers 2018.

**Recommendation(s):**

1	For the Board to note the data regarding reducing offending behaviour within the Children in Care population.
2	For the Board to recognise the importance of sustaining the work of the CiC Police Officers to continue to improve outcomes for Children in Care.
3	For the Board to recognise the diversification of the YJS Lead role, and the benefits of broadening its scope to the wider Directorate.
4	For the Board to note the importance of early identification and intervention in offending within the children in care population, to target resources and inform service development, and embed the use of restorative approaches to reduce the risk of offending across residential, semi-independent and foster care settings. This mirrors the Youth Justice Plan 2017-20.

**1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The role of CiC Police Officers and YJS Lead, working in close partnership, has previously been suggested as a model of best practice, and 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 CiC Police Officers and a YJS Lead work in close 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. The Secondment of the YJS Lead to the Leaving Care Service to support management and performance has resulted in some benefit to the wider Directorate in strengthening partnership working. Elements of the role are now embedded within the YJS.

**2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 National reporting data is submitted annually, based on the Children in Care population in 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 have offended. Any difference in actual offending is so minimal it could be considered negligible. However, we have dropped 5 places when comparing performance against other authorities, which now puts Nottingham City into the bottom half of authorities in England and Wales for first time in 4 years (ranking 80<sup>th</sup> out of 152).
- 2.3 The 6.00% figure in the published data has been rounded up from 5.5%. This figure is

due to minor fluctuations in the City Children in Care population and the number of other authorities having improved their performance on this measure this year, both of which are beyond our control. 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.

#### 2.4 **Table 1**

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
9%	9.80%	9%	9.80%	8.70%	8.20%	6%	6%	5%	6%

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

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- 2.5** The Local Measure is reported quarterly and tells us all Children in Care who have offended in Nottingham City, regardless of time spent in care. For both the measures, the trends continue to show significant improvements over the past 5 years, particularly in the case of the national measure. (Source Youth Justice Quarterly issue 2018-19 Q1.)
- 2.6 Specialist roles:** The role of the CiC Police Officer continues to be jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council. PC Rebecca Dalby joined PC Sam Flint in the role of CiC Police Officer in January 2018 and is a valued colleague.
- 2.7** The YJS Lead role is incorporated within a 3-day Case Management post. The YJS Lead was Seconded to the Leaving Care Service in March 2018. The focus of this role was to support management and increase capacity and performance within the Service. There have been additional benefits to this team by improving and formalising links with YJS and Probation and providing consultation.
- 2.8 Protocol:** The CiC Police Officer, YJS Lead and Nottinghamshire Police worked alongside the Crown Prosecution Service, Service Managers for Children in Care and Placements to develop a protocol, with a view to further reducing the criminalisation of Children in Care, embedding restorative justice and early intervention in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The YJS Board ratified this document in July 2017. The YJS Lead and CiC Police Officers facilitated a multi-agency training event for the City on 29th March 2018, to embed this learning. *“So good to share practice – to know how to use the Protocol”* (participant). The YJS Lead has also presented to Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service. The CiC Police Officers shall be offering guidance to the Prisoner Handling Team, Nottinghamshire Police, regarding the Protocol.
- 2.9** We propose that the publication of the ‘National Protocol on reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of Looked After Children and Care Leavers’ (DfE 2018) published in November 2018, should prompt a multi-agency review of the current Protocol. This asks *“would this be good enough for my child?”* and extends a consideration to care leavers. We shall endeavour to continue to lead in this area in collaboration with our partners and neighbouring authority.
- 2.10** In late 2015 the YJS Lead worked with colleagues and partners to assess our practice against the recommendations of ‘In Care, Out of Trouble’ (2016) ([www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview)), with a view to evidencing our strengths and identifying areas of potential improvement. Initial findings were presented to the Service Manager and Head of Children in Care March 2018. These findings can inform the review of our local Protocol.

- 2.11 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 YJS, with the YJS Lead providing consultation only.
- 2.12 Practitioner Forums:** These Fora are chaired by the CiC Police Officer's and YJS Lead for the benefit of Local Authority, Private providers, Foster Carers, and invited members of the voluntary sector. Representatives from Children in Care and Placements Teams now routinely attend, as do the Leaving Care Service. Resources are promoted, guest speakers present and best practice is shared. Participants are invited to 3 Forums per year. Evaluation has been wholly positive, with key themes being the opportunity to network and share learning from each other and guest speakers. The November 2018 Forum showcased resources and protocols for identifying and responding to weapons-enabled offending, including launching the Child Criminal Exploitation Tool, the work of the Serious Youth Violence Hub, Schools Officers (based in schools to work preventatively with young people) and an interactive workshop by the 'Street Doctors' volunteers. *"One of the most interesting Forums I have been to", "This is a valuable Forum that should be supported at every level"* (participant).
- 2.13** An extra-ordinary Practitioner Forum was held in 2018 led by Naomi Matthews, NCC Data Protection Officer, in order to highlight GDPR regulations and requirements, and this has prompted further work to ensure practitioners feel confident in sharing information appropriately and legitimately. The first Practitioner Forum for 2019 is due to be held in April, with a focus on transition to adulthood.
- 2.14 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** The CiC Police Officers have contributed to the profile and provision available to tackle CSE in the City, including training for hotel staff and actively participate in disruption work. The benefits of this work extend beyond the Children in Care population. The CiC Police Officer continues to chair the Concerns Network Meeting, a multi-agency forum, which collates and distributes pieces of information where concerns for potential CSE have been identified. The CiC Police Officers continue to work jointly with the National Working Group (NWG). For 2019 the CiC Police Officers are working jointly with the NWG to raise awareness and enable staff to identify risk and challenge appropriately within sports facilities.
- 2.15** The CiC Police Officers have created a girls-only boxing provision in collaboration with Javid Khaliq, World Champion boxer, to empower young women. *"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)
- 2.16 Restorative Approaches:** The YJS will renew their Restorative Services Quality Mark (RSQM) this year, demonstrating their continued commitment to quality provision throughout the service. Since last year the YJS have continued to offer the 3-day Restorative Approaches training to residential staff and will be delivering another in February 2019. The YJS completed a number of successful restorative conferences including one between a victim of a violent offence and the offender in the presence of both parents. The YJS has established an Out Of Court Disposal Triage system and meet every week in an effort to reduce the numbers of young people entering the Youth Justice System. The Restorative Justice Coordinator has 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 (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

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 There continues to be a strong cross service commitment to this area of work. In order to reflect the change in the YJS Lead role, the budget costs for this will now be met from the Children in Care service area.

4.3 “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)

4.4 Training in restorative approaches is provided to Local Authority homes by the YJS Restorative Justice Co-ordinator free of charge. A competitive fee is charged to private providers, which supports the capacity of YJS to continue specialist posts.

#### **5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None, N/A.

#### **6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)**

6.1 None, N/A.

#### **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An EIA is not required.

#### **8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

8.1 Joint Protocol Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.

#### **9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

9.1 ‘In Care, Out of Trouble’ (2016) [www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/carereview).

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