

## **Children and Young People's Committee**

**Monday, 19 March 2018 at 10:30**

**County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP**

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### **AGENDA**

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|----|--|---------|
| 1  | Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 February 2018   | 5 - 8   |
| 2  | Apologies for Absence  |         |
| 3  | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)<br>(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests<br>(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) |         |
| 4  | Performance reporting (Quarter 3 2017-18) - services for children and young people   | 9 - 24  |
| 5  | Ofsted focused visit on the experiences and progress of care leavers in Nottinghamshire  | 25 - 34 |
| 6  | Foster Carer Items   |         |
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| 8  | National Minimum Fostering Allowances and Fees to Foster Carers  | 43 - 48 |
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## **Notes**

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact David Ebbage (Tel. 0115 977 3141) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.

- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Date 12 February 2018 (commencing at 10.30am)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Philip Owen (Chairman)  
Boyd Elliott (Vice-Chairman)  
Tracey Taylor (Vice-Chairman)

Samantha Deakin  
Paul Henshaw  
Errol Henry JP  
Vaughan Hopewell

John Peck JP  
Liz Plant  
Phil Rostance  
Sue Saddington

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)**

Vacancy  
Vacancy

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Marion Clay	Children, Families and Cultural Services
David Ebbage	Resources
Steve Edwards	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Laurence Jones	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Pip Milbourne	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Colin Pettigrew	Children, Families and Cultural Services

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

## **REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSIONER – JOHN EDWARDS**

John Edwards attended the Committee and gave a short presentation to Members around the issues with KS5 and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) performance levels. He also answered questions and responded to any concerns Members raised.

## **OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS – TERMLY UPDATE**

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

### **RESOLVED 2018/008**

That:

- 1) for the schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services wrote to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress to become a Good school.
- 2) for schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain or become Good, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services wrote to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to congratulate them on their achievement.

## **FIRST ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES – 2017/18**

The Chairman introduced the report and provide the Committee with information on first admission applications to Nottinghamshire primary schools and academies for the 2017/18 academic year.

### **RESOLVED 2018/009**

That whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained within the report on the outcomes of the Council's admissions services for Nottinghamshire applications to primary schools for the 2017/18 academic year be considered.

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20**

The Chairman updated the Committee on the outcome of the consultation regarding the allocation of the new 'Specialist Provision Capital Grant' being made available to local authorities by Central Government from April 2018.

### **RESOLVED 2018/010**

That the proposed school admission arrangements for 2019-2020 as detailed in the appendix to the report are determined, including:

- overall procedures and practices including oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools, as detailed in Section 1
- published admission numbers, as listed in Section 2
- qualifying schemes in Section 3
- in-year scheme in Section 4.

### **EARLY YEARS FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITY**

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/011**

That:

- 1) the proposed creation of a new Early Years Inclusion Fund and the new criteria for funding allocations as detailed in appendix to the report be approved.
- 2) the use of an element of the new Inclusion Fund to purchase specialist equipment and associated training and assessments be approved.

### **ANNUAL REFRESH OF THE LOCAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**

The Chairman introduced the report to advise the Committee on the refreshed local transformation plan for children and young people's emotional and mental health.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/0012**

That:

- 1) whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the local transformation plan be considered.
- 2) to receive an update report on progress with implementing the plan in six months' time and that this be included in the work programme be agreed

### **ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: AUTUMN 2017**

The Chairman introduced the report to inform the Committee of the outcome of six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in Autumn 2017.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/013**

That Members consider whether there are any actions or information they require in relation to the content the report.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POSTS AT CLAYFIELDS HOUSE SECURE UNIT**

The Chairman introduced the report and proposed that additional posts be established within children's social care at Clayfields House Secure Unit in line with the expansion programme of the secure centre from 18 to 20 beds.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/014**

That the following posts be established at Clayfields House Secure Unit from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018:

- 2.0 FTE Residential Social Care Worker (NJE Grade 5)
- 1.34 FTE Residential care worker (NJE Grade 4)
- 1.0 FTE Teachers (Main scale 2 UPS3)
- 1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant (NJE Grade 4)
- 0.5 FTE Intervention Worker (Hay Band A)
- 1.0 FTE Assistant Technical Officer (NJE Grade 3)
- 0.43 FTE Domestic Assistant (NJE Grade 1)
- 1.89 FTE Night Care Worker (NJE Grade 3).

#### **EXTENSION OF SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT OFFICER PROGRAMME**

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/015**

That the extension of the temporary Social Work Support Officer posts in Children's Social Care until 31 March 2019 be approved.

#### **RECRUITMENT OF ADOPTERS: THE BIG ADOPTION DAY – 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH**

The Chairman introduced the report to seek approval to run an adoption recruitment campaign and event for the Big Adoption Day on 21 March 2018.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/016**

That the adoption recruitment campaign and event for the Big Adoption Day on 21 March 2018 be approved.

#### **WORK PROGRAMME**

To consider the Committee's work programme for 2017-18.

#### **RESOLVED 2018/007**

That the committee's work programme be noted and consideration be given to any changes which the committee wishes to make.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am.

CHAIRMAN

**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 2017/18) - SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of the Council's services for children and young people between 1 October and 31 December 2017 and seek comments on any actions required.

**Information****Performance Reporting for 2017/18**

2. This report forms the third quarterly report of 2017/18, reporting on quarterly performance for the 2017/18 financial year.
3. Performance data is set out in the appendices. **Appendix 1** shows those measures which have received updates since the previous quarter. **Appendix 2** shows those measures which have not changed.
4. For each KPI, current performance is compared with the national average for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available.
5. In addition, for each KPI, the table indicates whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period.
6. Progress is expected across all outcomes over the course of the three years. In order to ensure that the associated planned activity is realistic, deliverable and focused, an Annual Action Plan has been developed by the multi-agency *Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group* and progress is regularly monitored. Activity contained within the Annual Action Plan has been informed by the views of children and young people, via bi-annual surveys completed by the Children in Care Council.

**Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that children in our care experience high quality and stable support****Child and family assessments**



7. The percentage of Child and Family Assessments completed within timescale has fallen slightly to 78.6% from 82.7% in quarter 2. There was a significant fall in November to 76%, but December saw a rise to 81.7% and the year to date figure is 83.6%. If this trend continues there is a high likelihood of meeting the target of 85%.

## **Child protection**

8. The rate of children subject to a child protection plan has fallen slightly again this quarter, to 52 per 10,000. Service manager oversight continues in this area, and children are only brought to initial child protection conferences (ICPCs) if the relevant service manager agrees. The national average figure for 2016/17 is now available and shows a small rise from 43.1 (in 2015/16) to 43.3. However the statistical neighbour average does not show a corresponding rise and remains lower than Nottinghamshire at 43.5. Work will continue to test and ensure that children on plans meet the threshold.
9. The proportion of child protection plans that last two years or more has dropped to only 2% (from 6.4% in quarter 2). This is now well within the target of 5.5% and is below both the national average of 3.4% and Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours' figure of 3.5%. Child Protection Coordinators (CPCs) continue to raise alerts with service managers when child protection plans have lasted 15 months, and request oversight of these cases. CPCs complete quality assurance after each meeting to assess if there is drift or delay in cases.
10. In terms of the proportion of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time, performance has almost returned to the level recorded nine months ago, after an encouraging period of improvement; it now stands at 29.3%, up from 15.1% in quarter 2. The national average rate and the rate for Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours have increased between 2015-16 and 2016-17, however work in this area is still required. This will receive further management attention over the next quarter.
11. Although performance on those child protection reviews held within timescale has improved since quarter 2 it remains outside of the Council's local target. This has been impacted by levels of sickness in the team. Again this will receive close management attention.

## **Adoption**

12. The average length of time between a child's admission into care and placement has increased from 302 days in quarter 2 to 394 days this quarter. However, this is 164 days better than the latest national average performance. The Council continues to work hard at identifying adoptive matches as early as possible and to ensure that recruitment is in line with need. The Council remains ambitious in finding adoptive homes for harder to place children and this will on occasions take longer hence the increase in timescale this quarter.
13. This commitment to finding placements for harder to place children also impacts on the average number of days between placement order and deciding on an appropriate family for a child or children which has also increased and is now above target at 138 days. This increase relates to the placement of a child who has waited a considerable period to

find an appropriate match. As with the above measure, this is a good performance when compared to the latest national average of 226 days.

## **Looked after children**

14. The measure looking at all those looked after children who have had more than three placements during the previous 12 months as a proportion of all looked after children has stabilised after three successive quarterly increases. It has begun to reduce during the last reporting period, as anticipated. It remains marginally over national average and higher than Nottinghamshire's figures in recent years. The main source of this increase continues to be the process of stepping down an increased number of 16/17 year old looked after children into a number of discrete supported placements which provide them with the necessary life skills to equip them for independence into adulthood. These are in effect 'positive' placement moves, though this continues to be a challenge in terms of how this presents itself in statistical reporting.
15. Despite a further small decrease in the percentage of those looked after children remaining in long-term placements this quarter, data shows a strong performance in this area, as the figure still remains approximately eight percentage points higher than the national average. The marginal change in the Nottinghamshire figure since quarter 2 is largely as a result of the placement changes that were previously reported.

## **Care leavers**

16. There has been a positive increase in the number of care leavers classed as in education, employment or training (EET). However, due to the overall number of care leavers increasing by 17% since quarter 2 (from 252 to 295), the percentage of care leavers that are EET has actually fallen slightly to 44.1%.
17. There has been a similar decrease in the percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation as with the related performance measure on EET. There has been a similar increase in the number of care leavers classed as being in suitable accommodation (from 215 to 236 in quarter 3) but this is not reflected in the percentage for this quarter due to the overall increase in care leavers.

## **Educational standards and closing the attainment gap**

18. Final data for the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of primary education (typically 11 year olds) shows Nottinghamshire is in-line with the national average. 61.8% of pupils achieved this measure (an increase of 8.0 percentage points from 2016) compared with 62.0% nationally and 60.8% amongst statistical neighbours. Against all local authorities (LAs) nationally (150 with published data) Nottinghamshire is ranked 65<sup>th</sup> on this measure (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best) and against statistical neighbours is placed 4<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 LAs; where 1<sup>st</sup> is best). Outcomes by district show all districts witnessed increases in this measure with Gedling schools witnessing the greatest increase (10.9 points to 63.1%). The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in combined reading, writing and mathematics in Nottinghamshire schools and academies by area is as follows:

**Table 1 – Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in combined reading, writing & mathematics by district**

	2015/16		2016/17		Diff. from 2016
	Pupils	% Exp. Standard Rd, Wr, Ma	Pupils	% Exp. Standard Rd, Wr, Ma	
Nottinghamshire	8,410	53.8	8,798	61.8	8.0
<i>Ashfield</i>	<i>1,334</i>	<i>47.8</i>	<i>1,373</i>	<i>57.1</i>	<i>9.3</i>
<i>Bassetlaw</i>	<i>1,175</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>1,211</i>	<i>58.5</i>	<i>7.4</i>
<i>Broxtowe</i>	<i>1,073</i>	<i>56.8</i>	<i>1,174</i>	<i>64.8</i>	<i>8.0</i>
<i>Gedling</i>	<i>1,264</i>	<i>52.2</i>	<i>1,232</i>	<i>63.1</i>	<i>10.9</i>
<i>Mansfield</i>	<i>1,139</i>	<i>48.8</i>	<i>1,224</i>	<i>55.8</i>	<i>7.0</i>
<i>Newark</i>	<i>1,155</i>	<i>53.4</i>	<i>1,269</i>	<i>58.7</i>	<i>5.3</i>
<i>Rushcliffe</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>66.5</i>	<i>1,315</i>	<i>74.5</i>	<i>8.0</i>
National	-	54.0	-	62.0	8.0
Stat. Neighbours	-	53.3	-	60.8	7.5

*District refers to the geographical location of the school*

*Statistical neighbour is based on the averages of each LA's outcome and is not weighted*

19. There have been a number of changes to the way in which Key Stage 4 results are reported this year. New more challenging GCSEs in English language, English literature and mathematics (taught in schools from September 2015) are reported in a new grading scale of 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade (not A\*-G as previously reported). These three subjects are the first to use the new grading structure. Eventually all GCSEs taken in England will receive numerical grades.
20. Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 or better as previously achieved a grade C or above but instead of the four grades (A\*, A, B and C) which most students achieve, the new grading structure will have six grades (9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 4). Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A\*s.
21. Grade 4 will be regarded as a “standard pass” and a grade 5 as a “strong pass”. The government wants to see the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 and above rising over time and to reflect this ambition, achievement at the “strong pass” will be one of the benchmarks used to measure the performance of schools.
22. Final results for 2017 shows that 45.5% of pupils achieved a strong pass in both GCSE English and mathematics (grade 9-5). Nationally 42.9% of state funded schools achieved this measure. Comparisons to previous years cannot be made due to the change in grading structure in 2017. In this measure Nottinghamshire is placed 44<sup>th</sup> out of 151 local authorities nationally (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best). Comparisons to statistical neighbours shows the average for this measure to be 42.4% with Nottinghamshire placed 2<sup>nd</sup> amongst all 11 local authorities (when including Nottinghamshire).
23. At the standard pass final results for 2017 show 65.9% of pupils achieved grades 9-4 in both GCSE English and mathematics. This represents no change when compared with

A\*-C outcomes in 2016. Nationally over the same period 64.2% of state funded schools achieved this measure, an increase of 0.9 percentage points. Nottinghamshire is placed 54<sup>th</sup> out of 151 local authorities for this measure (a fall from 41<sup>st</sup> in 2016). Comparisons with statistical neighbours shows the average for this measure to be 64.5% with Nottinghamshire placed 3<sup>rd</sup> amongst all 11 statistical neighbour LAs (when including Nottinghamshire). Only Ashfield and Gedling witnessed increases from 2016 on this measure, 0.4 percentage points (to 55.7%) and 1.5 percentage points (to 68.5%) respectively.

**Table 2 – Percentage of pupils achieving strong and standard passes at GCSE English and mathematics by district**

	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17			A*-C / 9-4 Diff. from 2016
	Pupils	% A*-C English & Maths	Pupils	% A*-C English & Maths	Pupils	% 9-4 English & Maths	% 9-5 English & Maths	
Nottinghamshire	8,193	59.7	7,883	65.9	7,511	65.9	45.5	0.0
Ashfield	1,367	54.1	1,264	55.3	1,165	55.7	34.3	0.4
Bassetlaw	1,169	67.8	1,124	71.3	996	70.7	51.6	-0.6
Broxtowe	950	58.5	918	67.4	876	66.6	45.4	-0.8
Gedling	1,247	62.3	1,162	67.0	1,163	68.5	47.6	1.5
Mansfield	1,204	51.7	1,202	57.4	1,178	57.0	37.0	-0.4
Newark	975	50.2	915	62.3	851	60.8	38.1	-1.5
Rushcliffe	1,281	71.5	1,298	80.2	1,282	80.2	62.0	0.0
National (state funded)	-	59.2	-	63.3	-	64.2	42.9	0.9
Stat. Neighbours	-	59.8	-	63.4	-	64.5	42.4	1.1

*District refers to the geographical location of the school*

*Statistical neighbour is based on the averages of each LA's outcome and is not weighted*

24. The percentage of A-Level entries in Nottinghamshire sixth forms awarded a pass grade at A\*-E has fallen slightly from 2016 (down 0.7 percentage points) to 99.0%. Comparisons nationally for all state funded schools show a fall of 0.8 percentage points to 98.1% and a 0.6 percentage point fall to 98.2% for all state funded, independent and further education (FE) sector colleges.
25. The percentage of A-Level entries in Nottinghamshire sixth forms awarded a pass grade at A\*-B has increased to 50.2%, an increase of 0.8 percentage points from 2016. Comparisons nationally for all state funded schools show a marginal increase of 0.1 to 51.3% and no change remaining at 53.6% for all state funded, independent and FE sector colleges.
26. The number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (inadequate) shows a fall from the last quarter to three schools (previously four). Jeffries Primary School (Ashfield district, LA maintained school) closed at the end of November 2017 and is now West Park Academy (under the leadership of The Forge Trust). The other three schools from the last quarter remain. These are Netherfield Primary (Gedling district, LA maintained school but set to convert to a sponsored academy in February), Arnbrook Primary (Gedling district, a sponsored academy which converted in April 2014 under the

leadership of Believe Academy Trust) and Hillocks Primary (Ashfield district, LA maintained school).

27. The number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category also shows a fall from the last quarter after the closure of Vision Studio School (Mansfield district, studio Academy School which opened September 2014). Manor (Mansfield district; a convertor academy which converted August 2011) remains as inadequate since the last quarter.
28. The Early Years Foundation Stage attainment gap for pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) attaining a good level of development (GLD) and those not eligible has widened slightly. The Nottinghamshire gap now stands at 23.0 percentage points which is a 0.4 percentage point increase from the 22.6 reported in 2016. This remains above the 17 percentage point gap reported nationally which has seen a 1 percentage point narrowing from 2016. Results by district vary. Ashfield, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe districts all witnessed a widening of the gap which was caused due to a fall in attainment of FSM eligible pupils while those not eligible for FSM witnessed increases. Bassetlaw, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark all witnessed a narrowing of the gap however in both Gedling and Mansfield the attainment of non-FSM pupils fell. Bassetlaw and Newark districts were the only two localities where both pupil groups witnessed increases in attainment.
29. GLD outcomes by free school meal (FSM) eligibility and the associated gap are as follows:

**Table 3 – Percentage of FSM pupils achieving a good level of development by district and the associated gap**

District	FSM	2015			2016			2017			Increase from 2016	GAP change
		Pupils	%	GAP	Pupils	%	GAP	Pupils	%	GAP		
Ashfield	Yes	277	40.1	25.1	260	42.7	22.5	228	42.1	26.2	-0.6	3.7
	No	1,194	65.2		1,286	65.2		1,292	68.3		3.1	
Bassetlaw	Yes	182	38.5	27.0	147	48.3	20.9	143	51.0	18.8	2.7	-2.1
	No	1,103	65.5		1,147	69.2		1,214	69.8		0.6	
Broxtowe	Yes	125	34.4	33.8	168	54.2	14.9	142	49.3	23.5	-4.9	8.6
	No	1,168	68.2		1,170	69.1		1,213	72.8		3.7	
Gedling	Yes	134	53.0	19.1	124	40.3	31.2	127	43.3	27.0	3.0	-4.2
	No	1,171	72.1		1,217	71.5		1,252	70.3		-1.2	
Mansfield	Yes	193	42.5	22.4	203	50.2	18.6	202	52.0	16.3	1.8	-2.3
	No	1,159	64.9		1,184	68.8		1,231	68.3		-0.5	
Newark	Yes	151	40.4	28.5	150	43.3	24.5	132	47.7	20.5	4.4	-4.0
	No	1,185	68.9		1,197	67.8		1,219	68.2		0.4	
Rushcliffe	Yes	56	35.7	38.7	56	57.1	19.1	64	50.0	26.8	-7.1	7.7
	No	1,308	74.4		1,324	76.2		1,274	76.8		0.6	
LA	Yes	1,118	41.0	27.6	1,108	47.1	22.6	1,038	47.6	23.0	0.5	0.4
	No	8,288	68.6		8,525	69.7		8,695	70.6		0.9	
National	Yes	-	51.0	18.0	-	54.0	18.0	-	56.0	17.0	2.0	-1.0
	No	-	69.0		-	72.0		-	73.0		1.0	

30. Final data shows the Key Stage 2 attainment gap for pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past six years (FSM6) attaining the expected standard in each of

reading, writing and mathematics has narrowed slightly (0.2 points) to 24.0 percentage points. 44.3% of Nottinghamshire FSM6 pupils achieved this standard compared with 68.3% of non-FSM6 pupils. Comparisons to national data show the equivalent provisional figures to be 47.0% and 67.0% respectively, giving a national gap of 20.0 percentage points which is 4.0 percentage points lower than Nottinghamshire.

31. The difference in the gap is due to attainment of FSM6 pupils in Nottinghamshire being 2.7 percentage points lower than the equivalent group nationally (47.0% provisional national FSM6). The non-FSM6 group performs slightly higher in Nottinghamshire with 68.3% achieving the expected standard compared with a provisional figure of 67.0% nationally.
32. Outcomes by district show all pupil groups witnessed an increase in attainment from 2016. The FSM6 gap is widest in Mansfield district at 26.7 percentage points. Mansfield, Newark and Ashfield districts all witnessed an increase in the gap between 2016 and 2017.
33. Key Stage 2 outcomes for those achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics by free school meal at any point in the past six years (FSM6) eligibility and the associated gap are as follows:

**Table 4 – Percentage of FSM6 pupils achieving the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics by district and the associated gap**

District	FSM6	2016			2017			Increase from 2016	GAP change
		Pupils	%	GAP	Pupils	%	GAP		
Ashfield	Yes	489	34.2	21.5	504	43.5	21.6	9.3	0.1
	No	845	55.7		863	65.1		9.4	
Bassetlaw	Yes	348	36.5	20.7	355	45.1	19.0	8.6	-1.7
	No	827	57.2		852	64.1		6.9	
Broxtowe	Yes	253	41.5	20.0	290	50.7	18.8	9.2	-1.2
	No	820	61.5		875	69.5		8.0	
Gedling	Yes	328	35.4	22.7	308	46.4	22.3	11.0	-0.4
	No	936	58.1		914	68.7		10.6	
Mansfield	Yes	371	33.4	22.9	420	38.3	26.7	4.9	3.8
	No	768	56.3		792	65.0		8.7	
Newark	Yes	294	35.0	24.7	323	39.6	25.6	4.6	0.9
	No	861	59.7		941	65.2		5.5	
Rushcliffe	Yes	178	42.1	28.3	164	54.9	22.5	12.8	-5.8
	No	1,092	70.4		1,148	77.4		7.0	
LA	Yes	2,261	36.1	24.2	2,364	44.3	24.0	8.2	-0.2
	No	6,149	60.3		6,385	68.3		8.0	
National	Yes	-	39.0	21.0	-	47.0	20.0	8.0	-1.0
	No	-	60.0		-	67.0		7.0	

34. Final results for 2017 show the Key Stage 4 attainment gap for pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past six years (FSM6) attaining a strong pass (grades 9-5) in both GCSE English and mathematics to be 30.2 percentage points. 22.2% of Nottinghamshire FSM6 pupils achieved this standard compared with 52.4% of non-FSM6



pupils. Comparisons to national data show the equivalent provisional figures to be 24.3% and 48.6% respectively giving a national gap of 24.3 percentage points which is 5.6 percentage points lower than Nottinghamshire.

35. District outcomes show that Bassetlaw has the lowest FSM6 gap in the County standing at 17.0 percentage points. Bassetlaw is also the district with the highest performing outcomes for FSM6 pupils with 37.8% achieving this. Ashfield was the lowest with 14.5%.

**Table 5 – Percentage of FSM6 pupils achieving 9-5 grades in both GCSE English and mathematics by district and the associated gap**

District	FSM6	2017		
		Pupils	%	GAP
Ashfield	Yes	338	14.5	27.9
	No	827	42.4	
Bassetlaw	Yes	188	37.8	17.0
	No	808	54.8	
Broxtowe	Yes	202	21.3	31.4
	No	674	52.7	
Gedling	Yes	239	24.7	28.9
	No	924	53.6	
Mansfield	Yes	353	19.3	25.3
	No	825	44.6	
Newark	Yes	220	18.2	26.8
	No	631	45.0	
Rushcliffe	Yes	161	29.8	36.8
	No	1,121	66.6	
LA	Yes	1,701	22.2	30.2
	No	5,810	52.4	
National	Yes	-	24.3	24.3
	No	-	48.6	

36. At the standard pass (grades 9-4) in both GCSE English and mathematics there has been a widening of the gap when compared with A\*-C grades from 2016. Final 2017 figures show 41.6% of FSM6 pupils achieved 9-4 grades in both GCSE English and mathematics compared to 73.0% who were not FSM6. The FSM6 gap for the County is 31.4 percentage points which represents a widening of the gap compared to 30.2 percentage points reported in 2016. Provisional national data shows the attainment gap in this measure stands at 26.2 percentage points (44.0% of FSM6 pupils achieving this measure compared with 70.2% of non-FSM6) for state funded schools.
37. Outcomes by district show that only Gedling and Broxtowe districts witnessed an increase in attainment outcomes from 2016 for both pupil groups with FSM6 pupils increasing at a faster rate. In Broxtowe the increases were marginal.

**Table 6 – Percentage of FSM6 pupils achieving A\*-C/9-4 grades in both GCSE English and mathematics by district and the associated gap**

District	FSM6	2015 (grades A*-C)			2016 (grades A*-C)			2017 (grades 9-4)			Increase from 2016	GAP change
		Pupils	%	GAP	Pupils	%	GAP	Pupils	%	GAP		
Ashfield	Yes	409	35.0	27.2	378	33.9	30.5	338	33.4	31.4	-0.5	0.9
	No	958	62.2		886	64.4		827	64.8		0.4	
Bassetlaw	Yes	266	46.2	28.0	261	59.0	16.0	188	59.6	13.7	0.6	-2.3
	No	903	74.2		863	75.0		808	73.3		-1.7	
Broxtowe	Yes	204	37.7	26.5	178	44.4	28.6	202	44.6	28.5	0.2	-0.1
	No	746	64.2		740	73.0		674	73.1		0.1	
Gedling	Yes	262	45.0	21.9	239	44.8	27.9	239	47.3	26.7	2.5	-1.2
	No	985	66.9		923	72.7		924	74.0		1.3	
Mansfield	Yes	369	32.5	27.7	390	34.6	33.7	353	33.7	33.2	-0.9	-0.5
	No	835	60.2		812	68.3		825	66.9		-1.4	
Newark	Yes	229	24.0	34.2	223	38.1	32.0	220	34.5	35.4	-3.6	3.4
	No	746	58.2		692	70.1		631	69.9		-0.2	
Rushcliffe	Yes	154	42.9	32.5	169	58.6	24.8	161	52.8	31.3	-5.8	6.5
	No	1,127	75.4		1,129	83.4		1,121	84.1		0.7	
LA	Yes	1,893	37.1	29.4	1,838	42.8	30.2	1,701	41.6	31.4	-1.2	1.2
	No	6,300	66.5		6,045	73.0		5,810	73.0		0.0	
National	Yes	-	39.6	26.8	-	43.4	26.9	-	44.0	26.2	0.6	-0.7
	No	-	66.4		-	70.3		-	70.2		-0.1	

38. The percentage of young people aged 16-17 years who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 94.3% as at December 2017. This shows a fall from this time last year when the figure was 96.6%. Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has reduced from 1.6% last year to 1.4% this year, however the percentage of not knowns has increased to 4.3% (from 1.9% this time last year). The increase in not knowns compared to 2016 is largely in relation to 17 year olds. Futures and the Family Service are working to track the destinations of these young people in order to reduce the number of not knowns.
39. The number of two year olds taking up their free entitlement in the autumn 2017 term shows a slight fall from the same period last year. 73.9% of eligible two year olds are attending providers, a 1.3 percentage point fall (from 75.1%) from the same term last year. Analysis by district shows 97.3% of eligible Rushcliffe district children are accessing their entitlement whereas the equivalent figure for Bassetlaw is 64.2% and 64.4% for Newark and Sherwood district. Comparisons to the same term last year show Mansfield district had the largest fall (down 7.7 percentage points from autumn 2016 to 67.8%) whereas Ashfield witnessed the largest increase (up 6.3 percentage points to 72.5%).



## **Youth Offending & Early Help Support**

40. First time entrants to the youth justice system is reported a quarter in arrears. Final first time entrant figures for the second quarter are slightly higher than last year's figures although the Council remains on track to be below the national average. The actual number of first time entrants is 65 which translates into a rate per 100,000 of population of 93.
41. Children's Centre registrations performance remains high with 100% of all children under 5 years who live in low income areas, as defined by their IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) score, registered with a Children's Centre at the end of quarter 3. The number of these who had been seen at a Children's Centre shows an increase to 72.6%, from 64.1% the same quarter last year.

## **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans**

42. By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the DfE require all LAs to ensure children with an existing Special Educational Need Statement have been transferred onto an EHC Plan. During quarter 3 there were an extra 163 statements converted into EHC Plans, which was double the number converted in quarter 2. The total now stands at 283 out of an overall 357 outstanding statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 (79.3%). This measure is reported to the DfE on a monthly basis, therefore it is continually monitored by the service.

## **Other Options Considered**

43. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

44. The recommendation for quarterly reporting to Committee, and the KPIs that will form the basis of the report, is in line with the established processes of reporting and publishing performance information across all of the services within the Children and Families department.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

45. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

46. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

47. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for children and young people for the period 1 October to 31 December 2017.

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
**Corporate Director for Resources Department**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/02/18)**

48. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 16/02/18)**

49. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Performance reporting (Quarter 2 2017/18) – services for children and young people – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 20 November 2017.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1090



## Appendix 1 - Indicators updated from previous report

Children and Young People's Committee: Quarter 3 Performance for 2017/18									
For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 3 2017/18 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value									
Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data			
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours		
Child and Family assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within statutory timescales	78.6%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3	82.7%	96.6% (2016/17)	83.4% (2015/16)	85.9% (2015/16)	
Percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescale	95.7%	(+)	High	2017/18 Q3	93.0%	95.5% (2016/17)	93.7% (2015/16)	94.7% (2015/16)	
Children subject to a Child Protection Plan – Rate per 10,000	52	N/A	N/A	2017/18 Q3	53.3	52.4 (2016/17)	43.3 (2016/17)	43.45 (2016/17)	
Children who are subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more	2.0%	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q3	6.4%	7.4% (2016/17)	3.4% (2016/17)	3.5% (2016/17)	
Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion	29.3%	(-)	Low	2017/18 Q3	15.1%	29.8% (2016/17)	18.7% (2016/17)	19.1% (2016/17)	
Percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC missing from placement by individual child (L) (58/804)	7.2%	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q3	8.1%	13% (2016/17)	10% (2016/17)	9.5% (2016/17)	
Percentage of Return Interviews completed within timescale (L) (216/301)	72%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3	76% (Q4 16/17)	73% (2016/17)	–	–	
Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training aged 19-21 (L) (118/252)	44.1%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3	46.8%	49.8% (2016/17)	50% (2016/17)	45.5% (2016/17)	
Percentage of care leavers in higher education aged 19-21 (L) (5/252)	3.1%	(+)	High	2017/18 Q3	2.0%	3.0% (2016/17)	6.0% (2016/17)	6.0% (2016/17)	
Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (L)	80.0%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3	85.3%	83.8% (2016/17) (p)	84% (2016/17)	81.1% (2016/17)	
Percentage of school-age LAC with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (L) (368/559)	67.3%	(+)	High	2017/18 Q3	65.8%	73.4% (2016/17)	–	–	
Percentage of LAC who took up the opportunity to be consulted by their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to the LAC Review Meeting (L) (151/476)	31.7%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3	38.5%	38.7% (2016/17)	–	–	
Percentage of looked after children placed 20 miles or more from home (L) (109/736)	14.8%	(-)	Low	2017/18 Q2	14.7%	14.9% (2016/17)	14% (2015/16)	13.8% (2015/16)	
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for those adopted children (days)	394	(-)	Low	2017/18 Q3	302	586 days (2013-16)	558 days (2013-16)	567 days (2013-16)	
Average time between a LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	138	(-)	Low	2017/18 Q3	77	293 days (2013-16)	226 days (2013-16)	233.6 days (2013-16)	
Looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year (L)	10.9%	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q3	11.6%	10.4% (2015/16)	10.0% (2015/16)	10.9% (2015/16)	
Percentage of looked after children remaining in long-term placements (L)	75.8%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3	76.3%	72% (2015/16)	68% (2015/16)	66.8% (2015/16)	

## Appendix 1 - Indicators updated from previous report (contd)

Children and Young People's Committee: Quarter 3 Performance for 2017/18									
For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 3 2017/18 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value									
Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data			
	Current Value		Best to be	Current Reporting Period		Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbour
Pupils achieving at least the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics at age 11	61.8%	n/a	High	2016/17 academic		53.8	53.8	62% (2016/17)	60.8% (2016/17)
Achievement of 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths	45.5%	(-)	High	2016/17 academic		n/a	n/a	42.9% (2016/17)	42.4% (2016/17)
Achievement of 9-4 / A*-C grades in GCSE English & maths	65.9%	(=)	High	2016/17 academic		65.9%	65.9%	64.2% (2016/17)	64.5% (2016/17)
Percentage of A level entries at A*-E grades	99.0%	(-)	High	2016/17 academic		99.7%	99.7%	98.2% (2016/17)	—
Percentage of A level entries at A*-B grades	50.2%	(+)	High	2016/17 academic		49.4%	49.4%	53.6% (2016/17)	—
Number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	3	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q3		4	n/a	—	—
Number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	1	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q3		2	n/a	—	—
Attainment gap for a good level of development in EYFSP between pupils taking free school meals and the rest	23.0%	(-)	Low	2016/17 academic		22.6%	22.6%	17% (2016/17)	—
Attainment gap at age 11 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest ( <i>FSM during past six years</i> )	24.0%	(+)	Low	2016/17 academic		24.2%	24.2%	20.0% (2016/17)	—
Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest ( <i>FSM during past six years</i> ) 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths	30.2%	(+)	Low	2016/17 academic		n/a	n/a	24.3% (2016/17 p)	—
Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest ( <i>FSM during past six years</i> ) 9-4 / A*-C grades in GCSE English & maths	31.4%	(-)	Low	2016/17 academic		30.2%	30.2%	26.2% (2016/17 p)	—
Participation in education, employment and training (EET) aged 16-17	94.3%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q3		96.6%	96.9% (2016/17 Q4)		—
Percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16-17	1.4%	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q3		1.6%	1.5% (2016/17 Q4)		—
Percentage whose destination is not known aged 16-17	4.3%	(-)	Low	2017/18 Q3		1.9%	1.7% (2016-17 Q4)		—
Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in low income areas registered with children's centres (snapshot)	100.0%	(+)	High	2017/18 Q3		99.8%	100% (2016/17 Q4)		—
Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in low income areas seen at children's centres (cumulative)	72.6%	(+)	High	2017/18 Q3		64.1%	73.4% (2016/17 Q4)		—
Percentage of two year olds taking up their free entitlement	73.9%	(-)	High	Autumn Term 2017		75.1%	75.0% (Spring 2017)		—
Numbers exiting substance misuse treatment in a planned manner	99%	(-)	High	2017/18 Q2		100%	100% (2016/17)	82% (2016/17)	—
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000) (cumulative)	171	(+)	Low	2017/18 Q2		78 (Q1 17/18)	269	346 (2016/17)	-
The percentage of SEN Statements transferred to EHC Plans (requirement for all statements to be transferred at 31 March 2018) (283/357)	79.3%	(+)	High	Jan-18		42.9%	New measure		—

## Appendix 2 - Indicators that remain unchanged from previous report

Children and Young People's Committee: Quarter 3 Performance for 2017/18								
For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 3 2017/18 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value								
Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire				Comparator Data			
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period		Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Average Strengths and Difficulties Question (SDQ) Score per LAC (for at least 12 months) (L) ( <i>Maximum possible score 40</i> )	14.9	(-)	Low	2016/17	14.5	14.5 (2015/16)	14.1 (2016/17)	14.6 (2016/17)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) with up to date immunisations (L) (497/572)	86.9%	(+)	High	2016/17	84.7%	80.7% (2014/15)	87.2% (2015/16)	87.2% (2015/16)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) who have had their teeth checked by a dentist (L) (475/572)	83.0%	(+)	High	2016/17	53.4%	77.2% (2014/15)	84.1% (2015/16)	77.8% (2015/16)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) who have had their annual health assessment (L) (542/572)	94.8%	(+)	High	2016/17	82.2%	80.7% (2014/15)	90.0% (2015/16)	89.4% (2015/16)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months & under 5) whose development assessments are up to date (47/48)	97.9%	(+)	High	2016/17	30.0%	70.6% (2014/15)	83.2% (2015/16)	58.0% (2015/16)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) identified as having a substance misuse problem (L) (24/572)	4.2%	(+)	Low	2016/17	6%	3.0% (2014/15)	4.0% (2015/16)	3.4% (2015/16)
Percentage of LAC (for at least 12 months) convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand (L) (0/572)	0.0%	(=)	Low	2016/17	0.0%	1.0% (2014/15)	5% (2015/16)	3.9% (2015/16)
Percentage of LAC achieving A*-C GCSEs in both English & Maths at KS4 (L)	17.3%	(+)	High	2016	16.7%	16.7% (2015)	17.5% (2016)	16.3% (2016)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Reading (L)	50%	N/A	High	2016	not comparable		50% (2016)	48.9% (2016)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Writing (L)	40%	N/A	High	2016	not comparable		37% (2016)	38.9% (2016)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Maths (L)	40%	N/A	High	2016	not comparable		46% (2016)	43.2% (2016)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Reading (L)	29%	N/A	High	2016	not comparable		41% (2016)	41.7% (2016)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Writing (L)	32%	N/A	High	2016	not comparable		46% (2016)	43.5% (2016)
Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Maths (L)	29%	N/A	High	2016	not comparable		41% (2016)	39.1% (2016)
Percentage of LAC permanently excluded (L) (0/375)	0.0%	(=)	Low	2015	0.0%	0.0% (2016)	0.14% (2016)	0.0% (2016)
Percentage of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion (L) (36/375)	9.7%	(+)	Low	2016	14.6%	14.6% (2016)	10.42% (2016)	10.4% (2016)
Percentage of LAC classed as persistent absentees* (L) (24/365)	6.8%	(-)	Low	2016	5.3%	9.0% (2016)	9.1% (2016)	9.0% (2016)
Early years foundation stage attainment (Reaching a 'Good Level of Development' - at least expected in all early learning goals in all prime areas and in the specific areas of literacy and mathematics)	68.2%	(+)	High	2016/17 academic	67.1%	67.1%	70.7% (2016/17)	71.3% (2016/17)
Primary schools judged by Ofsted as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	93.4%	(+)	High	As at Sept 2015	92.7%	n/a	94.3% (Sept 2015)	94.1% (Sept 2015)
Secondary schools judged by Ofsted as having good/outstanding standards of behaviour	79.1%	(-)	High	As at Sept 2015	83.3%	n/a	85.1% (Sept 2015)	84.2% (Sept 2015)
Percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 (2 passes at A-Level or equivalent) by age 19	52.0%	(+)	High	2015/16 academic	50.5%	50.5% (2014/15)	57.1% (2015/16)	55.8% (2015/16)
Percentage of young people who have not attained a Level 2 qualification in English & maths at age 16 who go on to attain Level 2 or higher in both by the end of the academic year in which they turn 19	19.8%	(+)	High	2015/16 academic	16.9%	16.9% (2014/15)	24.1% (2015/16)	23.5% (2015/16)

## Appendix 2 - Indicators that remain unchanged from previous report (contd)

Children and Young People's Committee: Quarter 3 Performance for 2017/18								
For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of quarter 3 2017/18 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes. Key: (p) = provisional data; (L) = reported against the outcomes in the LAC & Care Leavers Strategy (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value								
Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data		
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbour	
Rate of permanent exclusions from school (primary, secondary and special schools)	0.03%	(=)	Low	2015/16 academic	0.03%	0.03% (2014/15)	0.08% (2015/16)	0.09% (2015/16)
Percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools	4.4%	(+)	Low	2015/16 academic	4.5%	4.5%	4.6% (2015/16)	4.5% (2015/16)
Numbers of individual children and young people engaged in positive activities delivered by the Young People's Service (cumulative)	22,781	(+)	High	2016/17 Q4	18,559	24406		–
Numbers of children and young people accessing Outdoor and Environmental Education (cumulative)	31,664	(+)	High	2016/17 Q4	24,513	33871		–
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, incl. mixed feeding methods (Nottinghamshire NHS)	37.3%	(-)	High	2016/17 Q4	39.8%	39.8% (2015/16)	43.2% (2015/16)	42.9% (2015/16)

**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES****OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT ON THE EXPERIENCES AND PROGRESS OF  
CARE LEAVERS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Committee on the outcome of the Ofsted focused visit on the experiences and progress of care leavers in Nottinghamshire, which took place in January 2018.

**Information**

2. From 1 January 2018, a new universal inspection framework has been introduced by Ofsted, which focuses on local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers. The 'inspection of local authority children's services' (ILACS) Framework seeks to implement a risk-based and proportionate inspection 'system' across the country.
3. Local authorities are inspected differently based upon the intelligence and information that Ofsted has, including the authority's previous inspection judgement. As Nottinghamshire's Children's Services were graded 'good' under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) in May 2015, Nottinghamshire falls into "Pathway One" for all local authorities graded 'good' or 'outstanding' in their last inspection. This involves:
  - a. **A short inspection** – short inspections are contained within one working week and are undertaken by four social care inspectors. This inspection will result in a graded judgment.
  - b. **Focused visits** – focused visits last for two working days and are undertaken by two social care inspectors. Focused visits will look at one or more themes or cohorts of children, giving the local authority and Ofsted the opportunity to identify what is going well and what needs to improve before the next judgement inspection. Focused visits do not result in graded judgments, but rather a published letter identifying strengths and areas for improvement.
4. On 23 January 2018, Ofsted notified Nottinghamshire County Council of an upcoming focused visit, looking at the Local Authority's arrangements for its care leavers, including the preparation of relevant children in care for the transition to adulthood. The visit took place on 30 and 31 January 2018 and was undertaken by two social care inspectors.
5. This placed Nottinghamshire as one of first local authorities to receive a focused visit under the new ILACS Framework. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including



discussions with social workers, senior managers and care leavers. They also looked at Local Authority performance management and quality assurance information, as well as children's case records.

6. Inspectors highlighted a number of strengths across Nottinghamshire's services for care leavers, as well as a number of areas for improvement. As a result of the visit, Nottinghamshire has remained in 'Pathway One' of the ILACS Framework. The narrative letter, which was published on 22 February 2018, is attached as **Appendix 1**.
7. In response to the findings of the focused visit, the Authority is developing a self-evaluation and action plan across all areas of social care and early help services, for discussion with Ofsted at Nottinghamshire's annual conversation in May 2018.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. Ofsted inspections of children's services are the key measure of the effectiveness of service provision.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

12. The focused visit demonstrates that children and young people in Nottinghamshire continue to be effectively safeguarded.

### **Implications for Service Users**

13. The focused visit demonstrates that looked after children and care leavers in Nottinghamshire receive an effective service.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Members consider whether there are any actions or information they require in relation to the outcome of the Ofsted focused visit on the experiences and progress of care leavers in Nottinghamshire.

**Colin Pettigrew**  
**Corporate Director, Children and Families**

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#### **Constitutional Comments (LM 21/02/18)**

14. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

#### **Financial Comments (SAS 21/02/18)**

15. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services from 2018 - report to Children & Young People's Committee on 15 January 2018

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1091



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22 February 2018

Mr Colin Pettigrew  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

Dear Colin,

### **Focused visit to Nottinghamshire County Council children's services**

This letter summarises the findings of a focused visit to Nottinghamshire County Council children's services on 30 and 31 January 2018. The inspectors were John Roughton HMI and Caroline Walsh HMI.

Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for its care leavers, including the preparation of relevant children in care for the transition to adulthood.

Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including discussions with social workers, senior managers and care leavers. They also looked at local authority performance management and quality assurance information and children's case records.

### **Overview**

Children who leave care in Nottinghamshire benefit from advice and support from a stable and committed group of personal advisers. Care leavers have access to dedicated achievement advisers to support their engagement with education, training and employment opportunities.

The pace of change and progress since the last inspection has not been sufficient to fully address capacity issues in the care leaving service or to ensure effective transition and support for all young people.

Although a range of supported accommodation provision is available for care leavers, this does not always meet the needs of those requiring higher levels of support.

Preparation for leaving care does not start early enough for most children. A particular consequence of this is poorer outcomes for some young people with more complex needs.

Senior leaders have a good understanding of the challenges of the services and have plans ready to address these.

## **Areas of strength**

- Children leaving care are supported by a committed and positive workforce that knows its children well. Personal advisers communicate effectively with young people using an appropriate range of methods. Social workers and personal advisers feel well supported by their managers, despite their high workloads. Supervision is regular and clearly recorded. In the Looked After Children service, the role of social work support officers is highly valued and effective in supporting social workers to manage their workloads and prioritise direct contact with their children.
- Children and young people's needs are well assessed and understood. Most pathway plans are timely and thorough, and convey children's wishes and needs well.
- Care leavers are supported to give priority to identifying and addressing their health needs. They are beginning to receive their important health history information as they turn 18, although there have been recent capacity issues with the health provider in ensuring that this takes place routinely.
- Young people making the transition from residential care to independence are already showing improved outcomes through the intensive, flexible and creative support available to them through the recent 'Transitional Personal Adviser' pilot project. Early successes are highlighting the future potential of this model to improve the readiness of young people for independent living, and young people themselves are hugely positive about their experience of the support.
- The tenacity and focus of the 18+ achievement advisers is important and valued in helping young people to access employment, education and training provision. The advisers also provide effective advice and guidance for children in care who are considering higher education.
- Where appropriate, children are enabled to 'stay put' with their foster carers beyond the age of 18. The range of commissioned supported 'core and cluster' accommodation provision has offered many care leavers a successful transition to independence.
- Some of the most successful outcomes for children are being achieved where they have strong links with the community and voluntary sectors, for example

the Refugee Support Group, churches and Women's Aid. Young people themselves spoke of the need to be accepted and valued in their communities and recognised that accessing local activities is vital to developing their networks of support.

- Children who meet the criteria for transition to adult services benefit from early planning to ensure that their needs are well considered as they become adults. Where there is delay in adult services assuming responsibility at 18 years, the local authority ensures continuity of care arrangements to provide a seamless transition for the young person.
- A small number of care leavers are involved in the sub group of the Children in Care Council, take part in the recruitment of staff, and are consulted on strategic plans. An annual achievement awards event is highly valued and well attended by children, young people and carers.

### **Areas for Improvement**

- Where new risks emerge for children and young people, not enough priority is given to ensuring that there is no delay in assessing need and responding to and managing risk alongside partner agencies.
- High caseloads in both the looked after and care leaving service limit the time and support that can be offered to young people who have high needs. Services are therefore frequently crisis led rather than planned. Managers in the care leaving service have large numbers of staff reporting to them and this makes it hard to offer the challenge and support needed to progress planning for young people.
- For most children, the transition and planning for adulthood and independence starts too late, with personal advisers only allocated as a young person approaches their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This leaves young people without secure professional relationships as they move towards adulthood. Care leavers spoken to are very positive about the practical and emotional support they receive from their workers, but identify that their workers do not have the time to offer them the level of support they feel they need to make positive changes in their lives.
- There is no dedicated support available for 16- and 17-year-old children in care who are not accessing education, employment or training to help them return to education or training before leaving care. Consequently, the bridge to getting young people back into EET when they have become disengaged is often too hard for them to cross.
- A small minority of care leavers placed in larger semi-independent settings have been exposed to new risks as a consequence of the placement. Although these risks have been managed, this highlights the need for the provision of

more intensive support accommodation to respond to the complexity of need of some children leaving care.

- More could be done to engage the wider cohort of care leavers in participation activities. Some care leavers spoken to do not feel engaged in the service, and can make valuable suggestions for service improvement. For example, all care leavers spoken to told inspectors that their pathway plans are not useful as living documents to promote change and they identified that a more accessible, summary action plan that is regularly updated would help them to make the small steps needed to improve their outcomes. This is a missed opportunity.
- Older children in care and care leavers with complex needs, including poor mental health and substance abuse, are not always able to get the help they need. The services available are not sufficiently flexible or young people-friendly to meet the needs of these vulnerable, harder-to-engage young people.
- There is no independent review and scrutiny of plans for care leavers. This means that drift or lack of progress in improving children's circumstances is not always identified or promptly addressed. There is limited evidence of independent reviewing officers challenging such delays in progress. Insufficient consideration is given by the local authority to the involvement of independent visitors or advocates for children without family contact.
- Auditing arrangements for the care leaving service are under developed, and have been largely ineffective in helping to highlight practice challenges or areas for improvement. A newly implemented revised audit tool, which focuses on outcomes for children, has been developed in response to this, though it is too soon to measure its effectiveness. Too often audits take place in isolation from practitioners, and so far there has been little thematic learning emerging to inform service improvement.
- The local authority has a good awareness of the challenges faced by the service, and its recently refreshed partnership strategy seeks to respond to these challenges. However, the pace of change since the last inspection has been too slow to deliver more positive outcomes for many existing care leavers. There has been a lack of strategic planning for the significant rise in care leavers stemming from the high number of children aged 16 and 17 who came into care in 2014–15. The local authority has plans to restructure its care leaving service to provide support for children from 16 to 25 years from April 2018, to improve transitions for children leaving care. In its planning, the local authority needs to ensure that there is sufficient workforce capacity to achieve its strategic intent of improving outcomes for all care leavers.

Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning your next inspection or visit.

Yours sincerely,

John Roughton

**Her Majesty's Inspector**





**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE LEAVING CARE SERVICE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To request approval for the reconfiguration of the Leaving Care Service and the Looked After Children Service to become one co-located service to support care leavers from 16 years of age under co-working arrangements and, in line with recent legislation, for support to continue until age 25 years where requested by young people.
2. To request approval for an increase in the Leaving Care Service establishment by 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) Team Manager (Band D) and 4.5 FTE Personal Advisers (Grade 5) on a permanent basis.

**Information**

3. Most young people are referred to the Leaving Care Service from the Looked After Children (LAC) team. Many will have been in care for a substantial period of their childhood, but a growing number are coming into care in their mid-teens. Many will have had childhoods characterised by repeated intervention from social care and multiple carers within their own families. Many of these children display very challenging behaviours and are ill equipped for independence and adult life.
4. Currently, young people may receive support from the Leaving Care Service from the age of 18 to 21 years. Where the young person remains in education or requires help related to training or employment, support from the Leaving Care Service extends up to age 25. However, recent changes in legislation require support to continue until age 25 regardless of a care leaver's circumstances, as detailed below.<sup>1</sup>
5. The current establishment of the service is:
  - 13 FTE Personal Advisers (PAs)
  - 3 FTE temporary Personal Advisers, approved until June 2018
  - 3 FTE Transitional Personal Advisers (TPAs), approved until September 2018
  - 2 FTE Achievement Advisers, who provide specialist advice regarding education, employment and training
  - 1.6 FTE Team Managers
  - 0.5 FTE Service Manager.

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<sup>1</sup> Children and Social Work Act 2017

6. The service is split into two teams, Leaving Care North (based at Meadow House) and Leaving Care South (based at Sir John Robinson Way). Apart from the Team Managers and Service Manager, practitioners are not social work qualified.
7. As at 5 February 2018 the service supports 322 young people.
8. The Leaving Care Service continues to face the challenge of meeting increased demand:
  - there has been an increase in the number of children who are looked after in Nottinghamshire by 61% from 2009 to 2017, compared with a 19% increase nationally
  - there has been a 28% rise in the last three years for those care leavers aged 19-21 years eligible for support according to the DfE definition in Nottinghamshire, compared with a 3% decrease nationally
  - following the Children and Social Work Act 2017, local authorities will be required to appoint a Personal Adviser for care leavers who request one up until the age of 25, regardless of whether the young person intends to pursue education or training. This also entails a duty to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and to provide the necessary advice and support, including a pathway plan if requested. This provision is due to come into force on 1 April 2018 and the service will be writing to all care leavers previously ineligible for support to notify them of this change
  - the complexity of cases has also increased with:
    - care leavers not in education, employment or training due to illness or disability rising from 10% to 18% in the last three years
    - 37% of Nottinghamshire care leavers were admitted into care aged 16+, compared with 14% of children coming into care within this age group nationally.
9. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) support ends for looked after children at age 18 years and there are no statutory services for those care leavers over the age of 18 years who have mental health needs but do not meet the criteria or threshold for adult services. These are young people who may have significant self-harming behaviour, have Asperger's or autistic traits or have a childhood diagnosis of other behaviour disorders or learning needs that impact on daily life, such as Attention Deficit Disorder.
10. This is a gap in provision highlighted by the growing number of young people who are displaying significant emotional and mental health problems - children in care across the UK are four times more likely than their peers to have a mental health difficulty - which the Personal Advisers have to support. This group of young people, who are growing in number, have the greatest levels of need and complexity of all children and young people. They have persistently experienced a substantial loss of mental health and wellbeing support at this critical point in their young lives.
11. Of the 322 young people working with a Personal Adviser, 170 or 52.8% are in some form of education, employment or training (EET). This continues to be a challenging area of work given the educational experiences of many children in care. Where young people have already disengaged with education it is very difficult to re-engage them as adults. Issues such as lack of confidence, poor literacy skills and school moves will

impact on motivation and ability to engage in post 18 EET. This presents a significant additional burden to the welfare state which is estimated to be approximately £56,000 in public finance costs over the working lifetime of the young person.<sup>2</sup>

12. Young people in care have often had difficult lives and have to start living independently much earlier than most of their peers. In 2013, 50% of young people in the UK were still living with their parents at the age of 22; however, young people must leave care by their 18th birthday and some move straight into independent living. Therefore, care leavers face the added challenge of coping with the demands of independent living at a young age, which include managing finances and maintaining a home, often without support from families. Without effective housing support in place care leavers face significant challenges such that in 2010, 25% of those who were homeless in the UK had been in care at some point in their lives.
13. These pressures have impacted upon both the number of young people entitled to support from the Leaving Care Service and the challenge in providing support which meets their complex needs. In order to meet increasing demand, caseloads of Personal Advisers have increased, which means the support young people are receiving is less focussed and task oriented.
14. The current transfer point (at 18 years) between the Looked After Children Service and the Leaving Care Service is not appropriate and represents too big a step for many young people. Efforts by managers and staff to respond to needs are currently welcomed by young people but some may feel abandoned having reached a 'cliff edge' at the point they leave care. This is due to the nature of the changing relationship from statutory social work support to Leaving Care Personal Advisor support, alongside the loss of the Independent Reviewing Service.
15. Transfer arrangements do not currently reflect the reality that the transition from a Social Worker to a Personal Adviser takes time in order to develop the necessary knowledge and trust of a positive relationship between the young person and support services. Failure to provide an adequate foundation for young people leaving care will incur increased cost to the welfare state and impact upon adult services and health provision as this group of young people transition into adulthood.
16. On 18 December 2017, Children and Young People's Committee approved an additional 3 FTE Personal Adviser posts on a temporary basis until June 2018 in order to address increasing demands. Despite the considerable efforts and sustained commitment of practitioners, services remain demand or crisis led. Many of the young people have experienced extensive trauma and disruption throughout much of their childhood and preparation for adulthood is not given sufficient priority. A reconfigured service to address these concerns and realign provision to ensure legal compliance will require further changes to those already agreed.
17. Following the Ofsted focused visit on the experiences and progress of care leavers in Nottinghamshire in January 2018, inspectors highlighted a number of strengths across Nottinghamshire's services for care leavers, as well as a number of areas for improvement. Included in those areas highlighted for improvement were high caseloads

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Education, National Audit Office Care leavers' transition to adulthood, July 2015

in the service causing frequent crisis rather than planned provision and transition and planning for adulthood and independence starting too late.

## **Proposed Establishment**

18. It is therefore proposed that the Leaving Care Service and the Looked After Children Service are merged into one co-located service, split into two teams: LAC & Leaving Care North and LAC & Leaving Care South. Under this proposed structure, young people will be allocated a Personal Adviser from Leaving Care services from the age of 16 and will continue to receive support until the age of 25 if requested, regardless of whether the young person intends to pursue education or training.
19. The reconfigured service will contain distinct line management and accountability structures within each team – i.e. a Leaving Care PA is line managed and accountable to a Leaving Care Team Manager – but co-location and co-working will ensure more effective and streamlined support for young people as they transition to adulthood. Although managers would continue to work within their distinct areas, they would be expected to cover both LAC and Leaving Care work where necessary. This will enable both services to have a better understanding of the needs of the young people and take collective ownership for their outcomes from the age of 16.
20. Clear parameters with distinct roles and responsibilities will be agreed to define the practice of co-working between LAC Social Workers and Leaving Care Personal Advisers. These parameters will take into account the fact that each young person's plans are bespoke to their needs and will therefore require tailored ways of working.
21. As a result of the proposed reconfigured service and the demand pressures outlined in **paragraph 8**, it is forecasted that total caseloads will increase by 257, an 80% increase on current caseload. This increase is likely to be a worst case scenario as accurate predictions cannot be made for previously ineligible care leavers returning for support beyond age 21. It is also likely to present itself over the next four years as care leavers currently allocated a Personal Adviser experience continuing support until age 25.
22. The current average caseload of PAs stands at 20. In the worst case scenario following the forecasted demand and without an increase in the current establishment this will rise to 36. In order to create the necessary capacity to manage the increased demand in the immediate term:
  - an additional 1 FTE Leaving Care Team Manager post will be created on a permanent basis
  - an additional 4.5 FTE Personal Adviser posts will be created on a permanent basis
  - co-working arrangements will be agreed between LAC Social Workers and Leaving Care Personal Advisers for care leavers aged 16 and 17
  - demand and capacity of the service will be reviewed on a yearly basis until March 2022 as care leavers experience continuing support until age 25.
23. Subsequent to the proposed increase in establishment and ending of the 3 FTE Personal Adviser posts agreed on a temporary basis until June 2018, the service will comprise 17.5 FTE Personal Advisers.

## **Other Options Considered**

24. Without a reconfigured service and the necessary increase in capacity, the Council will be failing in its duty as a corporate parent. Failure to adequately support young people will incur increased cost to the welfare state and impact upon adult services and health provision as this group of young people transition into adulthood.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

25. The proposed reconfigured service will better prepare care leavers for their transition into adulthood by beginning support at age 16, consequently fulfilling the council's role as a corporate parent to achieve the ambitions for young people detailed in the new Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children & Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21. Continuing leaving care support at 21 years of age until 25 years of age will make the service legally compliant.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

27. The cost of 1 FTE Team Manager (Band D) post is £53,845 and the cost of 4.5 FTE Personal Adviser (Grade 5) posts is £142,162. These together with the associated staff running costs for travel, mobile phones etc. will be met from the 2018-19 Leaving Care budget.

## **Human Resource Implications**

28. The new posts will be recruited to in accordance with the Council's vacancy control protocol. Existing staff and recognised trade unions have been consulted on the changes arising from this report.

## **Implications for Service Users**

29. The Personal Adviser role fulfils the statutory duty to support care leavers in their preparation for adulthood by developing independence on areas such as accommodation, personal finance, and personal health.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Committee:

- 1) approves the proposed reconfigured Looked After Children and Leaving Care Service which supports care leavers under co-working arrangements from the age of 16 and continues support until age 25 where requested by young people.
- 2) approves the proposed increase in establishment in the Leaving Care Service by 1 FTE Team Manager (Band D) post and 4.5 FTE Personal Adviser (Grade 5) posts on a permanent basis.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

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**Constitutional Comments (LM 21/02/18)**

30. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

**Financial Comments (SAS 01/03/18)**

31. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 27 above.

**HR Comments (BC 28/02/18)**

32. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Leaving Care service update and proposal to increase the staffing establishment – report to Children and Young People's Committee 18 December 2017

Increase in the establishment of Personal Advisor posts – report to Children and Young People's Committee 18 September 2017

Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children & Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1102





**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****NATIONAL MINIMUM FOSTERING ALLOWANCES AND FEES TO FOSTER  
CARERS****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report proposes that Nottinghamshire County Council continues to pay its foster carers the National Minimum Fostering Allowances, at the rates prescribed by the Department for Education. Allowances are payments made by the Local Authority, to its foster carers, for the living costs of fostered children as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
2. This report also proposes that Nottinghamshire County Council makes no change to the payment rates, as set in 2016/17, in its additional and specific fostering allowances/fees to its foster carers.

**Information and Advice**

3. The Children Act 2004 (Section 49) introduced new powers for the Government to compel local authorities to pay foster carers at prescribed rates.
4. On 27 July 2006, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) announced the recommended rates for the National Minimum Fostering Allowances for Foster Carers. These rates were effective from 1 April 2007. The Council has previously agreed to pay the recommended rates each year since 2007. Prior to March 2011 other additional/specific fostering allowances and fees to foster carers were annually inflated by the rate of inflation as determined by the County Council.
5. The report proposes that the Council continues to pay its foster carers the National Minimum Fostering Allowances, at the rates prescribed by the Department for Education. These allowances are payments made by the Local Authority to its foster carers to cover the costs involved in looking after a fostered child. Nottinghamshire currently pays its foster carers a weekly allowance of £128 (for a child aged 0-4 years), £141 (for a child aged 5-10 years), £161 (for a child aged 11-15 years) and £188 (for a child aged 16-17 years). The weekly allowance, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, will increase to £130 (child 0-4 years), £143 (child 5-10 years), £164 (child 11-15 years) and £191 (young person 16+). Details are attached as **Appendix 1**.
6. 799 children were looked after by the Local Authority as of 15 February 2018. Of these 799 children, 73% were placed in foster care. Of all the children placed in foster care,

40.6% were placed with an independent foster provider and 59.4% were placed with a foster carer approved by Nottinghamshire.

7. Foster carers approved by the Council provide a best value care placement when compared with other care providers. An internal fostering placement costs the Council approximately £300 per week less than a fostering placement purchased in the independent fostering sector.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. The Local Authority is required to pay the National Minimum Fostering Allowances (Section 49, Children Act 2004; Standard 28.1 National Minimum Fostering Standards 2011). No other options have been considered.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

9. The Local Authority is required by law to pay its foster carers the National Minimum Fostering Allowances. Payment of the National Minimum Fostering Allowances ensures the Authority's compliance with Section 49, Children Act 2004.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The prescribed rates for 2018/19 have just been published. Nottinghamshire currently pays its foster carers a weekly allowance of £128 (for a child aged 0-4 years), £141 (for a child aged 5-10 years), £161 (for a child aged 11-15 years) and £188 (for a child aged 16-17 years). The weekly allowance, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, will increase to £130 (child 0-4 years), £143 (child 5-10 years), £164 (child 11-15 years) and £191 (young person 16+). The increase will be contained within the overall 2018/19 Fostering budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That:

- 1) Nottinghamshire County Council continues to pay foster carers a weekly fostering allowance, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, at the national minimum rates, as prescribed by the Department for Education.
- 2) Nottinghamshire County Council makes no change to the payment rates, as set in 2016/17, in its additional and specific fostering allowances/fees to its foster carers.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (SMG 27/02/18)**

12. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

**Financial Comments (SAS 27/02/18)**

13. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 11 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1101



**National Minimum Allowances rates 2018/19**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Babies (rate per week)</b>	<b>Pre- Primary (rate per week)</b>	<b>Primary (rate per week)</b>	<b>Age 11-15 yrs (rate per week)</b>	<b>Age 16+ yrs (rate per week)</b>
London	£144	£147	£165	£187	£219
South East	£138	£142	£158	£179	£211
Rest of UK	£125	£128	£141	£161	£188

- Please note it is the 'Rest of UK' rate which applies to Nottinghamshire
- Nottinghamshire County Council also pays the Pre-Primary rate for Babies
- As stated, the Inflationary increases are still awaited. Any rise in inflation may impact on National Fostering Allowances paid to foster carers.



**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****CONTACT SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the Contact Service with regard to the supervision of contact for looked after children.

**Information**

2. The local authority has a statutory duty to provide and promote contact – unless it is not in the best interests of the child.
3. The primary law and key reference documents emphasise the need for the child to be at the centre of planning contact arrangements. The Children Act 1989 and case law (decisions of the higher courts) identifies contact as 'a right of the child' - birth parents, relatives and others do not have a 'right' to contact, although local authorities must provide and promote contact, providing evidence to court if they are planning to change or withdraw contact.
4. The 'Good Practice Guidance Note ADCS/CAFCASS-2013' also emphasises the need for contact to be in the best interests of the child and, in particular, the level of contact must be based upon observation of the contact and the need to adjust the plan if contact is detrimental to the child. This is fundamental to the Contact Service.
5. The Contact Service provides a County-wide service and has been operational since June 2012. In September 2013 a full review of the service was initiated and the service has now embedded the revised practice guidance and procedures. The child has remained the focus of all decision making and key processes within the service model.
6. The core offer is:
  - the Contact Service 'core offer' is to 'provide supervised contact to children who are looked after by the local authority to inform their permanency plan until this is agreed'. Priority is given to cases within the court arena and where there is a requirement to provide evidence to the proceedings.
  - contact is also supervised where there continues to be evidence of 'significant risk' to a child and where no other alternative is appropriate. The Contact Service will also provide supervised contact for a time limited period to children who may be at risk and report to inform the future plan for the child with regard to contact arrangements.



7. Over the past year the Contact Service has extended the service, and where possible has supervised the contacts held in the Looked After Children team, to support the contact arrangements for long term looked after children.
8. There are Nottinghamshire looked after children placed over the UK who may require supervised contact with their families; this is a challenge to support, and depending on the distance involved an independent agency is commissioned to supervise on the Council's behalf.
9. Service delivery is Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 7pm, and some occasional weekend work.
10. The Contact Service provides an average of 801 contacts per month (from data April – August 2017), which is higher than during the same period the previous year (695 contacts). The referrals on average over the same period in 2017 relate to 33 referrals each month, which is higher than the previous year's average.
11. The County is split into three areas: north, central and south districts. North covers Retford / Worksop / Ollerton; central covers Mansfield and Ashfield, and south covers Broxtowe, Rushcliffe, Gedling and Newark.

## Venues

12. There are dedicated venues across the County to ensure:
  - children are transported within a reasonable time
  - venues which are fit for purpose with age appropriate accommodation
  - children to access sessions outside of school times without being restricted by external venue opening times which has reduced the time pressures on staff
  - increased safety for Contact Support Workers (CSWs)
  - the ability to control infection and keep rooms clean
  - control over booking contact rooms
  - a reduction to changes and cancellations
  - better consistency of worker for the child, which contributes to safeguarding priorities and best outcomes for the child
  - a reduction in CSW travel time which leads to increased capacity to supervise more sessions and upload notes in a timely manner
  - a reduction in mileage spend by CSWs travelling between venues.

### North:

**Ollerton Contact Centre** – based on the Dukeries Academy School site. This venue continues to work well for all ages; there are a total of four rooms, which includes a kitchen area which works well for older children. There is a service level agreement with the School, and the Council pays a charge for the costs incurred. No high risk contacts take place here, they would take place at Welbeck House, Ollerton.

**Worksop – Priory Contact Centre** – this has a total of six rooms suitable for all ages, and an outdoor play area. There are two kitchens which allow for activities similar to in a

home setting, and are useful for assessed contact. This venue can also be used for contact which requires a lower level or no supervision, but for which a private space is required.

**Retford Office at Chancery Lane** – There are two to three rooms available here, and no outdoor play area. This venue is used for higher risk contacts.

#### **Central:**

**Sandy Bank** – this is considered as the central base of the Contact Service. Team leaders work across their area in the respective venues to ensure management presence and oversight. Sandy Bank has 10 rooms available for contact, there are kitchen facilities and outdoor play areas, and the centre continues to be well used. Meadow House is also used for high risk contacts.

#### **South:**

**Beeston Central Children's Centre** – this venue has three rooms, kitchen facilities and an outdoor play area, and is easily accessible from the tram service.

**Sir John Robinson Way** – two rooms are available. There are no kitchen facilities or outdoor play, but there is an accessible local park for contact that can be safely managed. The venue is well used.

**Hawtonville – Newark** – there are four rooms available here, an outdoor area and kitchen. These rooms are fully utilised.

### **Transport**

13. It is usual practice for the foster carer to transport children to and from contact. In exceptional circumstances the contact service workers will transport children. There is a continued increase in family and friends foster carers, and these carers are most likely to support with travel to contact.
14. However it remains a challenge to transport children with their best interests at the centre, in terms of reducing children's time travelling each week, and in addition to the use of taxis (with or without escorts), when foster carers cannot transport.

### **Staffing**

15. The establishment is: 0.5 full-time equivalent (fte) Children's Service Manager, 3 fte Team Leaders, and 23.5 fte Contact Support Workers. There is currently a pool of 5 Relief Contact Support Workers to support with the flow of work and cover emergencies. The workers are assigned to a particular area, although as a countywide service there are times when flexibility is required to cover contacts.

### **Training**

16. It is a specification of the job description that children's contact worker hold a Level 3 City and Guilds Diploma in Children and Young People's Workforce. In the past year those who required this training successfully attained this qualification.

## **Systems**

17. The service has recently changed from OneSpace to SharePoint to operate the Contact Plans, providing further detail which is useful for the workers undertaking contact and to further collate data.
18. We are still in the process of waiting for amendments to Mosaic, to enable the supervised contact record to be update, as well as a review process trigger.

## **Other Options Considered**

19. No other options have been considered.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

20. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

22. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

**Steve Edwards**

**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SMG 27/02/18)**

23. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If the Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (SAS 21/02/18)**

24. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1096



**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING AND  
SKILLS****ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks Committee approval to set up a cross party working group to explore ways to improve road safety for children particularly in and around schools. By working in partnership with all publicly funded schools, governors, parents and other stakeholders in Nottinghamshire, this working group will oversee the revision and development of new advice based on best practice that will be drawn from across the country. This project will be led by Councillor Boyd Elliott, Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and will be supported by a further two Members from Children and Families Committee, a Member from Place Committee and a Member from Planning and Licensing.

**Information**

2. The number of pupils attending schools in Nottinghamshire has been increasing over the last five years. Whilst secondary schools have seen their cohorts decline, primary schools have witnessed rapid growth. The number of pupils attending primary schools was 11% higher in September 2017 than it was in 2011-2012.
3. This increase in the primary cohort in particular has clearly increased the volume of traffic on roads in and around schools at the start and end of the school day. Head teachers and school governors in particular regularly express concerns relating to driver behaviours and the challenges facing schools as more children are driven to school.
4. Over the medium term, Nottinghamshire County Council anticipates new schools being built as a result of new housing developments. Local authorities are required to undertake the necessary investigation at the planning stage to reduce the possibility of road accidents when new roads and/or schools are built.
5. Road safety is a key concern of parents and carers as well as Members of all political parties. This report therefore seeks the approval of Committee to set up a cross party working group, to be chaired by the Vice Chairman of the Children's and Young People's Committee and facilitated by senior officers. Key objectives of this working group will include the reviewing of all road accidents between 2012 and 2018 in Nottinghamshire and to explore ways of working with schools, parents and the wider community to improve road safety for all children on Nottinghamshire's roads, particularly in and around schools.

In addition, this working group would review the road safety advice offered to schools, particularly in relation to driving and parking in and around schools, and at the beginning and end of the school day.

6. Whilst the terms of reference will be finalised by the cross party working group, Members of the committee expect that this working group will undertake key analysis, to ensure that road safety is improved in and around schools. Whilst not exhaustive, key actions will include:
  - a. An analysis of accidents outside schools compared with the rest of the network and other local authorities to identify trends and factors to inform the work of the group.
  - b. Understanding the Council's Local Transport Plan and the current approach to safety outside schools in terms of the *Engineering, Enforcement, Planning* phase of new school place provision.
  - c. A review of approaches and best practice from across the UK including input from the Midlands Service Improvement Group and Road Safety Great Britain.
  - d. Evidence gathering and consultation with the community, schools and parents.
  - e. Consideration of the evidence and formulating recommendations based on the above.

Areas of specific review, subject to the approval of the cross party working group, will also include the following:

- **Engineering:** Current provision of crossing points both School Crossing Patrols and controlled crossing points.
- **Enforcement:** Use and design of suitable traffic regulation orders, enforcement frequency and approach including the use of the Camera Car and automated enforcement.
- **Planning:** Further exploration about on-site parking provision whether within schools or appropriate nearby sites to ease pressure outside schools, Highways layouts and traffic regulation.
- **Education:** Coordination with schools and involving the wider community in communication including digital and social media to include both road safety and travel planning advice relating to changes in modes of transport. Consideration of additional curriculum advice and guidance to Governors around school road safety policies and action plans will also be explored by the working group.

### Other Options Considered

7. No other options have been considered.

### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. Road safety in and around schools is a particular concern of Members and the wider public. There is a need to review the current advice to schools and educational providers with regard to driving and parking in and around schools.

### Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no immediate financial implications. However, the working group may identify development projects, advice material or other communication and training for the community that will require to be costed. These costs will be incorporated into future working group reports to Members for consideration.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the creation of a Member led cross party working group to focus on improving road safety for children, particularly in and around schools, be agreed.
- 2) That in addition to the Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee who will Chair the working party, the working party will comprise two additional Members identified by Children and Young People's Committee Members with a further two Members identified from the Communities and Place Committee.

### **Marion Clay**

#### **Service Director for Education, Learning and Skills**

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 23/02/18)**

11. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

### **Financial Comments (SAS 01/03/18)**

12. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 10 above.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**



All.

C1087

**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the progress in delivering the various programmes of investment that comprise the Schools Capital Programme.

**Information**

2. The Schools Capital Programme consists of a number of discrete programmes of investment, predominantly:
  - School Places Programme
  - Schools Capital Refurbishment Programme & Schools Building Improvement Programme (SCRPSBIP)
  - Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)
  - Schools Access Initiative.
3. The School Places Programme contributes to discharging the statutory duty of the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places. It is an on-going annual programme that delivers new schools and/or expansions to existing schools to coincide with the arrival of new cohorts of pupils from September. The programme is funded via government grant (Basic Need Grant) which allocates funding to local authorities on an annual basis as a result of data provided to it about school capacities, the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and the projected future demand for places. The programme is supplemented by additional funding from s106 contributions in respect of those places arising from new housing developments.
4. The SCRPSBIP was a major programme of investment to address the deteriorating condition of schools that is beyond the scope of the Council's annual planned maintenance programme. The programme which was predominantly funded by the County Council has now come to an end. The County Council has received a Schools Building Improvement allocation from the Department for Education (DfE) for 2017/18 of £5.5m. £0.5m of this allocation has been allocated to provide continuing support to projects required through the Schools Access Initiative.
5. The PSBP is a government funded and managed programme. The current programme provides for whole-school rebuilds, and when complete will have provided a total of 13 new school buildings to replace 15 existing school sites.

6. Taken across the period 2012 to 2017/18, the total investment across the Schools Capital Programme amounts to £171.4m. This does not include the value of funding for the Nottinghamshire schools via PSBP which is managed by central government. It is estimated that this would bring the total investment to a figure in excess of £250m.

### **School Places Programme**

7. The majority of the funding is being provided by central government, with the Council's funding specifically targeted at the provision of additional places in line with its statutory responsibility for ensuring sufficiency of places across all the schools, irrespective of governance. The Basic Need Grant allocation for 2018-19 is £20.467m (£20.467m in 2018/19 and £0 in 2019/20).
8. Following on from the previous report in March 2017, most of the Basic Need 2016 projects have been delivered except for the following:
- Killisick Junior School, Arnold – project was delayed in starting and is now due to be delivered by the end of February 2018. It is currently on target for completion.
  - King Edward Primary School, Mansfield – the building project is all complete now and it has been handed over to the school. There remains some external works to complete including grass seeding which cannot be done until spring 2018.
9. The Basic Need 2017 programme was delayed in starting due to an additional layer of scrutiny of the expenditure being put in place. This has meant that these projects were not completed in 2017 and are now due to be delivered during 2018. This programme comprises the following projects:
- Brinsley Primary School
  - Brookside Primary School
  - Clarborough Primary School
  - Coddington C of E Primary School
  - Lake View Primary School
  - North Wheatley C of E Primary School.

A project at Python Hill was also approved in June 2017, but was subsequently removed from the programme following a reassessment of potential pupil numbers.

10. The projects which may potentially make up the Basic Need 2018 programme have been discussed with Children and Families Services (C&FS) colleagues and these are going through the feasibility stage.
11. Capital allocations of £5.8m have been set aside toward the cost of providing a new replacement school in Bestwood. The site for this school has been purchased from Langridge Homes and the plans for this are continuing.
12. Capital allocations of £5m have been set aside toward the cost of providing a new replacement school for Orchard Special School and plans are in progress for this. It was

agreed at Council on 28 February 2018 that the Council will contribute a further £2.5m towards the cost of this project.

13. Capital allocations of around £3.5m have also been set aside toward the cost of providing a new school on the Rolls Royce site at Hucknall which is in the feasibility stage.

### **Schools Capital Refurbishment Programme/Schools Building Improvement Programme**

14. The current SCRP was approved at the meeting of County Council in May 2011. The objective of the Programme was to maintain key elements of the fabric of the schools estate and to address urgent health and safety matters. All the projects within the programme are now complete, delivering major refurbishment works to around 260 schools. Final accounts are now being finalised.
15. The total value of investment in the school estate through the SCRP is anticipated to be £81.57m; this represents a saving against the overall programme of £6.5m due to robust project management and release of contingencies. It has been approved at Finance & Property Committee and Full Council that this underspend will be used to fund additional requirements to increase the Early Years provision (£1.5m) as well as making a £5m contribution to the re-building of the Orchard Special School in Newark.
16. The subsequent SBIP of £5.74m is focussing on three individual programmes of maintenance and improvement work. These areas of spend were agreed in consultation with C&FS and Property:
  - Remedial Works to the BioMass boiler installations: this relatively recent sustainable technology has developed rapidly from the time of the Council's first installations. Following independent site surveys of all the 53 sites this programme brings all the installations up to current standards and design recommendations. This programme is now nearing completion, and additionally a number of sites have had, or are having, their existing BioMass boilers replaced with either gas or oil fired systems. Three sites now have their new systems in place, three are to be undertaken in March and April, and one site is still awaiting finalisation of the gas supply route.
  - Kitchen Ventilation improvements: current Building Regulations require increased levels of ventilation. This programme will provide new mechanical ventilation installations on 22 school sites. This programme of works is now progressing and some elements have already been completed. To avoid kitchens being closed more than once Catering Services are working collaboratively with this programme and are upgrading kitchens and kitchen equipment at the same time (the extra work is being funded by Catering Services)
  - Old Heating pipework replacement: predominantly affecting Victorian and turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century sites where the ageing heating pipework would not withstand the pressure of modern boiler installations. This programme will replace pipework installations to 6 school sites. This programme of works is progressing nicely, many of which have already been completed. This is being extended through to the following year with another 2 sites.
17. The 2017/18 SPIB programme is focussing on three individual programmes of maintenance and improvement work. These areas of spend were agreed in consultation with C&FS and Property:

- continuing with the old heating pipework replacement: predominantly affecting Victorian and turn of the 20th century sites where the ageing heating pipework would not withstand the pressure of modern boiler installations. This programme will replace pipework installations and boilers if necessary on 4 school sites
- heating cabinets in Clasp buildings: firstly a feasibility is being carried out in all the Clasp schools with heating cabinets to find out the full extent of the works needed; many of the heating cabinets are original dating back to the early 1960s, and though it is believed that most have had the asbestos removed some are still being found with asbestos which is unacceptable; the majority still have the original electrics within the cabinets which could be a major fire risk to the property. Whilst these feasibilities are being carried out, the mechanical engineers are checking the heating pipework to the schools. This should give the Council an understanding of the condition of the heating systems and the overall cost to bring these schools up to standard. It is hoped to start some works in this financial year for the most urgent sites. The total number of sites being checked is 50
- looking at drainage issues causing flooding and constant blockage to the foul drainage; this is usually a devolved responsibility but can be too expensive for schools 12 sites are being looked at.

18. The 2018/19 School Capital Grant has yet to be announced. A decision on the spending priorities will be made when the grant is announced to maximise impact on the school estate.

### **Priority Schools Building Programme**

19. The PSBP is a central government funded and managed school rebuilding programme. This first round of the programme provides whole-school rebuilds based on a model that triangulates the condition of the fabric of the building, ongoing repairs and maintenance liabilities, and the cost of replacing the building. As previously reported to Committee, the County Council achieved a number of successful bids for this programme to provide 13 new school buildings.
20. Officers are continuing discussions with the ESFA with respect to Orchard Special School within the PSBP2 programme. The current PSBP2 allocation is limited to the replacement of one block. It is the County Council's preference that the whole school be replaced on a single site. Discussions with stakeholders and the ESFA with regard to potential funding streams that would achieve this aspiration are ongoing and hopeful of a successful conclusion in the near future.

### **Schools Access Initiative**

21. The capital implications arising out of this initiative completes the current scope of the Schools Capital Programme. The Schools Access Initiative provides for adaptations to schools in order that the buildings are able to meet the specific needs – in relation to accessibility – of a young person who is seeking a place at that school. The initiative has been in operation for some time and thus an increasing number of schools already have the requisite degree of accessibility. Equally in many cases the scope of the adaption works are of a scale that does not constitute a formal capital project. Nevertheless,

experience shows that there are usually 5-6 more substantial capital projects required per annum. The total forecast spend on this initiative during 2017/18 is £0.9m.

### **Other Options Considered**

22. The County Council has an obligation to provide adequate spaces for pupils requiring education within the County. There are therefore no other options available to the County Council at this time.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

23. Members are asked to consider whether any further actions are required having reviewed the contents of the report.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

25. Financial provision for the elements that comprise the Schools Capital Programme are reconciled annually as part of the Council's overall budget setting process. The reconciliation takes account of the most recent government grant and other forms of income that contribute to the overall funding of the Programme, against the anticipated actual spend across the range of projects. Realistic assumptions about future sources of external income/grants have been built into the overall financial planning for the Programme, and robust arrangements are in place to monitor these over the course of the Programme.

### **Human Resource Implications**

26. Where schools are expanding, appropriate levels of teaching staff will be appointed and funded from increases in the delegated school budget triggered by the increased number of pupils.

### **Human Rights Implications**

27. The provision of additional school places in refurbished schools will facilitate parental preference via the schools admissions process.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

28. Children within the Local Authority area will be able to access school places locally, all new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

29. All new build schemes will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

### **Implications for Service Users**

30. The Schools Capital Programme seeks to ensure that there will be sufficient school places in school buildings which do not suffer from the need of essential maintenance to their fabric.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

31. Increasing the number of school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. All capital projects are subject to the requisite planning and Building Regulations which reflect environmental and sustainability targets. By providing local school places the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee considers the progress being made in delivering the Schools Capital Programme and identify any further issues that they wish to be addressed.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Place & Communities**

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### **Constitutional Comments (EP 27/02/18)**

32. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (GB 07/03/18)**

33. The financial implications are set out in the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Schools Capital Programme progress report – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 20 March 2017.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1100





**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 12****REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING &  
RESOURCES****REFRESHED COMMUNITY SHORT BREAKS OFFER FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report proposes a newly refreshed Community Short Breaks offer for children and young people aged 5-18 years with a disability, who do not require social work intervention but who are in need of early help services at level 2 or 3 on the Pathway to Provision. This proposal consists of a revision of the Council's existing offer and has been developed through co-production with families.

**Information**

2. In September 2016, Children and Young People's Committee gave approval to undertake a review of the Council's Short Breaks Offer in co-production with children and young people with disabilities and their families.
3. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the Short Breaks offer:
  - continues to meet statutory requirements and the needs of children and young people with disabilities and their families
  - remains affordable and financially sustainable in the long term
  - responds to feedback from families and young people to give them a voice in decisions that affect their lives
  - responds to legislation (SEND Reforms 2014) and feedback from the 2016 Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) local area inspection which places considerable emphasis on co-production.

**Statutory Duty**

4. Under Paragraph 6(1)(c) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services designed to assist individuals who provide care for disabled children to continue to do so, or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring.
5. As part of the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, in performing the duty above, local authorities must provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, a range of services which are sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. In particular, local authorities must provide, as appropriate, a range of:

- a) day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
  - b) overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere
  - c) educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes, and
  - d) services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.
6. The Local Authority is required in law to provide services to children in need and carers of disabled children and this proposal represents a new way of allocating resources to the people that require them.
  7. This offer is devised to provide short breaks packages to families in accordance with these statutory provisions which give the Local Authority a power to make the provision at its discretion.
  8. This offer is a separate provision to the service provided to families at level 4 of the Pathway to Provision where there are safeguarding or child protection concerns, or the child is looked after by the Local Authority (including those families who are in crisis or in need of emergency respite care because a carer is temporarily unable to provide accommodation for the child). In these situations families will be signposted to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for a social care assessment, and accommodation shall be provided under Section 17 or Section 20, including Section 20(1)(c), of the Children Act 1989 if required.

### **Value of early intervention**

9. Recent national research has highlighted the value of early intervention services (including those that relate to respite care for families of disabled children) in reducing the later demand and cost on social care services. Not only does this have implications for outcomes for children and young people, but also for the use of the council's resources in the medium term.
10. This is reflected in the Turning the Tide<sup>1</sup> report and by one of the Local Government Association (LGA) priorities being on the importance of the right support for children at the right time to offer the brightest future for children and families<sup>2</sup>. Both of these explain that if families can access the support they need when they need it, it will reduce demand for more costly interventions when problems reach crisis point.
11. Furthermore, over the last few years there has been a coordinated effort at Nottinghamshire County Council to develop early intervention community based Short Breaks to prevent and reduce demand on social care services and to reduce the numbers of children receiving a Short Break in a residential setting. This is in line with a shift in national practice to support children with disabilities to achieve outcomes in their local community or at home. The popularity of this development is indicated by the increase in demand for community services offered by Flexible and Targeted Short Breaks in

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<sup>1</sup> Turning the Tide: Reversing the move to late intervention spending in children and young people's services – *Action for Children, National Children's Bureau and The Children's Society* (2017)

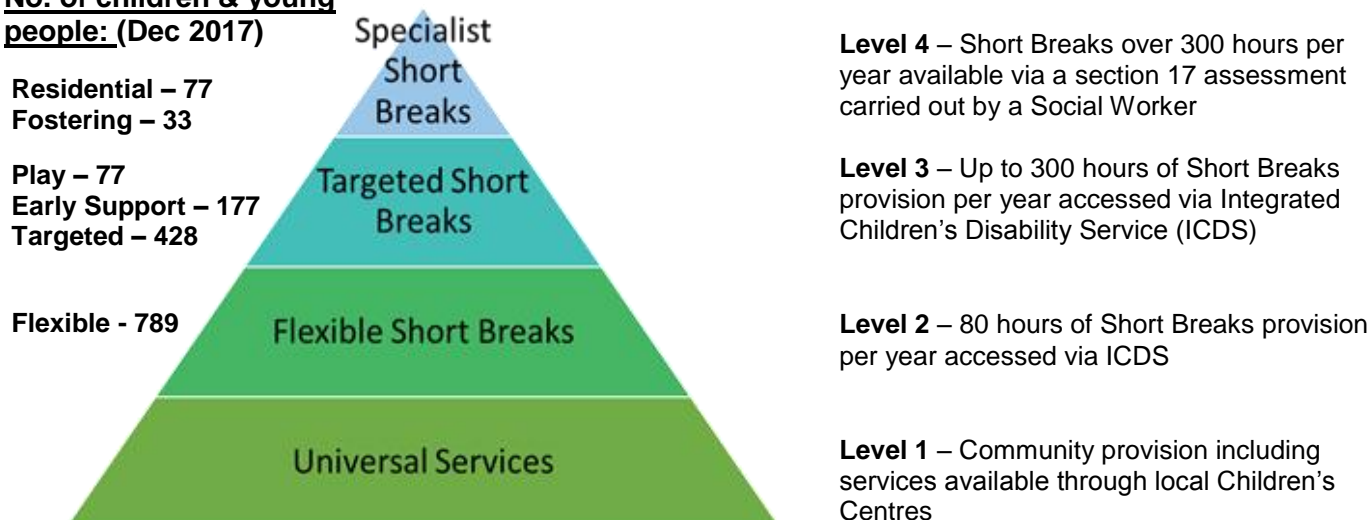
<sup>2</sup> Bright Futures: Getting the best for children, young people and families – *Local Government Association* (October 2017)

Nottinghamshire over the last few years. These services support children to achieve outcomes and prevent escalation into higher cost social care provision.

### Current Nottinghamshire County Council Offer

12. Nottinghamshire County Council currently meets its statutory “short breaks duty” through a range of provision including: Universal Services, Flexible Short Breaks (FSB), Targeted Short Breaks (TSB), Overnight Short Breaks, Sitting and Befriending Services, Play for Disabled Children Services, residential short break provision (Minster View, Caudwell House and The Big House) and fostering provision (Contract Carers and Home from Home Carers).
13. Since 2014, Nottinghamshire has applied a graduated response to the issuing of Short Breaks, in line with the Pathway to Provision as described below.

#### No. of children & young people: (Dec 2017)

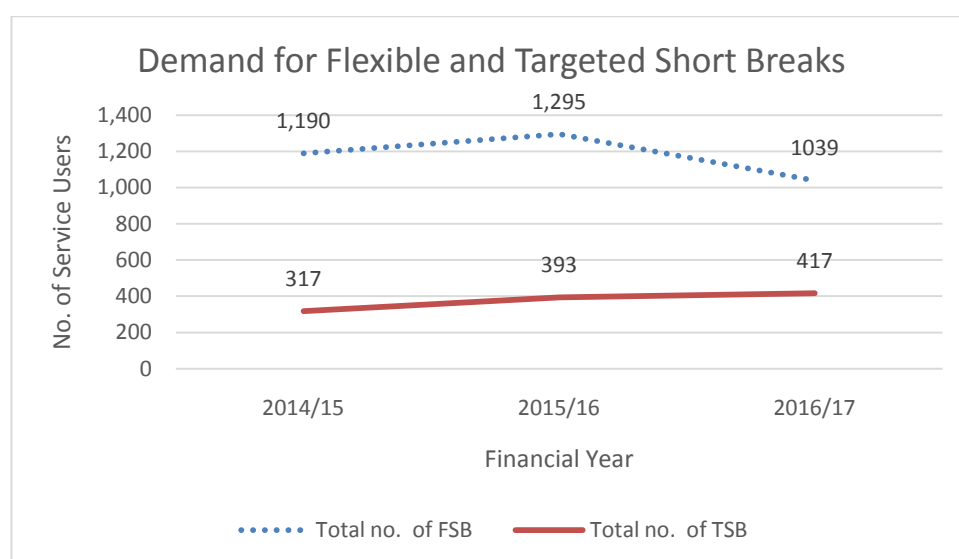


14. This proposal relates to the Short Breaks offered at Level 2 (Flexible Short Breaks), and Level 3 (Targeted Short Breaks) and proposes a refreshed Community Short Breaks offer.
15. The Flexible Short Breaks service currently offers eligible disabled children and young people either a small Personal Budget to access activities within their local community or 80 hours of Short Break provision per year from a menu of services.
16. The current eligibility criteria for Flexible Short Breaks is:
  - children and young people aged 5-18 years
  - children and young people who are not receiving other short break services such as Residential Breaks, Contract Care, other Local Authority or Health funded short break support
  - children who have tried but are unable to access community short breaks services appropriate to their age

- children and young people who are included in one or more of the five identified groups listed below:
    - children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
    - children and young people with complex health needs
    - children and young people aged 11+ years with moving and handling needs requiring equipment and adaptations
    - young people aged 14+ years who are severely disabled
    - children and young people, as identified in the four aforementioned groups, where challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments.
17. The Targeted Short Breaks service currently offers eligible disabled children and young people either a Personal Budget to access activities within their local community or up to 300 hours of Short Break provision per year from a menu of services. A child cannot be referred directly into Targeted Short Breaks, access is via stepping up from the Flexible Short Breaks scheme or stepping down from social care in line with the Pathway to Provision.
18. It is felt that the current eligibility criteria is too broad and would benefit from being refreshed and clarified.
19. As at the end of December 2017 there were 789 Flexible Short Breaks and 428 Targeted Short Breaks being delivered to children and young people via the Council.

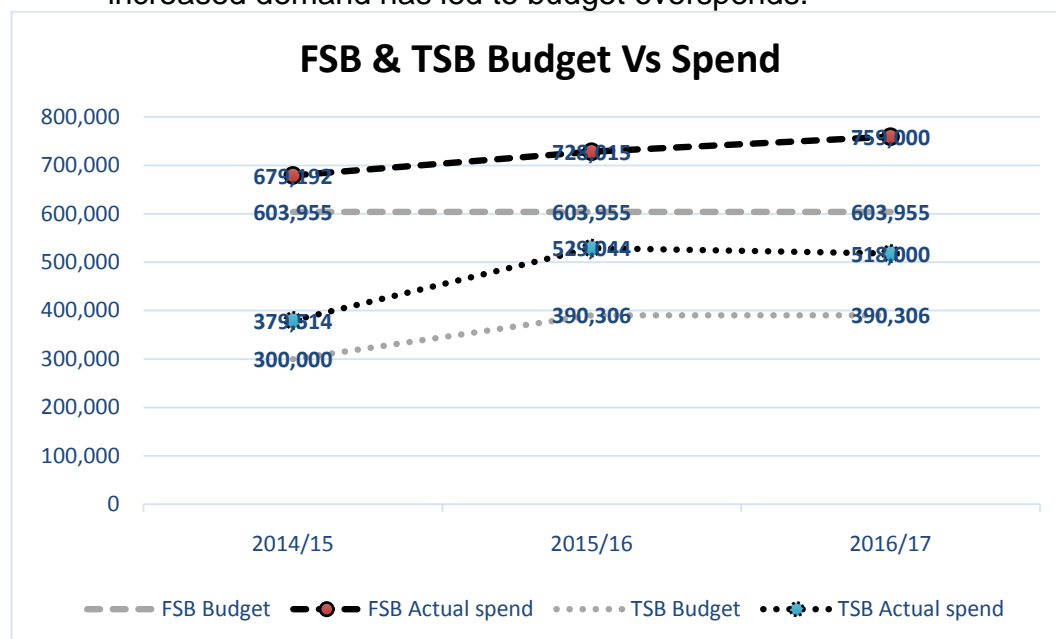
### **Increase in demand and financial challenge**

20. Since 2014/15, both FSB and TSB have experienced significant increases in service user demand. This is due to the number of children with disabilities increasing (in line with population trends), coupled with excellent medical advancements that mean that more children with disabilities are living longer and progressing into adulthood.



21. In order to begin to manage this demand there has been a hold in place on Flexible Short Breaks for the duration of this review. This accounts for the reduction in service users in 2016/17 in the chart above.

22. The budget for the service has remained fairly static for a number of years and this increased demand has led to budget overspends.



23. As part of the Short Breaks Review this financial information was shared with families involved in the co-production of a revised offer in order to develop a sustainable long term solution together.
24. As part of the 2018-19 budget process a pressure bid of £0.924m for 2018-19 – 20-21 was submitted for the Flexible and Targeted Short Breaks offer, to deal with the projected increase in demand and the budget overspend. A provision for this pressure was made within contingency to fund this should it arise although the amount may be reduced. Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee or the Section 151 Officer are required to approve the release of contingency funds.

## CO-PRODUCTION

### Co-production Approach

25. Co-production is the term used when an individual influences the support and services received, or when groups of people get together to influence the way that services are designed, commissioned and delivered.
26. Co-production is a requirement of the SEND Reforms 2014, and is a way of working that brings families and professionals together to review and shape future provision. It also provides the opportunity to make decisions together, including determining the most effective use of limited resources.
27. To support this approach, the Council submitted a joint bid in partnership with Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum (Nottinghamshire's parent group for families of children with disabilities) to the Department for Communities and Local Government 'Communities Fund' and successfully received £70,000 of funding which has been used to employ a Co-production Officer to lead on the co-production work as well as to fund the co-production activities.

28. This co-production approach has been jointly planned and delivered with the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum (NPCF). The Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum represents the views of parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs or disabilities in Nottinghamshire and is funded nationally by the Department for Education. The review of the Short Breaks Offer is one of NPCF's four priority areas for 2017-2018.
29. The co-production approach was split into two key phases.
- Phase 1 focused on gathering as many views as possible by holding events, visiting groups and via surveys
  - Phase 2 focused on developing a co-produced short breaks offer with families via a series of working groups.
30. At all stages the Council were open and honest about the challenge of developing a sustainable short breaks offer at a time when demand for services is increasing and budgets are under pressure. This approach was important to ensure that families were as knowledgeable about the issues as possible in order to achieve a true co-production approach.

### **How children, young people and their families have been involved**

31. Children, young people and their families were engaged in a range of ways including:
- online survey to gain initial views on Short Breaks (July – September 2017) – over 200 responses
  - three co-production events held on weekends over the summer holidays across three districts – 43 children & young people attended the events and 59 parent/carers attended
  - groups visits across the County, including Young Pioneers (the council's advisory group comprised of children and young people with disabilities) and eight parent and carer groups (September 2017)
  - five parent working groups (October – January 2018) – 22 attendees
  - video consultation – produced by Trent University students to show what work had been done and gain views on the working group proposal. This can be seen at <https://youtu.be/n1BBq24wo-0>
  - proposal consultation (January 2018) – 97 responses
  - final parent working group session which approved the final proposal presented to Councillors (February 2018).
32. All activities were publicised widely by contacting all families accessing the Council's Short Break services and via Nottinghamshire Special Schools, the Local Offer, Facebook, IRIS magazine and voluntary sector groups.

## **Co-production Working Group**

33. A working group was established to develop a new offer that would support the most vulnerable children and be financially sustainable by taking on board the views collected in phase 1 of the work.
34. Each working group was attended by:
  - between 5-12 parent/carers
  - Co-production Officer
  - Chair of the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum (NPCF)
  - Short Breaks Project Manager from the Council
  - Group Manager of the Integrated Children's Disability Service (ICDS) – attended last two sessions
35. The dates, locations and times of the meetings were planned and agreed with working group members, and the content of each session was planned in partnership with NPCF.
36. Working group members contributed their time voluntarily and have been committed to this piece of work, with the majority of members attending at least three meetings which has ensured a good level of consistency.
37. Sessions were challenging and engaging and the Co-production Officer role was to support the group to feel fully informed, empowered and valued in order to develop a proposal. The co-production approach has worked well and has worked to develop trust between families and the Council. It could be suggested that family trust in this approach is reflected in the 55% of January survey respondents who said they would like to be involved in future co-production work.

## **Key messages from families**

38. When gathering views some key messages became very clear. Families said that:
  - they really valued their short break. Children and young people enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with peers and families said it gave them a chance to recharge their batteries and contributed to their resilience
  - they were unclear about where to go to access information about short breaks and short breaks provision
  - they did not feel that access to short breaks was fair and equitable – this was closely linked to not understanding the process for accessing a short break and where information could be found
  - they have to wait a long time to find out if they are able to access short breaks and they often have to chase up queries about their application which can be time intensive and frustrating
  - they would value a yearly review as this would allow contact with a key professional and would enable packages to be refreshed to the current needs of the child
  - families also repeatedly mentioned that they would be happy to purchase easily accessible provision at the right cost. Some families said that they pay for activities and clubs for their non-disabled child and that they would be willing to do the same to



allow their disabled child to access the same experiences. However, it was acknowledged that clubs for children with disabilities tended to cost more than clubs for children without disabilities. On the whole families said that it was not the cost of paying for an activity that was the issue, rather it was finding a provider that was able to support their child's needs.

39. The working group used these key messages when designing a new short breaks offer.
40. To ensure that all families had the opportunity to be involved in the review, the co-produced Short Break proposal went out for a three week consultation from 8<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The consultation allowed families to understand the proposed changes to Short Breaks and further have their say.
41. 62% of families that responded to the final consultation strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal for the new Short Breaks offer, with only 7% of families stating that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the Short Breaks proposal. Whilst the response from families has been mostly positive, families have raised some key questions and concerns that have been addressed in the final proposal detailed below. The detailed response information is attached as **Appendix A**.

## PROPOSED OFFER

42. The following Short Breaks offer has been co-produced with Nottinghamshire children and young people with disabilities and their families.
43. The new Nottinghamshire Short Breaks Offer continues to provide an opportunity for children and young people with disabilities to engage with their wider community and peers, as well as giving the family a break from caring responsibilities. In Nottinghamshire, Short Breaks will have a strong focus on supporting young people to prepare for adulthood.
44. This offer relates to Community Short Breaks provision only at Levels 2 and 3 of the Pathway to Provision (previously called Flexible and Targeted Short Breaks), not those Short Breaks services at Level 4 that require a social work assessment undertaken by a social worker. There will be no change to the range and type of community services on offer.
45. Please note that the proposed community short breaks offer is delivered under the general duty for section 17. Therefore it is permissible for the local authority to use simple criteria to assess for the provision of Short Breaks. ***This does not affect a child's/family's right to request a full Child and Family Assessment undertaken by a Social Worker.*** This will be made clear for families at the start of the application process and contained in the information available on the Local Offer so that families are aware of this.
46. The Short Breaks offer will continue to be available for children and young people aged 5 – 18 years old. The age range may be extended downwards in exceptional circumstances.

47. The offer is made up of three key stages. A visual of the model is attached as **Appendix B**.

### **Stage 1: A clear and effective information stage**

48. Information about what Short Breaks are and how families can access them will be made easier to find and understand. The Local Offer will continue to act as the key point for families to find information about:
- short breaks available in their local area provided by providers and the voluntary sector
  - how to purchase short breaks direct from a provider
  - how to apply for Council funded short breaks
49. However, in recognition of the feedback which has been received, work will be undertaken to update the Local Offer to make it easier to navigate and use, and children and their families will be involved in this work to ensure the Local Offer is as informative and helpful as possible for families. Alongside the Local Offer, support with applying for Short Breaks for those families that need it will be provided by the Ask Us service. The Customer Service Centre will continue to be a source of telephone information for families.

### **Stage 2: An online self-assessment with clear eligibility criteria**

50. The new assessment will be a two-stage process. The first stage is an on-line self-assessment to establish whether the threshold for a Council funded Short Break has been met.
51. Children and families will need to meet a minimum score to receive a Council funded short break package. There will be clear eligibility criteria and the working group has developed the underpinning eligibility indicators to ensure that children and young people with the most needs are identified through this stage. These indicators have been designed to establish that the child has a disability and will include differently weighted points relating to:
- Child receiving high or medium level Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Care Component or Personal Independence Payment (PIP), or high level Mobility Component DLA
  - Child who has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
  - Child receiving High Level Needs funding at school
  - Child receiving funded respite or short breaks care from Health services
  - Child who is unable to access support and provision in the local community (e.g. universal services or local activities) either by themselves or with existing support.
52. After further discussions with social care colleagues it is felt that the criteria will not include any child with a social care status (Looked After Child, Special Guardianship Order, Child in Need, Child Protection Plan or Adopted Child) as previously planned, as

these children will have their holistic needs assessed and met at level 4 social care level as described in the Nottinghamshire's Pathway to Provision.

53. Families will be asked to submit evidence that they meet the criteria, such as a copy of the Disability Living Allowance confirmation.
54. Each eligibility indicator will carry a point score. At the end of the self-assessment a family will receive a final score which will inform families whether their child has met the threshold for a Council funded Short Break.
55. If families do not meet the threshold for a Council funded service then they will be signposted to the Local Offer for information on universal or self-funded services. This will ensure that families are always signposted to some form of support and are not in a situation where they have nothing.
56. If families do meet the minimum score and are eligible for a Council funded service, they will go on to complete the second stage of the assessment which will determine the amount of short break hours that the family will receive. This will be a Resource Allocation System (RAS) that will further identify the carer's needs, the key outcomes for the child, and how the caring role impacts on the carer's wellbeing.
57. Short Break hours will be allocated for 12 months from the date of commencement of a package.
58. The Self Assessment and RAS will be completed online and a randomised audit will be undertaken to ensure that the information provided is accurate, Families that struggle with the online self-assessment will be supported by the Customer Service Centre and Ask Us.
59. This new model of delivery allows the local authority to review the weighting of eligibility criteria and amend it annually, if required, to ensure that the service can operate within budget. 63% of respondents to the January consultation agreed with this approach, which means that the Council would not need to consult on any future changes to the weighting of eligibility indicators included in the threshold criteria.
60. The existing RAS will be reviewed and further developed to explore the potential of developing a more detailed graded system that would allocate different hours of packages based on the RAS score. This would be a move to develop a more flexible approach to allocating hours that would move away from the current rigid offer of 80 FSB hours, and would instead allow varying levels of packages that would support a more holistic, time-limited approach to support. Following a suggestion by the working group the minimum allocation will be 24 hours a year (which equates to 2 hours a month) and the maximum allocation will be 300 hours a year.
61. This ensures that all eligible families will receive some level of support but that the level of awarded hours will be tailored to the needs of the family. It also supports the values of early intervention, addressing the need to support families at an early stage to prevent escalating to crisis stages where tier 4 social care support may be required. This approach therefore supports good outcomes for children whilst preventing families requiring costly social care provision.

62. Families that do not meet the threshold for Council funded short breaks, or who do meet the threshold but would like additional hours, can visit the Local Offer for information on how to purchase Short Breaks from a provider or pay to top up their hours with a provider.
63. An appeals process will be available for families that do not meet the threshold for Council funded breaks, or who are unhappy with their hours allocation, and want to appeal the outcome.

### **Stage 3: Packages of support that are reviewed annually**

64. Reviews are an important way of monitoring children's progress against key outcomes and ensuring that children receive the support they need. In the new offer there will be four key types of review:
- the majority of children will receive a Short Break allocation for 12 months, after which they will be required to reapply if they continue to need a service
  - children on larger packages of Short Breaks will be reviewed annually by a worker to ascertain if the level of need has changed
  - for children who already have a yearly statutory review through a Social Worker, EHC Plan or other review there will be a commitment to the review of their short breaks package being coordinated into this statutory review cycle
  - audits will continue to be carried out to identify any children that do not use their allocated package and these will be closed if the service is no longer required. If the child's circumstances change then families can reapply under the new assessment process.
65. This approach will enable families to be involved in reviewing their child's progress.

### **OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

66. Whilst the County Council can legally introduce eligibility criteria<sup>3</sup>, all existing service users will have to be reassessed under the new criteria. This will mean that all current FSB and TSB service users will require a new assessment under the new eligibility criteria. The staffing implications of this are yet to be determined, however, management of the implementation will be provided from the current resources within the Integrated Children's Disability Service (ICDS) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
67. As a priority, the allocated manager will undertake an analysis of the resources required to implement and deliver the new Short Breaks offer going forward. If additional resources are required this will be the subject of a further committee report.

### **Timescale**

68. It is proposed that the new Community Short Breaks Offer goes live on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 for all new applicants.

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<sup>3</sup> Short Breaks for Disabled Children: A legal guide for local authorities, Council for Disabled Children – Steve Broach (January 2017).

69. All the 1,217 children currently accessing Flexible Short Breaks or Targeted Short Breaks will see no change to their allocated hours in 2018/19. This is in acknowledgement that it takes considerable time for families and providers to plan for any changes to packages and that this is not achievable before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
70. However, those families mentioned above (currently accessing FSB and TSB services) will be asked to apply for short breaks for 2019/20 via the new assessment process. Affected families will be written to at key points throughout the year to invite them to start the assessment process to ensure that this work is staggered throughout the year to manage the workload of the ICDS Assessment team and Commissioning team.
71. This phased approach allows for the monitoring and review of the new assessment process to ensure it is fit for purpose and sustainable before requesting that all existing FSB and TSB service users undertake the new assessment.
72. Whilst it is the Council's aspiration for the RAS to be online, this may not be possible for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, and a paper RAS will be used in any interim period.
73. Alongside an approach of continuous monitoring of the implementation period, a formal review to assess the new Short Breaks offer is fit for purpose and sustainable will be undertaken a year after implementation.

### **Other Options Considered**

74. Working group members considered a range of different options when developing their proposal, including making financial contributions for services, but it was felt that the proposal presented is the most financially sustainable whilst being equitable and meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities and their families.
75. There is an option not to provide community short breaks, as in some local authorities, however, this was discounted because of the impact that would have on demand for tier 4 social care services.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

76. This proposal has been developed with families to ensure there is a sustainable Community Short Break offer in light of budget challenge and increasing demand for services.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

77. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Data Protection and Information Governance**

78. IT security has been consulted in relation to this proposal and has advised that personal data entered into the online environment is secure: the same IT platform is used for other applications for Notts CC services. IT recommend that the site holding the first stage assessment should retain the information for a maximum of 7 days, after which time it is deleted. Applications which progress to the second assessment stage will be automatically transferred into the MOSAIC system and protected by the existing IT security protocols. The Privacy Impact Assessment is available as a background paper.

### **Financial Implications**

79. The implementation date for the proposed new offer is 1 July 2018 for new applicants (including those that have been put on hold) and it is not yet known what the financial implication of that will be.
80. As part of the 2018-19 budget process however, a pressure bid of £0.924m for 2018-19 – 20-21 was submitted for the Flexible and Targeted Short Breaks offer, to deal with the projected increase in demand and the budget overspend. Although a provision for this pressure was made within contingency, should it arise, the amount of any bid may be reduced. Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee or the Section 151 Officer are required to approve the release of contingency funds.
81. If there is a forecast overspend in this budget during 2018-19 which cannot be contained within the existing FSB/TSB budgets or mitigated by underspends in the Children & Families budget as a whole, a bid will be made against the provision.
82. If there are any additional resource requirements identified by the management analysis this will be the subject of a further report to committee together with the identification of the funding source.

### **Human Resources Implications**

83. It is likely that additional resource will be required to deliver the new Community Short Breaks Offer. Committee will be updated on the level of resource required.

### **Human Rights Implications**

84. Local authorities are legally allowed to use eligibility criteria to manage access to services so the introduction of a more rigorous assessment and eligibility process for a Council funded Short Break is permissible in law.
85. The fundamental principles of the lawful use of eligibility criteria are that:
- Short breaks are provided first to children and families with higher levels of need before children and families with lower levels of need; and
  - Children whose needs are assessed to meet the 'specific' statutory duties receive a level of service (or direct payments) sufficient to meet those needs.
86. In the 2009 Islington judgment, the High Court made clear that:



- local authorities can adopt criteria to manage access to short break provision, so long as these criteria are fair and non-discriminatory and families are clear that they are always entitled to request an assessment undertaken by a qualified social worker
  - where criteria are used in relation to the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (CSDPA) 1970 duty, there must be no 'cap' on the maximum amount of support available.
  - in setting the criteria, local authorities must keep in mind all the relevant commissioning duties.
87. It is essential that local authorities are transparent with families about any eligibility criteria used to control access to short breaks. There is now a statutory requirement for any eligibility criteria being operated by local authorities to be published as part of the Local Offer.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

88. The revised offer is designed to be a transparent, fair and equitable process for all children and young people with disabilities and their families, however where it does have an effect on specific groups within that cohort there is mitigation in place to reduce the negative impact this may have.
89. As the current eligibility criteria will be refined, it is possible that some current service users may no longer meet the eligibility criteria and will cease to receive a Council funded short break. Following assessment, some children may see an increase or reduction in the number of hours they are allocated depending on need. This may have a positive or negative effect on affected families.
90. It is not yet clear how many children may be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria. This is mostly due to the fact that the Council does not collect information on benefits for this cohort of children and therefore has no understanding of how many current service users are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, which is one of the eligibility indicators that will be used.
91. To address this, the refreshed offer will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 for new applicants only. During 2018/2019, there will be no change to the allocated hours of the 1,217 existing service users. This phased approach will enable the service to monitor and review the number of successful new applicants against the eligibility criteria and undertake in depth analysis to ensure that the criteria is fit for purpose and ensures that children that need the service receive it, before the new eligibility criteria is rolled out to all existing users.
92. To mitigate against any negative impact that this could have, families will still be able to access short breaks delivered in their local community by voluntary sector and private providers and have the opportunity to purchase hours direct from a provider.
93. Work will be undertaken to improve the Local Offer so that families can access information about short breaks in their local area, as well as undertaking work with the market to increase universal services' ability to provide for children with disabilities. This will be undertaken through co-production work with families to ensure it meets their requirements and will be in place for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

94. It is also to be noted that the adoption of this updated offer will bring an end to the current hold on Flexible Short Breaks that has been in place since September 2016. This will therefore mean that the updated offer will have the scope to reach and support more families than it currently does.
95. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is available as a background paper. Decision makers must give due regard to the implications for protected groups when considering this report.

### **Safeguarding of Children at Risk Implications**

96. Due care and attention will continue to be applied in regards to safeguarding, and safeguarding policies will be applied during the development and management of the new process. This includes having up to date safeguarding information at the information stage on the Local Offer to ensure that families are directed to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub if there is a safeguarding concern.

### **Implications for Service Users**

97. This will affect the 789 children currently accessing Flexible Short Breaks and the 428 children currently accessing Targeted Short Breaks, as well as the wider population of children with a disability in Nottinghamshire that may request a Short Break in the future.
98. Current service users will require a new assessment and some children may see a reduction to their allocation. Some children may no longer meet the eligibility criteria and will cease to receive funded short breaks.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the Committee approves the amendments made through co-production to the Community Short Breaks Offer, along with its timescale for implementation.
- 2) a follow up report detailing the resources required to implement and manage the new Community Short Breaks Offer is brought to the Committee.

**Laurence Jones**  
**Interim Service Director, Commissioning & Resources**

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**Constitutional Comments (SSR 01/03/18)**



99. This report falls within the scope of decisions which may be approved by the Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SAS 05/03/18)**

100. The Budget Report considered by County Council on 28 February 2018 set out that a provision of £4.7m had been made within contingency to fund a number of pressures that had been identified where there was a high degree of uncertainty with regard to likelihood, value and profiling should they arise. Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee or the Section 151 Officer are required to approve the release of contingency funds. Consequently, in approving these proposals it is necessary for the Committee to understand there is a level of risk that bids for additional funding may be reduced. This will need to be mitigated in some respects by underspends elsewhere in the department.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Privacy Impact Assessment

Short Breaks Equality Impact Assessment

Review of the Short Breaks Offer – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19 September 2016

Pathway to Provision (version 7, February 2018)

Annual Budget 2018-19 – report to Full Council on 28 January 2018

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1092

## INTERNAL CONSULTATION ANALYSIS OF THE CO-PRODUCED SHORT BREAK PROPOSAL

**Purpose of Report: To provide an analysis of the consultation results on the co-produced Short Breaks proposal.**

### **Background**

1. To develop the principles of the revised co-produced Short Break offer, a working group has been established of which includes parents and carers from across Nottinghamshire and the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum to work alongside Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure the voices of families are represented throughout the review.
2. To ensure that all families have had the opportunity to be involved in the review, the co-produced Short Break proposal went out for a three week consultation from the 8<sup>th</sup> of January until the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.
3. The consultation received 97 replies and this report will summarise these responses.

### **Key Changes**

4. The working group developed the following key changes to Short Breaks to guarantee that the offer supports the most vulnerable families across Nottinghamshire whilst operating within its allocated budget:
5. **A clear and effective information stage** – Families and the working group consistently said that if they had better resources to signpost them to support networks and alternative provision in their local communities that it would relieve pressure off the service.
6. **An online self-assessment** – During the first consultation period for the Short Breaks Review, 70% of families said they would prefer to request an assessment online. The working group felt that an online assessment tool would be a fair way of assessing and identifying the families that needed the most support and that it would ensure equality of access through set criteria for families.
7. **Clear eligibility criteria which can be amended** – The working group have developed the underpinning eligibility indicators to ensure that children and young people who are the most vulnerable are identified through this stage. Furthermore the working group developed a structure to allow the eligibility criteria to be amended which will allow the service to support families within the available local authority budget.
8. **Packages of support that are reviewed annually** – Families told us that they would value a yearly review as this would allow contact with a key professionals. The working group felt that a time limited approach to packages with a yearly review would support equitable access to short breaks, as packages can be amended to take into consideration any change in circumstances. This would allow opportunities for packages to close when outcomes are met or for the child to be better supported to meet changes in need.

### **Consultation Results on Key Changes**

9. The consultation asked respondents a number of questions on their thoughts on the proposed key changes. The questions and results are set out in the table below:

Key Changes	Percentage of people that either strongly agree or agree	
<i><b>'Do you think that an online assessment for Short Breaks is a fair way of assessing and identifying families that need support?'</b></i>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>57/97</b>
<i><b>Do you feel that the eligibility criteria below will be able to identify the most vulnerable children and young people?</b></i>	<b>76.3%</b>	<b>74/97</b>
<i><b>Do you agree that the eligibility criteria should be reviewed and amended annually to ensure the service can be delivered within budget?</b></i>	<b>62.9%</b>	<b>66/97</b>
<i><b>Do you agree that Short Breaks packages should be reviewed annually?</b></i>	<b>68.0%</b>	<b>66/97</b>

## Other Consultation Results

10. Results of other questions asked during the consultation can be seen below:

- 90.7% (88/97) of survey respondents understood why Nottinghamshire County Council is undergoing the review of Short Breaks.
- 65.9% (64/97) of survey respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that Short Break packages should be used for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- 60.8% (59/97) of survey respondents were currently in receipt of a Nottinghamshire County Council funded Short Break and are receiving the following services:
  - Short Breaks Provider Service Sitting and Befriending (**22.7%**)
  - Short Breaks Provider Service Group Activities (**17.5%**)
  - Short Break Provider Service Over Nights Packages (**11.3%**)
  - Direct Payment for family to employ a personal assistant (**17.5%**)
  - Direct Payment for a personal budget to enable child to access activities in the community (**20.6%**)
  - Short Breaks Contract Care or Home from Home Carers (**6.2%**)
- 54.6% (53/97) of survey respondents said they'd like to be involved in future co-production work.

## Further Findings

11. Statistically the proposed Short Break model was recommended by families across Nottinghamshire. However additional comments were made through free text sections throughout the consultation which may need to be considered when making any final changes to the model.

12. A large percentage of families agreed that the available Short Break budget should be used to fund the most vulnerable families in the county, but there needs to be a clear and transparent definition to explain what is meant by vulnerable and this should be considered to be part of the eligibility criteria.

13. An **online assessment** was welcomed by majority of survey respondents. For respondents the concern was around lack of human contact during the assessment process and that some human and professional judgement would be needed. There was also a concern for families who may not have a computer or technological abilities to complete an online assessment.

14. In regards to **eligibility criteria**, a large majority of survey respondents agreed. However families consistently said that family circumstances must be taken into consideration during this stage of the assessment, due to it being one of the largest factors for families needing a Short Break. Further concerns that stood out in terms of the eligibility criteria, was that it didn't take into consideration the effect on siblings who were also living in the household.

15. Many discussions took place during the working group sessions to explore how to incorporate family circumstances into the initial eligibility criteria assessment. However assessing this indicator through an online assessment seemed too complicated due to the varied amount of circumstances families across Nottinghamshire have. The working group were satisfied that families' circumstances will be captured through the second assessment during the RAS.

16. Majority of families said they either agreed/strongly agreed to **amending eligibility criteria** to ensure the service is in budget. Families who didn't agree understood that the service needed to operate in budget but also felt it was very important that the service meet need. If the Short Break service does not meet these needs then it could lead to referrals to more high cost specialist services.

17. The notion of tying the review process into another review (i.e. EHCP reviews) would be helpful for all concerned as **annually reviewing** will be resource heavy for the service and stressful for families. Families continually commented that circumstances for families who have a child with a disability very rarely change however their needs do, so potentially a two yearly review would be more preferable.

### Overall

18. We asked families if overall do they agree with the new Short Breaks proposal, results can be found in the table below:

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>16.49%</b>	<b>16/97</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>45.36%</b>	<b>44/97</b>
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>29.90%</b>	<b>29/97</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>4.12%</b>	<b>4/97</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>3.09%</b>	<b>3/97</b>

**Next Steps**

19. The findings of this report are to be shared with the co-production working group, NPCF and NCC colleagues.

**Recommendation**

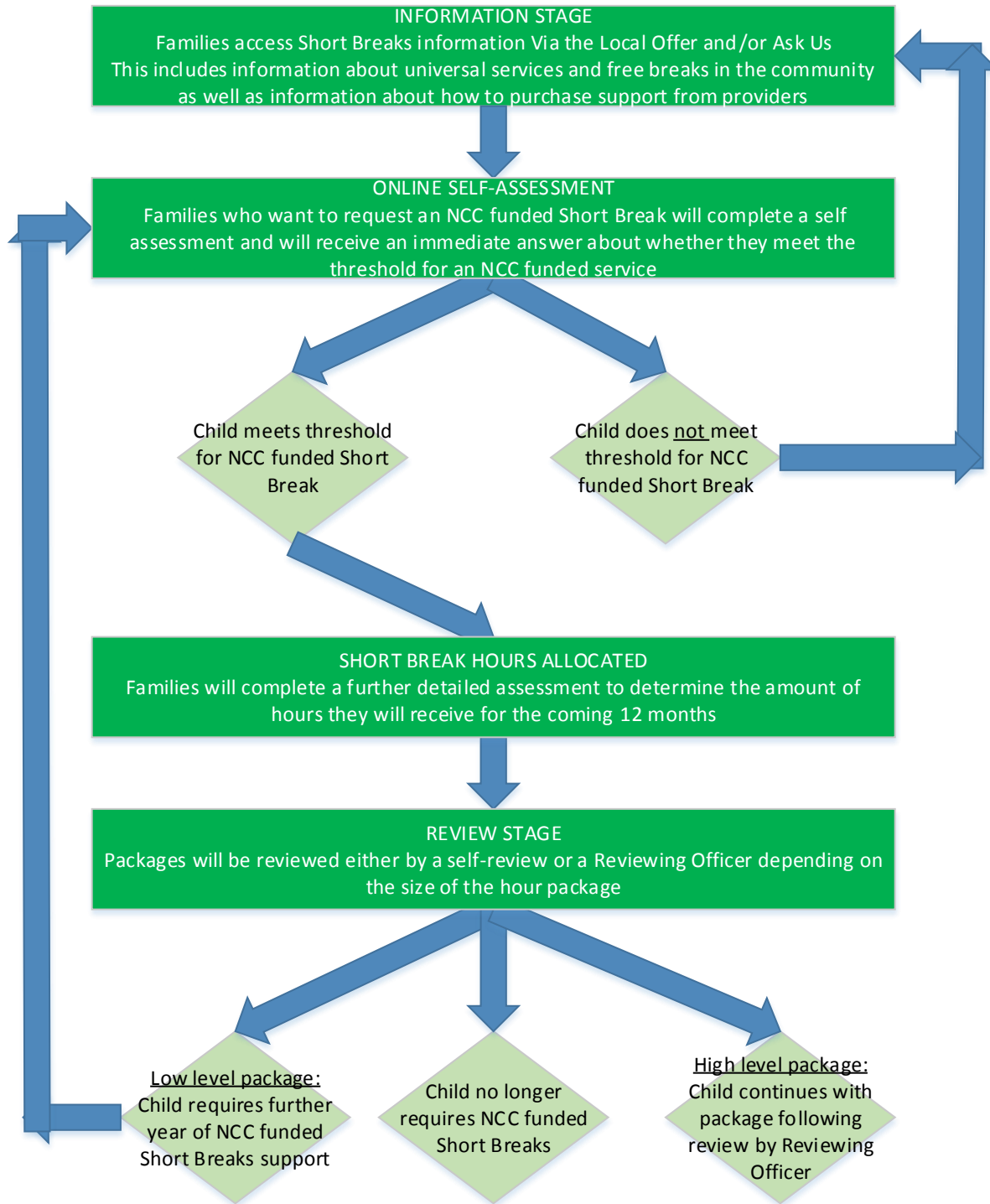
20. To consider the view represented in this report when making any adjustments to the final Short Breaks proposal.

Abbi Faulkner

Co-production Officer - Integrated Children's Disability Service

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# Process to apply for NCC funded Community Short Breaks for children & young people with disabilities





19 March 2018

Agenda Item: 13

## **REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**

### **MAXIMISING THE VALUE OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval of the Children's Centre service delivery model from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.
2. To seek approval to review Children's Centre premises to ensure value for money and creation of additional childcare places in areas of poor childcare sufficiency.

#### **Information**

##### **Children's Centres in Nottinghamshire**

3. Nottinghamshire County Council currently commissions the Nottinghamshire Children and Families Partnership (NCFP) to deliver Children's Centre services for families with pre-school children. NCFP is a consortia led by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and includes Family Action and North Notts College.
4. The Children's Centre contract was awarded in June 2013 and expires on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Prior to the contract, Children's Centre services were delivered through a mixed economy by the Council and the component organisations of NCFP, in specific allocated districts, working collaboratively.
5. The Children's Centre service currently offers a range of universal and targeted services and interventions to all families in Nottinghamshire with children under the age of 5 years. The service works to ensure that children and their families have the opportunity to achieve their full potential by having the best start in life. The service is provided from dedicated buildings, outreach work in community venues and home visiting.
6. The core purposes of Children's Centres as defined by the Childcare Act 2006 are:
  - improving child development and school readiness
  - increasing parental aspirations and parenting skills
  - improving child and family health and life chances.



7. Children's Centres use universal activities to bring in many of the families in need of extra support. As families build up confidence and relationships with staff and other service users they often become more receptive to appropriate targeted activities, with 76% of referrals currently coming from parents themselves. The universal services presently offered by Children's Centres include access to antenatal and post-natal health services, stay and play, early learning activities, adult and family learning, volunteering opportunities, community events and trips. Universal services are offered to all families with children under the age of 5 across Nottinghamshire. The service is currently commissioned to register 95% of all children under the age of 5 and to see 65% of these children through services and interventions. By quarter 2 of 2017/18, both targets had already been exceeded (98% are registered and 65% have been seen).
8. The service is currently commissioned to register 95% of children under the age of 5 from low income households and to see 70% of these children through services and interventions. By quarter 2 of 2017/18, both targets had already been exceeded (100% are registered and 72% have been seen). The service also targets the families and children at risk by targeting areas with high levels of disadvantage and key groups at risk of a range of poor outcomes, as well as under-represented groups such as fathers.
9. Nottinghamshire Children's Centres are also commissioned to deliver the Troubled Families Programme for children under 5 years of age, working very closely with the local authority's Family Service to improve outcomes for the whole family. Families with complex or specialist needs are supported in partnership with other services such as Social Care and midwifery services. Children's Centres and the Family Service will also be delivering the new 'Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) Programme' which will employ a local authority lead who will be seconded to the Children's Centre service. The EPEC programme provides a system for training and supervising parent-led parenting groups that help parents to learn practical parenting skills for everyday family life and develop their abilities to bring up confident, happy and co-operative children.
10. The Children's Centre service offers a range of evidence based parenting programmes to support families to manage their child's behaviour, sleep routines, and improve family functioning, amongst others. These programmes are offered to families who have been identified as being in need of additional support.
11. Intensive one-to-one Family Support is also offered to families who require bespoke support to address a variety of issues. This builds on the information provided in the initial referral.
12. Children's Centres work with all parents including fathers, enabling fathers to participate positively in the lives of their children and young people. Having an involved father has been found to be associated with children having better peer relationships, fewer behavioural difficulties, and lower likelihood of criminality and drug use later in life. Children gain from the different qualities which mothers and fathers bring; this is particularly the case for boys.
13. Children's Centres also provide the Home Talk service which is a parent-implemented intervention for children with delayed language development. The service is offered to parents of 2-year-old children who are identified by the Healthy Families team at the 2 –

2½ years universal review. The service is delivered in family homes by trained children's workers, under the professional supervision of a qualified speech and language therapist, to help address environmental issues and identify complex speech, language and communication needs at the earliest opportunity, linking to specialist speech and language services where necessary. For vulnerable families less likely to access specialist services directly, the Children's Centres speech and language therapists provide support locally, in a more accessible environment, building parents' confidence.

14. Within Nottinghamshire, there are 58 Ofsted registered Children's Centres, not all of which have dedicated buildings. Since 2016, Children's Centres have been formed into 18 clusters with one hub and satellite centres with reduced timetables. All clusters operate together to provide outreach work, home visiting, sign posting, centre-led structured activities and groups, support, advice and guidance.

### **The Impact of Children's Centre Services**

15. Since Children's Centres were first launched in 1999, there has been a wealth of national research into both the impact and the reach of Children's Centre services. It is timely therefore to review current service delivery to ensure that interventions reflect evidence of what works to improve outcomes.
16. Nationally, the two main longitudinal research projects were the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) and Evaluation of Children's Centres England (ECCE). They both report a positive impact overall on engaging families with Children's Centres, this in turn helps children to have the best start in life resulting in short term and long term improved outcomes.
17. Both research studies demonstrated that:
  - a) parents evidenced an improved knowledge of child development, lower levels of dysfunction and improved parenting skills
  - b) developmental concerns were predicted earlier on (mean age 14 months) as a direct result of engagement with a Children's Centre
  - c) the greater the family is disadvantaged the increased likelihood that they will engage with services for a longer period (5 months), suggesting families are aware of the support they need and they are actively seeking this out
  - d) parents who accessed a Children's Centre service improved their parenting skills and provided an improved home learning environment
  - e) children had better social development with higher levels of independence and self-regulation
  - f) there were higher immunisation rates, fewer reported accidental injuries and the families engaged more with other family services.
18. Both studies identified that improving household economic status did not improve substantially. When this is considered alongside the findings of local research it is clear that financial stability is a key target area to consider when moving forwards. Participants who took part in local consultation highlighted the need for greater support to prepare

parents for employment and this appears to be a consistent theme throughout national and local reviews and research.

19. The NESS research study identified that improving health outcomes did not improve significantly. It is anticipated that health outcomes will be improved through integrated service delivery arrangements with Healthy Families Teams who are also provided through the NCFP.
20. NCFP prepared an impact report which shows progress since the contract began in 2013. This is available from the NCFP webpages:  
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/sure-start>

## **Service User Views**

21. In 2017, Nottingham Trent University was commissioned to carry out focus groups with local service users to help understand the benefits of the service and what changes, if any, would be required to service delivery. The groups included mothers, fathers, young parents, and parent volunteers. Key findings identified that:
  - a) parents and carers would like to be more involved in running services and volunteering
  - b) additional outreach work with hard to reach groups is required to engage vulnerable families
  - c) there is a need to increase engagement with organisations which support parents into work e.g. Jobcentre Plus
  - d) parents want the service to continue its strong links with healthcare professionals
  - e) Children's Centre properties are not used to their capacity and service users would like to see more services operating in the buildings.

## **Proposed Delivery Models in Nottinghamshire**

22. Using national and local research, consultation findings, local performance data and reports, it is evident that Children's Centres make a positive contribution to the outcomes of children and families, in particular families experiencing disadvantage.
23. For the remaining two years of the Children's Centre contract, it is proposed that the service becomes more targeted, working with families most at risk of poor outcomes and children and families experiencing difficulties such as developmental delay. A proposed core offer for the local Children's Centre Service is attached as **Appendix 1**.

### **A. Restructured Outcomes**

24. Previously, Children's Centres were tasked to contribute to a wide range of outcomes, however as data collection and analysis has improved, these outcomes have been streamlined with a particular focus on local priorities and the areas where Children's Centres can make a difference:

- children achieve a good level of development and are ready for school
- children most at risk of developmental delay are effectively supported to close the attainment gap
- parents are job ready with increased aspirations for themselves and their children
- children and parents have improved emotional health and wellbeing
- the needs of children and their families are identified early and the risk of harm is prevented.

## **B. Delivery of Universal Services**

25. Since the Children's Centre contract was awarded in 2013, there has been a considerable focus on registering and providing services to all children under the age of 5 regardless of their needs and family circumstances. This is no longer sustainable as it is hard to evidence, and it detracts worker capacity away from targeted work with vulnerable families who need additional support.
26. Consultation with service users and the Children's Centre workforce identified that parents themselves were able and willing to facilitate a number of universal services. This option also allows paid workers to prioritise their time to work with children and families most at risk of poor outcomes. It is therefore proposed that universal activities such as 'stay and play' are led by parent volunteers. This proposal subsequently removes targets for Children's Centres to register and see all children under the age of 5.
27. Universal services such as 'self-weigh' and midwifery clinics will continue to be hosted within Children's Centre premises as these are led by Midwifery and Healthy Families Teams.

## **C. Parent Volunteer Led Activities and Interventions**

28. Using feedback from local service users and national research, it is evident that parents and carers want support to be job ready and opportunities to volunteer and take an active role in delivering services. It is therefore proposed that all universal services such as 'stay and play' sessions, breastfeeding support groups, community events and trips could all be volunteer led and self-funded. There will also be continued recruitment and training for parents to deliver some targeted work such as peer support for mothers with post-natal depression, breastfeeding peer support and EPEC parenting programme leaders.
29. This proposal not only empowers parents and communities, but provides opportunities for parents to increase their confidence and skills to aid their transition into employment.

## **D. Increased Targeting**

30. Children's Centres will offer more targeted evidence based interventions such as one to one support and group work programmes, encouraging increased referrals from Social Care, the Family Service, the Healthy Families teams and other specialist and targeted services.
31. The service will continue to co-facilitate programmes with partners from specialist services, such as Women's Aid organisations, deliver evidence based parenting programmes and Speech and Language Therapy services.

32. Children's Centres will be tasked to work with families with children under the age of 5 at risk of poor outcomes as evidenced through the Early Childhood chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. These groups include:
- a) low income families with children under the age of 5
  - b) children of teenage mothers/teenage mothers under the age of 20.
  - c) children under 5 years of age who are known to Children's Social Care
  - d) children under 5 years of age who are known to the Family Service
  - e) families with children under the age of 5 identified as 'Troubled Families'
  - f) unemployed parents of children under 5 years of age (including single parents and those living in rural areas)
  - g) children under 5 with English as an Additional Language
  - h) families identified as having mild/moderate mental health issues
  - i) children under 5 with a language delay
  - j) parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities
  - k) 2 years olds eligible for free school meals
  - l) 3 and 4 year olds from target groups not accessing their universal childcare entitlement (15 hours per week)
  - m) some Black and Ethnic Minority groups at risk of poor levels of development.

#### **E. Increased Focus on Job Readiness**

33. Following the publication of national research and local priorities, the service will have an increased focus on preparing unemployed parents for work. Improving social mobility and economic prosperity for low income families is a priority in Nottinghamshire and as such, Children's Centre contributions to this work will be significant.
34. The targeted Children's Centre service model will be commissioned to have closer working relationships with the Department for Work and pensions (DWP) and ensure robust partnership with district DWP teams.

#### **Children's Centre Premises**

35. Across the 58 Children's Centres in Nottinghamshire, there are 70 dedicated Children's Centre properties, most of which are owned by the local authority, whilst some are leased from District Councils and voluntary sector organisations. Not all dedicated buildings are utilised to their full capacity with some buildings only offering Children's Centre services once or twice a week, whilst others host childcare provision and have activities available every day of the week and most weekends. Footfall is low in some buildings and management of the Children's Centres premises portfolio costs the local authority £1million a year; suggesting that these properties do not provide best value in many cases.
36. In order to maximise the use of premises, it is proposed that, where feasible, early years providers and schools are invited to lease rooms from the local authority to enable the creation of new childcare places thus enabling the local authority to fulfil its statutory duties. This is particularly pertinent following the roll out of 30 hours funded childcare to 3 and 4 year olds which has created substantial demands for additional childcare provision, which is in addition to existing free entitlements for 2 year olds from low income

households. By providing childcare alongside Children's Centre services, premises will become early childhood centres of excellence, modelling successful centres that already host childcare provision combined with services for families.

### **Other Options Considered**

37. As a result of extending the Children's Centre service contract to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020, the local authority and the provider of the service mutually agreed that this was an opportunity to review the service delivery model to focus on interventions that can identify improved outcomes for targeted families. There was an option to continue with the service contract as it was, with the sustained focus on registering all children under the age of 5 regardless of their needs and family circumstances. However, it became evident that the service struggled to measure the impact of the universal services provided which was also reflected in national research and evidence. Combined with consultation findings with service users and the Children's Centre workforce, it was evident that parents themselves were able and willing to facilitate a number of universal services, not only providing peer support, but also providing opportunities to volunteer and prepare parents for work. This option also allows paid workers to spend more time working with children and families most at risk of poor outcomes.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

38. In light of published research, local consultation findings and performance data, it is important to review the current contract for Children's Centre services to ensure that the local authority is focusing on elements of work that are known to make a positive difference and better reflect local priorities such as economic prosperity and social mobility.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

39. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Data Protection and Information Governance**

40. The Council has an information sharing agreement in place with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust which allows the sharing of child and family level data with Children's Centres and the Family Nurse Partnership. The agreement allows the facilitation of data sharing to improve the services provided for the wellbeing of children, young people and their families.



41. Commissioners within the local authority are working closely with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust to ensure that new General Data Protection Regulations are addressed and followed; this includes data retention and responding to information breaches.

### **Financial Implications**

42. Following a budget reduction of £3million in 2016, the Children's Centre contract in Nottinghamshire is currently £10.8 million. This is more than double the budget of statistical and regional local authority neighbours.
43. There is no planned financial reduction across Early Help services but a realignment of some activities across Children's Centres and the Family Service. This realignment will include a budget transfer of £420,000 in 2018/19 and £500,000 in 2019/20. This funding will be used to create capacity in the Family Service to support the transition of cases, implementation of whole family assessments and proactive outreach work to engage hard to reach families through close working with Children's Centres. Funding will also be used to enable the implementation of the new Empowering Parents Empowering Communities Programme working across both services with a worker seconded to Children's Centre services alongside funding for crèche provision. A further report to Committee from the Family Service will be developed to confirm these plans. The contract value for Children's Centres will therefore be £10.4m in 2018- 2019 and £10.3m in 2019-2020.
44. Where early years providers use Children's Centre properties for the delivery of childcare places, it is proposed that they pay their contribution to overhead costs including utility bills, cleaning and maintenance.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

45. As the service becomes more targeted, there is an expectation that increasing numbers of children and families known to Social Care and the Family Service will be referred to the service to enable them to access interventions that support parenting skills, sleep routines etc. Children's Centres are already a key agency working with the most vulnerable families, and they will also endeavour to reduce referrals to Social Care and reduce the number of children being taken into local authority care. Safeguarding will continue to be a key focus of performance management arrangements.
46. There will be a substantial increase in the number of parents who are recruited, trained and supported to be volunteers, with an ongoing requirement to ensure that all volunteers have undergone relevant security checks and safeguarding training and supervision.
47. By continuing to offer universal services, albeit led by volunteers, it is anticipated that any emerging needs will be identified early and families will be referred to the most appropriate professional within the Children's Centre service. Community Involvement workers within NCFP will be tasked to support parent volunteers and the volunteers will be mentored by Children's Centre staff with relevant roles.

### **Implications for Service Users**

48. The Children's Centre service in Nottinghamshire will engage increasing numbers of children and families who are considered to be at risk of poor outcomes. All parents will

still be able to access universal services within centres, however these will now be led by parent volunteers. There should be no negative implication for service users.

49. Vulnerable children and families who access Children's Centre services will see improvements in a range of outcomes, including increased confidence, improved emotional health and wellbeing, improved family dynamics, lower levels of dysfunction, improved parenting skills, sustained employment, and improved health and wellbeing. Children in particular will achieve a good level of development and be ready for school which is a key priority in Nottinghamshire.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the proposed revised model for the Nottinghamshire Children's Centre service contract.
- 2) approves plans to review Children's Centre premises to ensure value for money and creation of additional childcare places in areas of poor childcare sufficiency.

**Laurence Jones**

**Interim Service Director, Commissioning and Resources**

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### **Constitutional Comments (EP 22/02/18)**

50. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of their terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (SS 02/03/18)**

51. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 42 – 44 above

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Parkes, Y, Bailey D (2018) 'A review of Sure Start Children's Centres in Nottinghamshire' Nottingham Trent University



**Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All.

C1097

## Core Offer of Children's Centres for children under 5 and their families from June 2018

**Core Purpose :** Children's Centre Services will contribute to the following outcomes:

- Children achieve a good level of development, are ready for school and are effectively supported to close the attainment gap
- Parents are job ready with increased aspiration for themselves and their children
- Improved emotional health and wellbeing of children and parents
- Early identification and prevention of risk of harm

Working with  
community  
services

### Integrated working with :

- Healthy Family Teams
- Family Nurse Partnership
- Speech and Language Teams
- Infant Feeding Leads

### Links with and signposting to:

- Private, voluntary & independent sector organisations
- Family Service / Social Care
- Schools and nurseries
- DWP, JCP, Credit Unions
- Adult Learning Providers
- Midwifery Services
- Library Services
- Food banks
- Community and Faith Groups
- Neighbourhood action groups

### Priority Groups:

**Parents and children under 5 who need Level 2 / Level 3 early support to give them the best life chances. These include:**

- Low income families with identified needs
- Children of teenage parents / teenage parents : non FNP (under 20)
- Families identified as having mild/moderate mental health issues
- Children with English as an additional language
- 2,3 and 4 year olds not accessing their minimum childcare entitlement
- Unemployed/single parents
- Unemployed parents living in rural areas
- Children under 5 with speech, language and communication delay
- Some Black and Minority Ethnic Groups
- Parents of children with SEND who do not meet thresholds for specialist services
- CPP, CIN and LAC

CC volunteer  
led, staff  
supported  
locality  
groups

### Volunteer led and staff supported groups :

- Stay and Play (under 5's)
- Under 1's ( 0--1 year olds)

- Wobbly Ones (1 – 2 year olds)
- Terrific Twos (2 – 3 year olds)
- Self funded events/trips

**(including age appropriate child development and health promotion messages and talking walks)**

Children's  
Centre Menu  
of  
Interventions  
for Under 5s  
and their  
families

### Closing the Attainment Gap and School Readiness :

- Forest Schools
- Home Talk
- SLT 1:1
- Let's Play (home)
- Little Talkers
- ELKLAN
- Transition Groups (e.g. Rising 2s)
- **Contact for non accessing 2,3 and 4 year olds**
- Family Learning
- Crèche

### Improving Health and Emotional Health and Well-being:

- BABES Breastfeeding groups
- Infant weaning group
- Cook and Eat sessions
- Baby Massage
- Holiday Hub
- Perinatal support (Footsteps)

### Time limited 1:1 Family Support (P2P L2 & L3):

- Boundaries and behaviour
- Family routine
- Meeting emotional needs of child
- Keeping child safe
- Physical health
- Progress to work
- Home and money
- Social networks
- Parental wellbeing and conflict
- Plus
- Family Support Clinic sessions

### Parenting Progs

- Baby / Toddler IY
- Sleep Tight
- 1 2 3 Magic
- Solihull
- Parental Conflict
- EPEC

### Work Ready

- Volunteering
- Confidence building
- Ready for Work
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Hosting Adult Learning

- Referral  
only

Family  
Service 0-19  
years  
(0-5 cohort)

**Family Service Support and Interventions where safeguarding is a concern (P2P Level 4 – working with Social Care to support children under 5 years in need of specialist support, protection and/or children in care)**

Partnership working across all levels as appropriate

**Locality Specific Target Group where appropriate**



**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 14****REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND  
RESOURCES****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM  
HOME AND CARE: SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE 2017/18.****Purpose of the Report**

1. Further to the Annual Report to Committee in September 2017, child sexual exploitation and missing children remain priority areas both nationally and locally. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the work currently in place to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.

**Information****Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

2. The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City cross-authority group (CSECAG) chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector for public protection provides oversight of work relating to child sexual exploitation work. A quarterly report of statistical information and an annual overview report is provided to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).
3. As reported in September 2017 the scale or nature of CSE in Nottinghamshire as described in the March 2017 CSE Problem Profile remains unaltered. There continue to be higher levels of opportunistic on-line grooming of children perpetrated, predominantly by white British males aged between 18 and 30 years. While there is no evidence of organised or gang related CSE in the County, agencies remain vigilant to this possibility. Using the information provided by the Police CSE Problem Profile the CSECAG is in the early stages of planning a focus on those areas of the County that have seen increased rates of CSE while maintaining vigilance throughout the County.
4. The Concerns Network (Operation Striver) continues to meet bi-monthly to share information relating to potential CSE locations and perpetrators. This information provides operational staff with local intelligence that may be relevant to CSE risks in their locality. Members include operational staff from Children's Social Care, Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit, District Councils, The Children's Society, Children Missing Officers, Early Help Unit, Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team, Residential Social Work staff, sexual health services and a private fostering agency.

5. The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel first met in March 2017 and has become more established in this period. Those children and young people deemed at high risk of child sexual exploitation and those identified as perpetrators of CSE are considered monthly in a multi-agency forum to ensure interventions are robust and effective. The meetings are attended by senior management from Children's Social Care, Police, Health services including sexual health, Children's Society, Safeguarding Lead for the District Councils and the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer.
6. Work continues with the seven Borough and District safeguarding and licensing leads and an audit is planned of the awareness training undertaken with taxi drivers. Funding has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide similar awareness training to staff in licensed premises across the County and it is hoped this training will be launched in April 2018.
7. A range of CSE services, addressing the areas of prevention, intervention and therapeutic involvement, are available to identified children and young people in Nottinghamshire:
  - The Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team is working with schools raising awareness of on-line grooming, identifying healthy and unhealthy relationships and consent across all age groups. Work is underway with children and young people to co-produce resources that will be put on the schools' portal. Collaborate Digital, a media production company, is working with staff and students at special schools and other identified schools focusing on consent; this will culminate in a Social Media Challenge with the winning entry being professionally produced and broadcast
  - The Pintsize Theatre group are delivering LUVU2 to secondary schools and have offered an adapted production to primary schools. The NSPCC, New Roots Housing and York St John University are delivering the performance and workshop of 'It's Not Okay' to secondary schools in the north of the County
  - The Family Service and Children's Social Care continue to undertake preventive and keeping safe work with children and their parents/carers
  - The Children's Society is commissioned by Children's Social Care to provide both focused support to children and their families and a therapeutic service to those children most traumatised by CSE.
8. An NSCB Multi-agency Audit of CSE is in progress and will report to the NSCB in June 2018.

### **Key data findings**

9. Between April and December 2017 424 children were identified as potentially vulnerable to CSE. This figures represent a combination of cases directly referred due to CSE concerns and those referred for other reasons (e.g. missing) where a vulnerability to CSE has been identified. This is showing an increase on the previous year but it remains lower than the 2015/16 figure. Although clearly this is a large number, it is positive that Nottinghamshire agencies are alert to the possibility of CSE occurring. However, following assessment, a much smaller number are seen to require multi agency intervention coordinated by a strategy meeting. During the same period multi-agency CSE strategy

meetings were convened for 86 individual children. This is an increase on multi-agency CSE strategy meetings held in 2016/17. An increase should not be seen as negative as increased identification and reporting is key in tackling sexual exploitation.

10. As of January 2018, the Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit had 42 open investigations involving County children. Of these investigations, 12 related to grooming by a single person online or by device only with no physical contact. 30 investigations involve physical contact with one or more alleged perpetrator, this could be an adult or older young person and involve sexualised contact of an exploitative nature. There were no reported cases of group or gang related CSE.

## Missing

11. Children Missing from Home and Care remains co-ordinated through the County Multi-agency Steering Group. A quarterly report of statistical information and an annual overview report is provided to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) and this is summarised in the chart below. The Children Missing from Home and Care Joint Procedures have been revised to reflect the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) changed definition of 'absent' to 'missing - no apparent risk' and these should be ratified by the Steering Group in March 2018. The figures below are combined numbers of individuals categorised by the police as missing and missing –no apparent risk:

<b>Children Missing from home and care</b>				
	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18 Q1</b>	<b>2017/18 Q2</b>	<b>2017/18 Q3</b>
Children missing from home	<b>705</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>211</b>
NCC Children missing from care	<b>163</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>
Other Local Authority Children missing from care	<b>145</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>
Return Interviews completed/ attempted	<b>1126</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>302</b>

12. Within the figures is a wide range of circumstances for the young people involved. In quarter 3 approximately 43% were assessed by the police as 'no apparent risk'. The average age of young people missing is 15-17years with a 60/40% split between boys and girls.  
The year end figures for 2016/17 show 50% were found in less than 4 hours and approximately 88% found in 24 hours; the average time missing being just over 11 hours. A smaller group of young people go missing repeatedly and are subject to closer scrutiny as detailed below.
13. The 'Multiple Missing and Hot Spots Meeting', chaired by the Police, continues to meet monthly to consider those children who are repeatedly absent or missing and the locations children go missing from. The aim is to reduce the incidence of missing and the risks posed. It remains a challenge to engage with other local authorities who place Looked

After Children with private providers in Nottinghamshire; attempts are being made to improve this. A paid for service is on offer to those local authorities placing Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire; while take up is currently low, efforts are being made to promote the service.

14. Multi-agency Missing training has been scheduled by the NSCB for April and May 2018, and this will serve to introduce the updated Children Missing from Home and Care Joint Procedures and reinforce staff awareness.
15. Return interviews will normally be attempted for all children who go missing more than once in a 90 day period or following one occasion where specific risks or vulnerabilities are identified.
16. The number of return interviews completed or attempted remains stable across the three quarters of 2017/18 and is on track to remain consistent with 2016/17 numbers. Latest figures show 75% completed in required timescales. 100% overall completion is very difficult to achieve as older children may refuse or parents, where children are living at home, may equally decline the service particularly where we are not already involved. The most common reasons given by the young people for going missing were resistance to boundaries being put in place by carers or overall relationship problems.

#### **Other Options Considered**

17. No other options have been considered.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

18. Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children are of significant concern to the public and Elected Members. The recommendation is made to ensure that the Committee has an opportunity to direct further work in any areas of ongoing concern.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

#### **Financial Implications**

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

21. The Local Authority works closely with Nottinghamshire Police and other investigative and enforcement agencies in order to monitor and respond to the issues raised in this report.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

22. Regular updates are made to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board and its sub-groups with regard to this agenda.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Committee:

- 1) identifies any actions it requires in relation to the issues contained in the report.
- 2) agrees to receive a full annual report for 2017-18 in the next six months.

**Laurence Jones**

**Interim Service Director, Commissioning and Resources**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (EP 22/02/18)**

23. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 21/02/18)**

24. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care annual report 2017 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 September 2017

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1095





**19<sup>th</sup> March 2018****Agenda Item:15****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE – ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL  
AND OPPORTUNITY TO REINVEST SAVINGS****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report updates Committee on the progress made in remodelling the Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education Service, and seeks approval to explore an alternative service delivery model that could enhance the Council's offer of open access youth provision in Nottinghamshire.

**Information**

2. The Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education Service form part of the Council's Early Help offer. The services enable the Council to fulfil its statutory requirements under Section 507 B of the Education Act 1996 as inserted by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which describes the duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13-19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their wellbeing.
3. Due to financial pressures and reduced funding year on year, youth services across the country have been significantly reduced or closed. It is therefore likely that whilst Nottinghamshire's Youth Service is directly delivered by the Local Authority, it will remain subject to financial constraints, and consequently puts the service's viability into question.
4. It is proposed that the Council should explore the merits of services moving to an alternative service delivery model such as a newly created charitable provider in early 2019 to deliver its Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education provision. Through adopting this approach, the Council would retain responsibility for determining the scope and standards of services to be provided through a contractual arrangement and appropriate governance structure. This would help to continue and sustain future high quality youth work provision in Nottinghamshire, whilst continuing to develop and grow the services that young people and the local community need.
5. This option builds on other successful work by moving services to a charitable provider. This may allow for reduced business rates and access to external funding streams that are not available to the Local Authority, thus attracting additional resources for Nottinghamshire's young people.

6. Remodelling and transferring the Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education Service to an external charitable provider may open opportunities to generate savings of up to £120,000 per annum. However the extent of any savings to be generated are unlikely to become clear until the Council has explored the alternative service delivery model in more detail. The potential savings generated from reduced business rates together with the savings identified below for Phase 1 may provide an opportunity to reinvest in the service to enhance the Council's offer of open access youth provision in Nottinghamshire. Any savings would be made on management costs and administrative efficiencies, as well as business rates, due to the company having charitable status. It is envisaged that savings may be created in two phases.

**Phase 1:**

In December 2017, Children and Young People's Committee approval was given to develop a revised staffing structure for the Outdoor and Environmental Education Service. This subsequently will generate savings of up to £50,000 per annum on management and operational costs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

Due to the recent concerns raised by local communities regarding the reduced service in their area from April 2018, as approved by Full Council in February 2016, it is proposed to retain a level of service via the two mobile youth provision and offer a reduced service in areas that are currently served, in part by looking at split sessions so that the service is delivered in a greater number of areas within the same budget allocation. The table below details the sessions that would continue post April 2018. There may also be an opportunity to re-establish mobile provision in areas such as Bingham and Southwell. The Youth Service withdrew direct delivery of youth work in these areas in October 2014 as its contribution to the Council's budget reduction, which was approved by Full Council on 27 February 2014.

Area	Location
Blidworth	Main Street
Tuxford	Opposite Comprehensive School
Langold	Main Street
Edwinstowe	Fourth Avenue
Arnold	Park
Killisick	Near community centre
Bestwood Estate	Park
Inham Nook	Inham Nook Park

**Phase 2:**

It is envisaged that by moving the service to an external charitable provider, it may create opportunities for the Council and the charity to make best use of its funding, whilst having access to new funding streams in order to improve the offer to young people and the local community. This approach may allow the new charity to access reduced business rates to reinvest into the services and its charitable objectives. It is envisaged that further savings may be achievable to reinvest to extend youth service provision during school holidays, and develop youth work provision in other areas of the County.

7. It is proposed that in order to fully scope and explore the merits of an alternative service delivery model for phase 2, internal project management support is secured to assist with consideration of the following:
- develop a project plan
  - the legal forms available and explore options of what the best governance arrangements could be
  - arrange regular stakeholder engagement sessions
  - consider potential additional costs (that the service does not normally have to deal with, for instance VAT)
  - disaggregated costs from central services and service level agreements
  - terms of occupation of properties with Corporate Property
  - develop an approach to transfer business support and Youth Service training function to the direct line management and budget of the service from April 2018
  - scope elements of risk and accountability and develop methods to mitigate, for instance Health & Safety functions
  - develop the most appropriate future governance structure for Beeston Youth and Community Centre
  - TUPE - Scope approach and implications and transfer staff
  - consider pension liabilities
  - plan in for return of Council equipment – for example, purchase cards, ICT equipment, swipe cards
  - consider branding and marketing for the newly created charity
  - look into contract management, along with the creation of the shadow board
8. In addition to securing internal project management support, there is also an opportunity to seek external advice from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, through its Mutuals Support Programme.
9. On completion of the development work for Phase 2, any recommendation for setting up an alternative service delivery model will be reported to the appropriate Committee for approval.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. The Council continues with the direct delivery of services: whilst this option provides continuity, the result of such an approach may be a reduction of services in response to increasing budgetary pressures from the demand for statutory services.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

11. Nottinghamshire County Council faces unprecedented financial challenges and thus further savings will be required. In creating a new charity, the proposals made offer an opportunity for the Council to continue and sustain high quality youth work provision in Nottinghamshire, whilst continuing to develop and grow the services that young people and the local community need.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

13. The move to an alternative form of governance through the formation of a charity will enable the service to make the proposed level of savings to reinvest into the Council's offer of open access youth provision in Nottinghamshire.
14. Once project management support is secured, work will be undertaken to establish and quantify the relevant set up costs. When this work has been completed a further progress report will be brought to the Committee. Any costs incurred in the meantime will be met from within existing resources where possible.
15. Increased access to grant funding will be facilitated once the service is not directly delivered by the County Council.

## **Implications for Service Users**

16. There would be no implications for service users as there would be no reduction in volume or quality of the service provided.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That approval is given to commence the development work to secure the future of the Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education Service in Nottinghamshire, as outlined in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, and for any identified savings to be reinvested in Youth Service provision.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

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**Constitutional Comments (SSR 01/03/18)**

17. This report falls within the scope of decisions which may be approved by the Children and Young People's Committee.

**Financial Comments (SAS 27/02/18)**

18. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 13 to 15 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Annual Budget 2014/15 – report to Full Council on 27 February 2014

Annual Budget 2016/17 – report to Full Council on 25 February 2016

Staffing restructure of the Outdoor and Environmental Education Service – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 December 2017

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1093



**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 16****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EPEC HUB COORDINATOR POST WITHIN EARLY  
HELP SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval for the establishment of a 0.6 full-time equivalent (fte) EPEC Hub Coordinator (Grade 5) post within Early Help Services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

**Information**

2. The Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) developed by the Centre for Parent and Child Support, South London and Maudsley NHS and the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) Research Unit, King's College, London, is an internationally recognised evidence-based peer-led parenting programme.
3. EPEC provides a system for training and supervising parent-led parenting groups that help parents to learn practical parenting skills for everyday family life and develop their abilities to bring up confident, happy and co-operative children. Free crèches are provided alongside each group and parents attending the course can choose to gain accreditation for their work through the Open College Network. The EPEC Team has received funding from NESTA and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to support the setting up and running of 16 new EPEC hubs in England.
4. In January 2018 Nottinghamshire's Family and Parenting Multi-Agency Planning Group submitted an application to become a partner in the EPEC Scaling Programme and the bid was accepted. Nottinghamshire's Family and Parenting Multi-Agency Planning Group includes representation from Public Health, Children's Centres, Social Care, Family Service, Support to Schools and CAMHS.
5. The EPEC project will last 18 months and will enable the Council to develop evidence based peer led parenting programmes in Nottinghamshire and will build on work already happening within Early Help Services. As part of the programme the Council is required to establish an EPEC Hub and employ a 0.6 fte Hub Coordinator whose role will be to work with partners to recruit parents to the programme, establish a model of accreditation and run a number of parenting programmes.
6. During the 18 months of the programme the focus will be on delivering the EPEC Scaling Programme to parents with children aged under 5 years. For this reason it is intended to



locate the Hub and the Hub Coordinator within Children's Centres through a secondment arrangement from the Family Service.

7. At the end of the 18 months the ambition is to take the learning and develop the EPEC model for families with children aged 5-12 years and for families with teenagers. This will enable the Council to build its capacity to deliver evidence based parenting programmes to families in Nottinghamshire.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. The EPEC Scaling Programme will enable Nottinghamshire to build evidence based peer-led parenting programmes for parents with children aged 0-18 years. This will build capacity in the system. The Hub Coordinator will drive the programme in Nottinghamshire, working closely with partners. The Coordinator will help to embed the learning within Early Help Services so that the programme can be widened to all families in need of early help and parenting support with children aged 0-18 years.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Data Protection and Information Governance**

11. As part of their induction, staff within Early Help undertake numerous induction activities around including e-learning in relation to data protection and information governance.

### **Financial Implications**

12. The EPEC Hub Coordinator post will be a Grade 5 post and over the lifetime of the programme will cost about £28,000 including salary related on-costs. The salary costs in 2018-19 are £18,955 and for 2019-20 will be £9,477.
13. There will be some running costs for the programme including administration, provision of crèche facilities and accreditation for parents who join the programme to become peer parenting trainers. Over the 18 month life of the EPEC Scaling Programme this will amount to about £25,000. The split for running costs would be £16,667 in 2018-19 and £8,333 in 2019-20. Both the Hub Coordinator post and running costs will be met from the Family Service budget.

## **Human Resources Implications**

14. The posts will be recruited to in accordance with the agreed Vacancy Control Process. The role has been evaluated through the Job Evaluation scheme as an indicative Grade 5.

## **Smarter Working Implications**

15. The EPEC Hub Coordinator will be seconded to Children's Centres and will have access to mobile devices to enable them to work flexibly across the County.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

16. All employees within Early Help services are subject to Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks. In addition, all staff as part of their induction complete safeguarding training both as part of their induction as well as for their continuous professional development.

## **Implications for Service Users**

17. EPEC is an evidence based peer-led parenting programme. It will provide parents who have graduated from parenting programmes or interventions to become facilitators of parenting programmes, build their confidence and gain accreditation.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That a 0.6 fte EPEC Hub Coordinator (Grade 5) post be established within Early Help Services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

**Steve Edwards**

**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (KK 22/02/18)**

18. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 01/03/18)**

19. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 12 and 13.

**HR Comments (EM 16/02/18)**

20. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. The role has been evaluated through the Job Evaluation scheme as an indicative Grade 5 role, and will be recruited to following the vacancy control process.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1098

**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 17****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****CHILD EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS FORTNIGHT - APRIL 2018****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to run a Child Employment Awareness Campaign during April 2018, to coincide with the National Campaign, Child Employment Awareness Month.

**Information**

2. Children and young people of school age (between 13-16 years) can work provided they have a valid work permit which it is the responsibility of local authorities to issue. There are laws and byelaws governing child employment to ensure children are protected from harm or exploitation and to ensure that their education does not suffer.
3. Not all employers are aware of the legislation in respect of employing a young person. The National Network Child Employment and Entertainment (NNCEE), of which Nottinghamshire is a member, undertakes a national awareness campaign every year throughout the month of April seeking to inform employers, schools, parents and young people of the child employment laws and byelaws.
4. It is proposed that the Council joins with colleagues from the NNCEE to raise awareness of the issues across Nottinghamshire employees who wish to employ young people.
5. The campaign will consist of:
  - Facebook adverts
  - Press release
  - Tweets from Council accounts
  - Poster campaign in schools and libraries
  - Employer visits
  - Letters to schools.
6. The objectives of the campaign will be to:
  - raise awareness of what child employment is
  - raise awareness with employers of their legal obligation regarding employing school aged children
  - raise awareness that parents and employers are legally obliged to notify the Local Authority when a child under the age of 16 years is being employed

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children working in Nottinghamshire.
7. The aim of the campaign will be to increase applications for child employment permits across Nottinghamshire, and to increase the usage of the Local Authority Child Employment website.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. To promote key messages about the law surrounding employment of children to ensure young people employed across Nottinghamshire do so safely, and under a valid permit.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

11. This is a low cost campaign because the activity will be undertaken by staff dedicated to this area of work and any other costs are minimal. Staffing and any other costs will be met from the Early Help Service budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the proposal to run a Child Employment Awareness Campaign during April 2018 be approved.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (SLB 21/02/18)**

12. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

**Financial Comments (SAS 23/02/18)**

13. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 11 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1099



**19 March 2018**

**Agenda Item: 18**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS**

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES DURING THE PERIOD 4 OCTOBER 2017 TO 5 FEBRUARY 2018**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To note the appointment of Local Authority (LA) governors to school governing bodies for the period 4 October, 2017 to 5 February, 2018
2. To note the appointment of an Additional Local Authority governor to the governing body of Hillocks Primary School.

#### **Information**

3. Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) Amendment Regulations 2014, governing bodies of maintained schools were required to reconstitute to a skills-based model of governance by September 2015, and are allowed one LA governor on the reconstituted governing body. For this model of governance, governing bodies may set eligibility criteria for, and appoint, the Local Authority governor.
4. Under these Regulations the County Council is responsible for nominating individuals as prospective governors. Nominations are made by the County Council, in accordance with the eligibility criteria provided by the governing body. When nominating new governors or re-nominating existing governors, the County Council must consider the skills and experience the governing body needs in order to be effective.
5. Local Authority governors nominated by the County Council and appointed by school governing bodies during the period 4 October 2017 to 5 February 2018 are as follows:

<b>ASHFIELD</b>	
Edgewood Primary and Nursery	Mr Olufemi Odubore <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
Selston Bagthorpe Primary	Ms Elizabeth Kitts <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	



Elkesley Primary and Nursery	Mr Barry Woodcock <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
Hallcroft Infant and Nursery	Cllr Anthony Arthur Dannie Tromans <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
Langold Dyscarr Community	Mr Mark James Roper <b>New appointment to the category of LA governor</b>
Misson Primary	Mr Kevin Houghton <b>New appointment to the category of LA governor</b>
Ordsall Primary	Mr Michael Storey <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
<b>BROXTOWE</b>	
Gilthill Primary	Mr Mark Bayliss <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
<b>GEDLING</b>	
Woodthorpe Infant	Dr Gary Jones <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
<b>MANSFIELD</b>	
Crescent Primary	Mr Ian Frederick Elton MBE <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
Oak Tree Primary	Mr David French <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
<b>RUSHCLIFFE</b>	
Brookside Primary	Mrs Reesha Simone Armstead <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
Carnarvon Primary	Mr Peter Broekhuizen <b>Existing governor, now appointed to the category of LA on the same governing body</b>
Lady Bay Primary	Mr Martin Holden <b>New appointment to the category of LA governor</b>

6. The appointment of an Additional Local Authority governor to the governing body of Hillocks Primary School is as follows:

Hillocks Primary	Mr Colin Barnard
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### Other Options Considered

7. No other options have been considered.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

8. This report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee notes the appointment of Local Authority and Additional Local Authority governors to school governing bodies during the period 4 October 2017 to 5 February 2018 as listed in paragraphs 5 and 6.

**Marion Clay**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

11. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required

## **Financial Comments (SAS 16/02/18)**

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

## **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

Hucknall West	Cllr Kevin Rostance
Selston	Cllr David Martin
Worksop South	Cllr Kevin Greaves
Retford West	Cllr Mike Quigley
Blyth and Harworth	Cllr Sheila Place
Misterton	Cllr Tracey Taylor
Retford East	Cllr Steve Vickers
Greasley and Brinsley	Cllr John Handley
Arnold South	Cllr John Clarke and Cllr Muriel Weisz
Mansfield West	Cllr Paul Henshaw and Cllr Diana Meale
Sutton Central and East	Cllr Samantha Deakin
Mansfield East	Cllr Vaughan Hopewell and Cllr Martin Wright
Leake and Ruddington	Cllr Reg Adair and Cllr Andy Brown
Bingham	Cllr Francis Purdue-Horan
West Bridgford North	Cllr Liz Plant

C1094

**19 March 2018****Agenda Item: 20**

## **REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2017-18.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme. It may be that the presentations about activities in the committee's remit will help to inform this.

#### **Other Options Considered**

4. None.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

5. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the committee's work programme be noted and consideration be given to any changes which the committee wishes to make.

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
**Corporate Director, Resources**

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## **Constitutional Comments (HD)**

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (NS)**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>
<b>23 April 2018</b>			
Diagnostic review of Children's Services		Steve Edwards	Helen Lester
Elective Home Education		Marion Clay	Linda Foster/ Jonathan Smith
Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-18 – annual update	Annual update report	Laurence Jones	Sean Kelly
Children and Young People's Commissioning Plan 2018-19		Laurence Jones	Jon Hawketts
Improving Life Chances and Tackling Child Poverty Action Plan		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Schools Forum and Education Trust Board officer group report	Annual officer group report	Marion Clay	Linda Foster
Children in Care Council report		Steve Edwards	Pom Bhogal
<b>21 May 2018</b>			
Children's Workforce Health Check Survey 2016-17		Laurence Jones	Liz Maslen
Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms 'New Burdens' Grants 2016/17 and 2017/18 – progress	Report back on spend & activities	Laurence Jones	Jill Norman/ Chris Jones
Placement costs and budget for Looked After Children		Laurence Jones	Jon Hawketts
Progress report on Adoption Services restructure, staffing restructure of the Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement Group and Increase in establishment of Personal Advisor posts/ pilot		Colin Pettigrew	Tara Pasque/ Jon Hawketts/ Amanda Collinson/ Holly Smitheman
<b>18 June 2018</b>			
Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2017/18) – Services for Children and Young People	Quarterly performance report	Celia Morris	Dave Gilbert

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire – six-month update	Six monthly update report	Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Principal Child and Family Social Worker - annual report 2017	For information	Steve Edwards	Diana Bentley
Integration of transfer of Looked After Children with disabilities from children's to adult services		Steve Edwards	Jill Norman/Amanda Collinson
Co-production Charter – co-producing services with families		Laurence Jones	Chris Jones
Advocacy Service annual report		Steve Edwards	Ty Yousaf
Local Authority governor appointments/ reappointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	Marion Clay	Jane Mansell
<b>Corporate Parenting items:</b>			
Independent Reviewing Officer Service annual report		Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin
CAMHS Looked After and Adoption team annual report		Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles
Fostering Service annual report		Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Virtual School annual report		Steve Edwards	Janeen Parker
Foster carers' items			
<b>16 July 2018</b>			
Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Children's Workforce Health Check Survey 2017-18		Laurence Jones	Liz Maslen
<b>To be placed</b>			
Review of the Schools Swimming Service offer		Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Progress with Special Educational Needs & Disability Strategy and Action Plan		Laurence Jones	Jill Norman
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - review		Steve Edwards	Holly Smitheman
Outcome of Ofsted inspections of schools – termly update	Spring term report	Marion Clay	Linda Foster

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Teacher recruitment communication strategy		Marion Clay	Linda Foster
Teacher recruitment campaign strategy – progress reports		Marion Clay	Linda Foster



