

## **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

**Monday, 13 March 2017 at 14:00**

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

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### **AGENDA**

1	Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 December 2016	3 - 8
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
4	Performance Reporting (Quarter 3 2016-17) - Services for Looked After Children & Care Leavers	9 - 16
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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 Julie Brailsford (Tel. 0115 977 4694) 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	CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE
Date	Monday 12 December 2016 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Liz Plant (Chairman)

A Maureen Dobson  
Boyd Elliott  
Kate Foale  
Darren Langton

A Philip Owen  
Sue Saddington  
A Andy Sissons  
Jacky Williams

**Foster Carer**

Sarah Maiden

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Julie Brailsford	-	Democratic Services Officer, Resources
Sue Denholm	-	Co-ordinator, Virtual School
Laurence Jones	-	Group Manager
Michelle Lee	-	Children's Services Manager
Izzy Martin	-	Service Manager
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Group Manager, Access to Resources
Janeen Parker	-	Acting Team Manager, Virtual School
Colin Pettigrew	-	Corporate Director, Children, Families & Cultural Services
Georgina Staveley	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services.
Kathryn Higgins	-	Designated Nurse, Children in Care County CCGS

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maureen Dobson, Phillip Owen and Andy Sissons.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

It was reported that Councillor Darren Langton had been appointed in place of Councillor Colleen Harwood for this meeting only.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2016-17) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN & CARE LEAVERS**

This report provided the committee with a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- There had been a reduction in the number of looked after children, this was due to children leaving care at 18 and younger children being moved in to adoption in a more timely manner.
- Teenagers had more complex needs and were the biggest strain on the budget at a current cost of £2,300 to £6,000 per week per child.
- There was constant auditing to ensure that children who were still living at home were being supported.

## **RESOLVED 2016/027**

To note the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 July to 30 September 2016.

## **AUTUMN TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

This report was introduced by the Chair of the committee who stated that it was important to note that the report was based on provisional, unvalidated outcomes for Nottinghamshire Looked After Children (LAC) in 2016. That care should be taken when comparing the key stage outcomes of LAC due to the small cohort sizes. There had been a number of significant changes to key performance measures over recent years and therefore comparisons could not be made with Key stage 1, 2 and 4.

The report was then presented by Janeen Parker, the Acting Team Manager for the Virtual School. The data was based on teacher assessments and the percentage figures could ideally be higher. This year's reading paper had been very challenging

and there was a combined drop of 12% across the Country and a similar figure within Notts. In maths the Value Added figure (progress made) at +1.97 was higher than the national average at +1.00. There had been a small decline in the English and Maths and work was being done with schools to ensure that LAC achieved a level C or above.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Data officer could internally keep track of LAC attendance at school and worked with school to improve the attendance figures.
- LAC moving schools resulted in 'lost learning' and therefore all moves were due to no alternative being available.
- Foster carers felt they had enough problems with the LAC without the added pressure of encouraging the children to do their homework.
- Schools needed to be held accountable for the children's performance. Pressure was being put on schools to use the pupil premium correctly and provide teaching support by a teacher rather than a teaching assistant.
- In future all data for LAC would be on one database and therefore providing more comparable information. The first set of reports would be produced in February 2017.

## **RESOLVED 2016/028**

To note the update on the virtual school for the autumn term 2016.

## **NEW ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR 16-21 YEAR OLDS**

The report providing an update on the Supported Accommodation services for 16 -21 year olds was introduced by Laurence Jones, team manager for the Early Help Services. The supported accommodation pathway and provision was commissioned in 2015 jointly between the Family Services, Children's Social Care and Public Health, resulting in four contracts across three providers. Three of the contracts had resulted in providing 220 units across Nottinghamshire and an additional 7 emergency bed spaces for young people presenting 'in a housing crisis'. The fourth contract was a county wide Host Families Service providing 20 Supported Lodging placements and 10 Nightstop placements.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- A visit by the Chair to a hostel in Lady Bay had shown that there were lots of events and community engagement.
- It was felt that there was 'good value for money' from the contracts of the providers.
- People waiting for planned moves were also on the waiting list for the accommodation. The move to independence was planned carefully with the

help of their social worker. There was also a priority system for 18-21 year olds who may have a vulnerability.

- 'Mediated' referred to 16 and 17 year olds who presented as homeless and work was done with their parents to access if it was safe for them to go home.

## **RESOLVED 2016/029**

To note the content of the report.

## **LEAVING CARE SERVICE UPDATE**

The report provided an update on the Leaving Care Service. The service was part of the Throughcare Service and provided advice, support and guidance to young people who had left the care of the Authority and were over the age of 18 years. Since the last update report there had been no change to the staffing structure,

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Concern was expressed that there was an increasing number of young people in care who on turning 18 were not in education, employment or training. To help alleviate this earlier intervention was required (at KS4) with schools to find out if their curriculum matched what the young person wanted to achieve and therefore on the correct courses.
- How difficult it was to leave a structured environment and move into an independent way of living. The most vulnerable needed a mentor but there was not the resource to provide this therefore work with other providers strategically was required. There was a 'data share' agreement to collate any concerns about a young person.
- A further specific report on the young people detailed in paragraph 8 was requested by the committee. 'Other reasons' was described as limited educational achievement.
- Work was currently being undertaken with the young asylum seekers who were in the area. Currently they were all male who were vulnerable and had complex problems.

## **RESOLVED 2016/030**

To note the report

## **INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE – SIX MONTH UPDATE**

Izzy Martin, Service Manager for the Independent Chair Service presented the report. She was pleased to report that the service was fully staffed with permanent employees and this provided a very good, stable service.

Workshops had been held locally with Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) looking at different ways of engaging with the young people. Currently, child friendly reports were being piloted, this was a shorter and simplified document written specifically for the child and so far had been well received.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/031**

To note the update on the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April to September 2016.

#### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The updated work programme was discussed and considered by Members.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/032**

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

#### **FOSTER CARERS ITEMS**

There were no items for discussion from foster carers.

The meeting closed at 2.57pm.

#### **CHAIRMAN**

12 December 2016





13 March 2017

Agenda Item: 4

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 2016/17) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS**

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

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1 October and 31 December 2016.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee agreed to receive quarterly performance reports on key indicators for looked after children (LAC) and care leavers on 14 September 2015. This report provides an update of the regular set of performance information, whereby the most up-to-date information is reported for each measure, unless otherwise indicated.
3. Performance information is set out in **Appendix 1**. Key indicators are aligned against the outcome statements in the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18. This strategy identifies six outcomes to be achieved, and these are listed below:
  - 1) Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy
  - 2) Looked after children and care leavers are safe
  - 3) Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential
  - 4) Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood
  - 5) Looked after children and care leavers are listened to
  - 6) Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.

Progress is expected across all outcomes over the course of the three years.

4. In order to ensure that the associated activity for each outcome is realistic, deliverable and focused, an Annual Action Plan has been in operation throughout 2016/17. The Annual Action Plan is monitored and reviewed by the multi-agency Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group. Key successes of the Strategy in 2016/17 to date include:
  - Implementing a robust process to ensure that Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) placed in Nottinghamshire receive the same health provision as other Looked After Children in the County. There is ongoing liaison between health and the Local Authority to ensure there continues to be adequate planning for services.

- A recent audit indicates that there is a sound process in place to ensure that children and young people are seen alone by their social worker, to ensure that they are given the opportunity to raise any concerns about where they are living.
- Social workers are working collaboratively with the Fostering Service and Supported Accommodation providers to ensure that appropriate placements are identified for children and young people, and that appropriate and relevant support is provided to placements.
- Since 1 July 2016, The Children's Society have been commissioned to deliver a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) / Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) service for children and young people where significant concerns around CSE/CSA have been identified. The Children's Society CSE workers are now well embedded within the Looked After Children Team and have been working positively with the LAC social workers.
- A rolling training programme has ensured that all LAC and Leaving Care staff are C-Card trained, to support young people with their sexual health needs.
- All 16 and 17-year-old Looked After Children have access to "Get Ready For Adult Life" materials.
- A series of workshops have been held with 25 Looked After Children and Care Leavers to support the County Council in the development of an "app" for participation; the technical development is now underway.
- The Children in Care Council Sub-Groups and No Labels have met six times since April 2016, to ensure that Looked After Children and Care Leavers have had the opportunity to be actively involved in sharing their views and opinions on the services they access.

5. The Annual Action Plan for 2017/18 is currently being developed by the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group. Feedback from the Children in Care Council, following their review of the Strategy, is being utilised to ensure that key actions and priorities align with needs and wishes of our service users.

## Key Operational Data

6. As at the end of December 2016, a total of 798 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which is a rate of 49.1 per 10,000 children. This figure has consistently remained below our national and statistical neighbour comparators. The number of children being admitted into care has remained relatively stable from the previous quarter. However, there has been a slight decrease in the number of discharges from care.

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Numbers of children in care (as at Quarter end)	856	851	855	875	867	839	798	792	798
LAC Rate per 10,000	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.7	53.1	51.1	48.9	48.7	49.1
Number of children admitted into care	94	100	103	100	87	77	64	80	84
Number of children discharged from care	95	109	92	82	90	104	91	81	64
Number of care leavers (as at Quarter end)+					302	224	219	226	238

+Accurate care leavers data was only collected on a quarterly basis from Q3 2015-16 onwards

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
Age Range	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Under 1	40	41	40	43	37	27	27	30	46
1-4 years	125	118	123	128	131	112	90	93	95
5-9 years	176	170	168	168	171	163	151	147	137
10-15 years	302	312	317	335	341	345	344	335	335
16+ years	213	210	207	201	187	192	186	187	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>798</b>

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
Gender	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Male	447	448	447	456	465	452	429	439	445
Female	409	403	408	419	402	387	369	353	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>798</b>

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
District	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Ashfield	213	212	214	214	211	202	201	192	196
Mansfield	166	175	168	182	186	184	169	186	187
Bassetlaw	156	156	158	160	154	149	142	134	132
Newark	124	129	127	130	133	123	116	116	124
Broxtowe	54	55	57	56	54	51	49	46	45
Gedling	56	56	55	67	62	63	60	62	54
Rushcliffe	28	22	23	17	18	21	20	19	16
Out of County/Unknown	58	46	53	49	49	46	41	37	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>798</b>

7. Much of the increase in looked after children this quarter is in Newark. Quarter 3 has seen the third consecutive quarterly increase in the proportion of looked after children that are babies (under 1). It is now 6% of the total, double what it was in quarter 1. The other age groups have remained in largely the same proportions. The gender profile of looked after children is the same as it was in quarter 2.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. No other options have been considered as the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is required to have oversight of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers.

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

9. The recommendations are made so that the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee can effectively fulfil the role required of it.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

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

11. 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.

### **Implications for Service Users**

12. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children and young people are in receipt of high quality services.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Sub-Committee notes the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 October to 31 December 2016.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Children's Social Care**

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

Shelagh Mitchell  
Group Manager, Access to Resources  
T: 0115 977 74169  
E: shelagh.mitchell@nottsgov.uk

### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

14. There are no direct 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 19.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

Developing arrangements for reporting performance to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 14 September 2015

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

All.

C0952



### Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee: Performance Update - Mar 2017

The key indicators identified below are aligned against the outcome statements in the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy. All indicators are updated with the most up-to-date information as at the time of writing the report. These six outcomes are: 1). Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy, 2). Looked after children and care leavers are safe, 3). Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential, 4). Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood, 5). Looked after children and care leavers are listened to, 6). Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships. (p) = provisional data

Update	LAC & Care Leavers Strategy Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire						
			Current Value	Current Reporting Period	Best to be	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy	<b>1.1</b>	Average Strengths and Difficulties Question (SDQ) Score per LAC	14.5	2015/16	High	15.4	15.4 (2014/15)	14.0 (2015/16)	14.3 (2015/16)
	<b>N/A</b>	Percentage of LAC with up to date immunisations	84.7%	2015/16	High	80.7%	80.7% (2014/15)	87.2% (2015/16)	87.2% (2015/16)
	<b>N/A</b>	Percentage of LAC who have had their teeth checked by a dentist	53.4% (TBC)	2015/16	High	77.2%	77.2% (2014/15)	84.1% (2015/16)	77.8% (2015/16)
	<b>1.5</b>	Percentage of LAC who have had their annual health assessment	82.2%	2015/16	High	80.7%	80.7% (2014/15)	90.0% (2015/16)	89.4% (2015/16)
	<b>N/A</b>	Percentage of LAC whose development assessments are up to date	30% (TBC)	2015/16	High	70.6%	70.6% (2014/15)	83.2% (2015/16)	58.0% (2015/16)
	<b>N/A</b>	Percentage of LAC identified as having a substance misuse problem	6%	2015/16	Low	3%	3.0% (2014/15)	4.0% (2015/16)	3.4% (2015/16)
Looked after children and care leavers are safe	<b>2.1</b>	Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation	83.2%	2016/17 Q3	High	81.0%	79.5% (2015/16)	83% (2015/16)	79.3% (2015/16)
	<b>2.3</b>	Percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC missing from placement by individual child	8.3%	2016/17 Q3	Low	8.8%	9.2% (2015/16)	9% (2015/16)	8.9% (2015/16)
	<b>N/A</b>	Return Interviews completed within timescale	50%	2016/17 Q3	High	47%	55% (2015/16)	–	–
	<b>N/A</b>	Percentage of LAC convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand	0.0%	2015/16	Low	1.0%	1.0% (2014/15)	5% (2015/16)	3.9% (2015/16)
Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential (annual)	<b>3.1</b>	Percentage of LAC achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English & Maths) at KS4	13.6% (p)	2015/16	High	14.8%	14.8%	13.8% (2014/15)	13.9% (2014/15)
	<b>3.2</b>	Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Reading	56%	2015/16	High	not comparabl	–	–	–
	<b>3.2</b>	Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Writing	44%	2015/16	High	not comparabl	–	–	–
	<b>3.2</b>	Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS1 in Maths	44%	2015/16	High	not comparabl	–	–	–
	<b>3.2</b>	Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Reading	31%	2015/16	High	not comparabl	–	–	–
	<b>3.2</b>	Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Writing	33%	2015/16	High	not comparabl	–	–	–

Update	LAC & Care Leavers Strategy Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire						
			Current Value	Current Reporting Period	Best to be	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving expected standard at KS2 in Maths	29%	2015/16	High	not comparabl	–	–	–
	3.3	Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training aged 19-21	49.2%	2016/17 Q3	High	46.5%	47.3% (2015/16)	49% (2015/16)	44.5% (2015/16)
	3.3	Percentage of care leavers in higher education aged 19-21	5.0%	2016/17 Q3	High	4.0%	4.5% (2015/16)	7.0% (2015/16)	6.1% (2015/16)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC permanently excluded	0.0%	2014/15	Low	0.0%	0.0% (2014/15)	0.13% (2014/15)	0.13% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	14.6%	2014/15	Low	12.6%	12.6% (2013/14)	10.3% (2014/15)	10.3% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC classed as persistent absentees*	3.1%	2014/15	Low	4.1%	4.1% (2013/14)	4.9% (2014/15)	4.8% (2014/15)
Looked after children are prepared for adulthood	5.3	Percentage of LAC with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan	51.1%	2016/17 Q3	High	43.9%	62.6% (2015/16)	–	–
Looked after children and care leavers are listened to	5.2	Percentage of LAC who took up the opportunity to be consulted by their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to the LAC Review Meeting	37.4%	2016/17 Q3	High	37.8%	37.1% (2015/16)	–	–
	5.4	Percentage of LAC who felt their IRO involved them in the LAC Review they attended	97.0%	Feb-16	High	100.0%	–	–	–
	5.4	Percentage of LAC who felt listened to in the LAC Review they attended	90.0%	Feb-16	High	92.0%	–	–	–
	5.1	Percentage of LAC and care leavers who have completed a Listen to Me booklet	30.6%	2016/17 Q3	High	29.4%	31.0% (2015/16)	–	–
Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationship	6.2	Percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year	8.8%	2016/17 Q3	Low	8.6%	10.4% (2015/16)	10% (2014/15)	10% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of looked after children placed 20 miles or more from home	13.3%	2016/17 Q3	Low	13.7%	11.9% (2015/16)	14% (2014/15)	13.4% (2014/15)

\*Data for 2013/14 is based on pupils attending a Nottinghamshire school only. Pupils attending out of county schools are not included.



**13 March 2017****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS  
AND INCLUSION****SPRING TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER  
CHILDREN****Purpose of the Report**

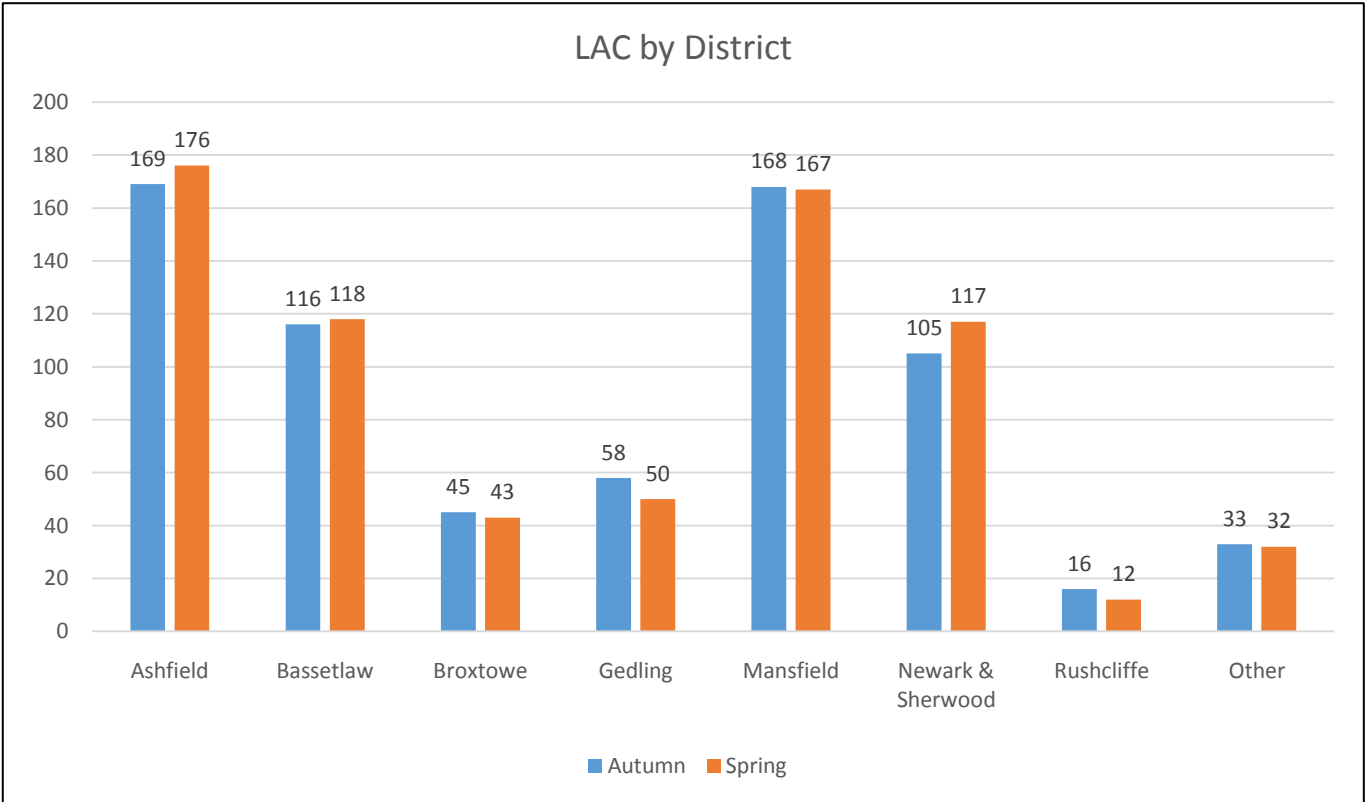
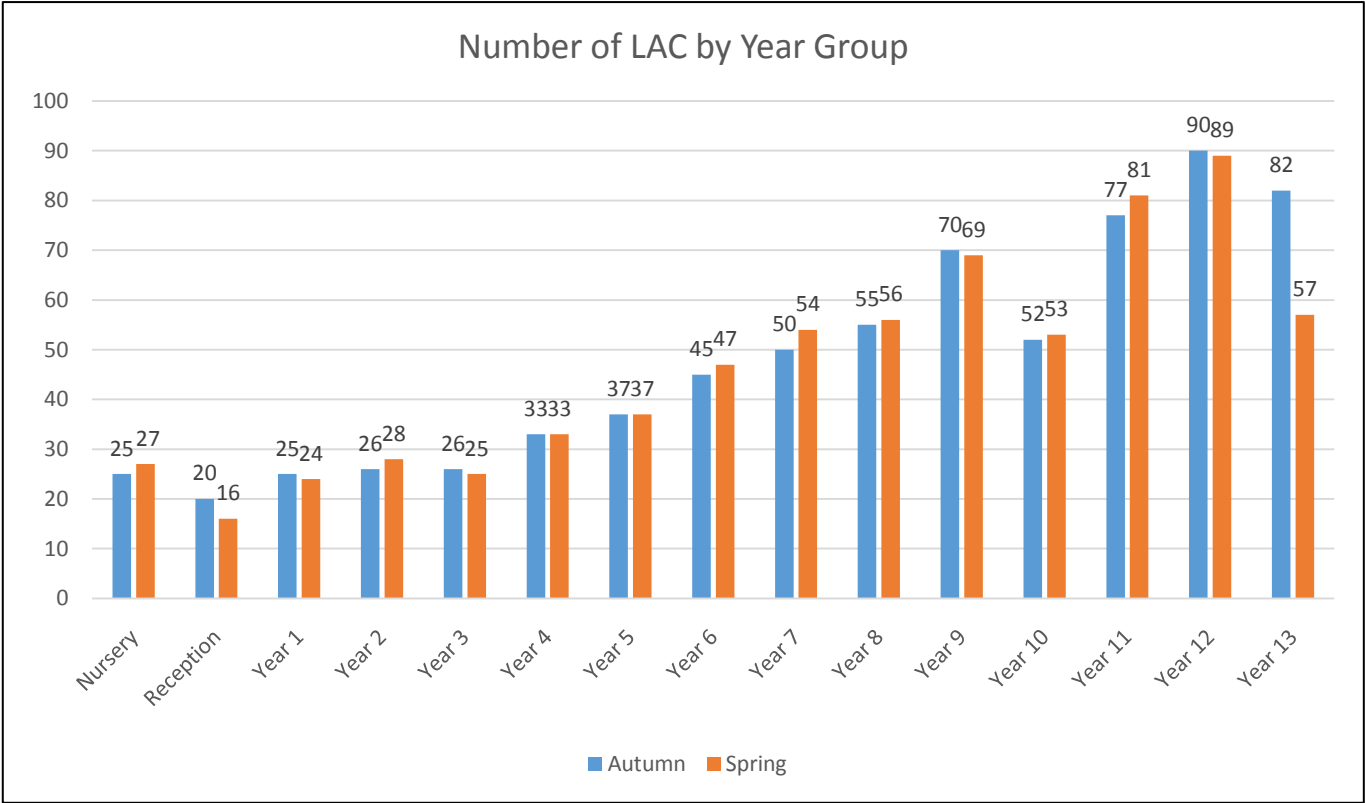
1. To update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on the virtual school for the spring term 2017.

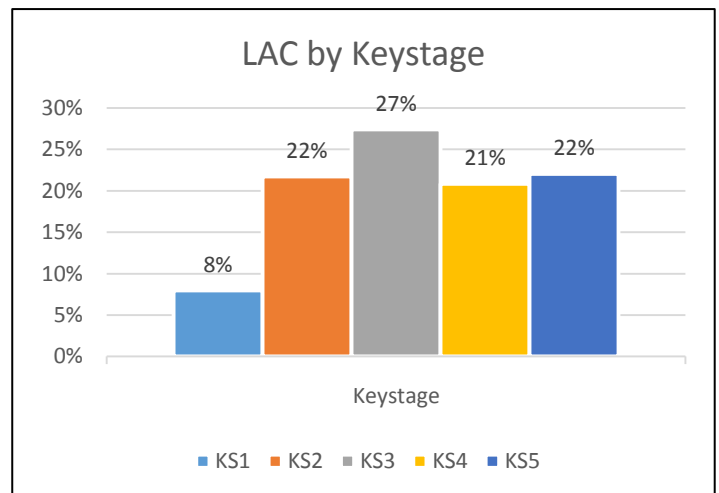
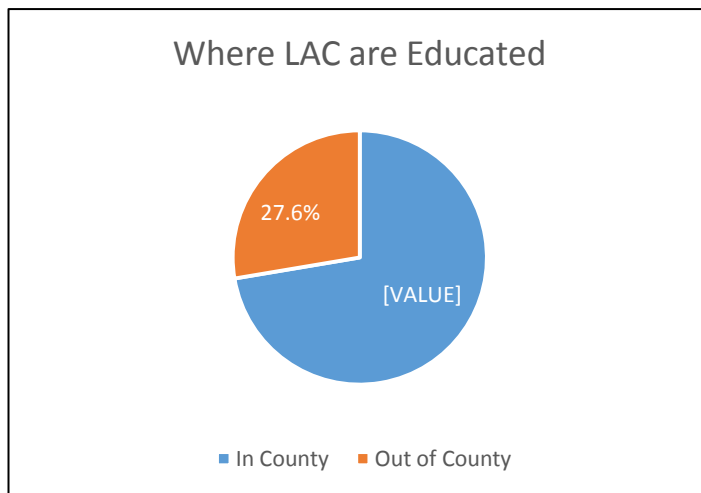
**Information and Advice****Virtual School Senior Leadership Team, School Improvement Plan and termly tracking processes**

2. The senior leadership team (SLT) meets on a termly basis to review the virtual school's improvement plan.
3. The collection of the autumn termly teacher assessment data along with other relevant pupil level information such as progress towards attainment and learning targets, attendance, behaviour, attitudes to learning has been completed. This valuable and crucial process enables the virtual school team to closely track, monitor and intervene as appropriate to ensure Looked After Children (LAC) continue to make progress and achieve their potential. The tracking information is also used productively during meetings with schools, social workers and carers to inform discussions about interventions or support that may be required for a LAC in schools or educational settings.

**Numbers on roll and composition of Nottinghamshire's Virtual School**

4. The number of LAC in each key stage, year group, residence and educational location is shown below. The current total for LAC at statutory school age in Nottinghamshire's virtual school is 523 (compared to 516 in the autumn report and 559 in 2015-16). The profile of the virtual school in 2016-17 is broadly similar to its profile in 2015-16 with the exception of the Year 9 cohort where there appears to have been a noticeable increase in LAC numbers. All information below correct as of 26 January 2017.

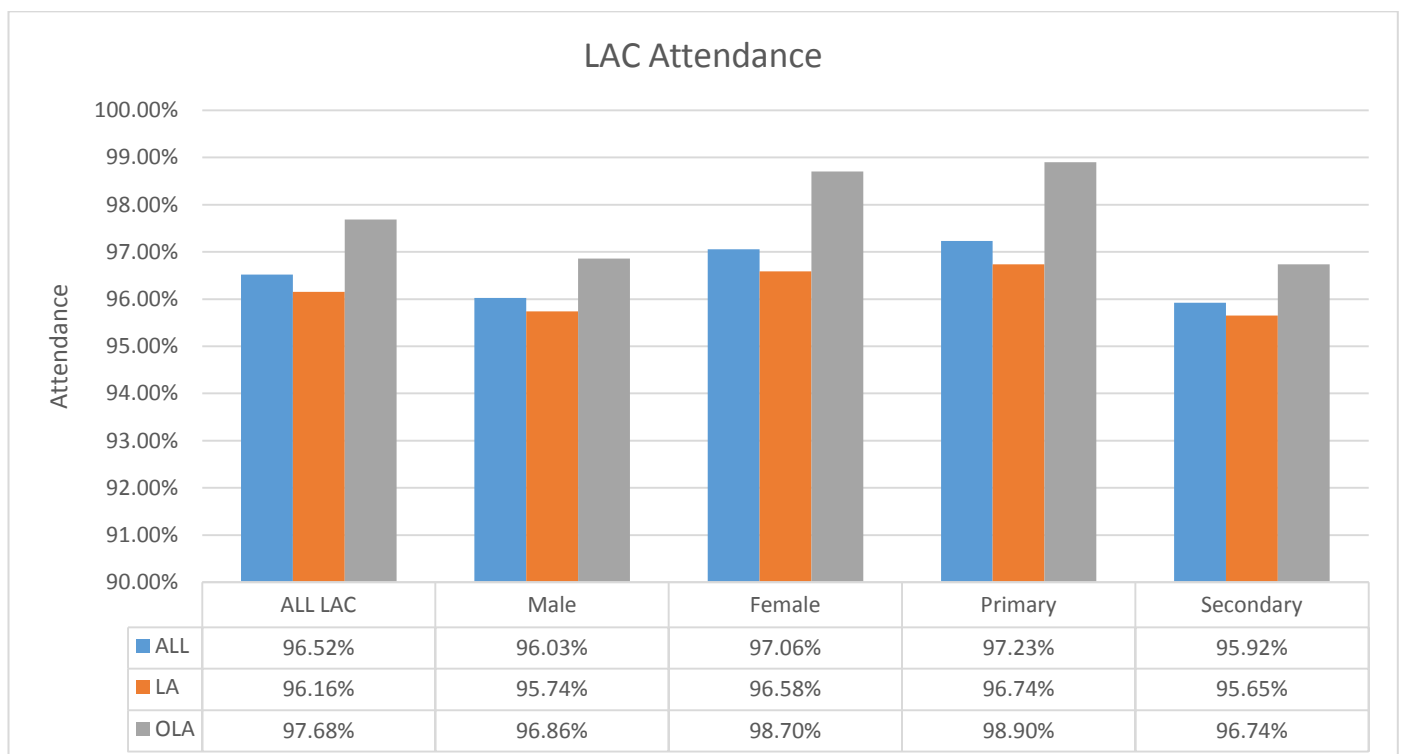




## Commentary on 2016 outcomes for LAC

- A detailed commentary on the provisional, unvalidated outcomes for Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children was provided in the autumn term report to Corporate Parenting Sub Committee. Validated results are not expected to be released until the end of March 2017 and therefore the previously reported outcomes remain unchanged.

## Attendance



The above information is based on internally collected data from schools which includes a 98% return from primary schools and an 81% return from secondary schools.

6. The chart is based on all of Nottinghamshire's LAC both in and out of county (OLA – educated out of local authority). It is pleasing to note that our 'out of county' LAC have secured very good attendance. The national expectation is that schools should aim for above 95% pupil attendance. Nottinghamshire's LAC cohort's attendance rate is above this figure in both the primary and secondary phases.

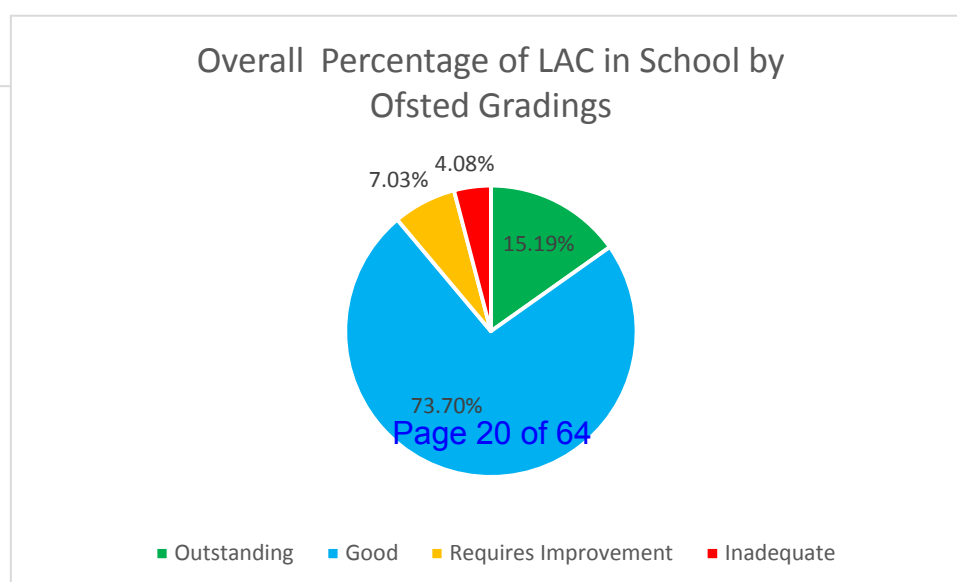
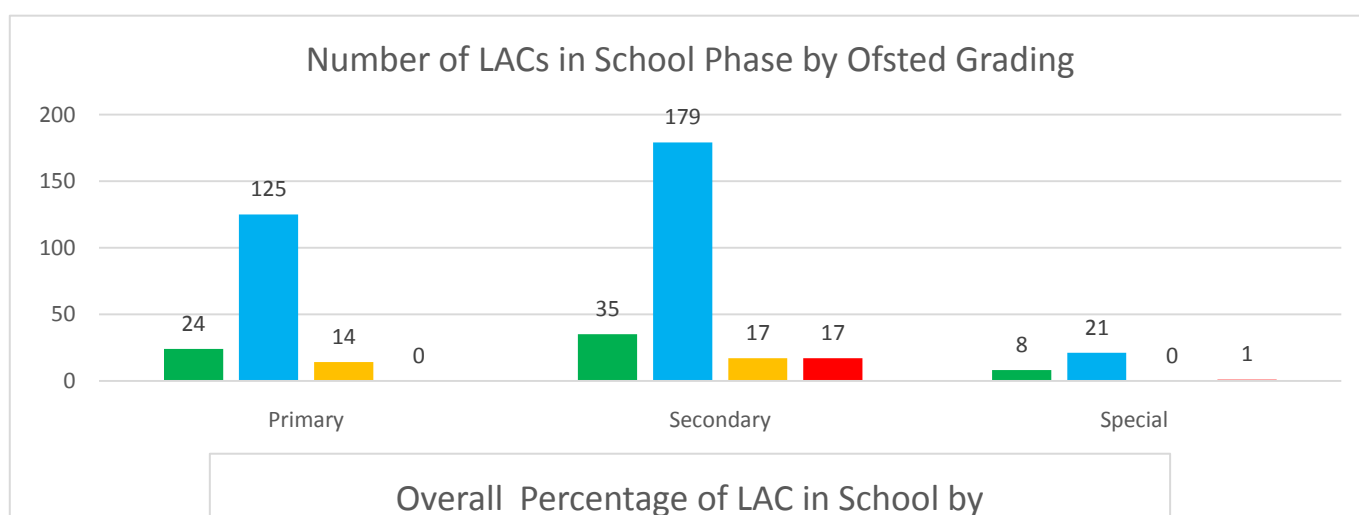
## NEXUS project

7. Nexus is a national project supported by the Association of Children's Services Directors which aims to create a **consistent, national evidence-based system** to assist with reporting the educational outcomes of LAC children. It is hoped that in the future, this will enable local authorities to **assess, monitor and report** on the educational achievement and progress of children in care (both nationally and locally, and at both an institutional and individual level). This project is due to be fully operational in spring 2017.

To date the progress made includes:

- data access agreements have now been agreed which will enable the population of data into proposed reports.
- draft reports have been circulated to a selected group of local authority Virtual School Heads and Data Analysts for comment. Feedback will then be used to inform any required amendments before usage during the first phase of the project.

## LAC placements in schools according to Ofsted Grading



8. Wherever possible, the local authority adheres to the statutory guidance as set out in 'Promoting the Education of Looked After Children' (July 2014), which advises that all looked after children should be placed in good or better schools.
9. It is noted that there continues to be an improvement in the percentage of LAC being educated in good or better schools.

### **Attachment Aware Schools**

10. The virtual school continues to work with a number of partnerships of schools to develop good practice across the County in supporting the needs of children and young people with attachment difficulties. In collaboration with the educational psychology service, we are currently undertaking evidence-based research across our Attachment Aware School Partnerships into the impact of this professional development project. This research will be undertaken by a research assistant and a report will be written and shared in due course.

### **Multi Model Project**

11. Nottinghamshire's Multi-Modal literacy project, led by Dr Petula Bhojwani from Nottingham Trent University, is now in its 6th year of development and in 2016-17 there has been a very positive focus on enabling secondary school-aged LAC pupils to use 'tablet' technology to further develop their confidence in literacy and 'app' technology. The Ashfield School took part with 10 LAC pupils accessing the project. The end of the sessions culminated in a presentation by the young people and a 'skype' interview with the author of the book used by the pupils to produce their literacy apps. All the pupils reported an increase in their enjoyment of tackling literacy projects and staff witnessed an increase in the confidence of all the pupils when taking part in the literacy based activities. The school is now using the software to maintain engagement with multi model activities and it is hoped the young people will feel confident to support others in the school to access support in accessing exciting literacy opportunities. This particular project is to be written up and published in a book.
12. The 2017 project for primary-aged LAC pupils is just about to begin for a targeted cohort of learners. New resources and book materials are currently under development and we hope that the LAC pupils involved, supported by Dr Petula Bhojwani and officers from the Virtual School, will be able to 'show-case' their learning at Nottinghamshire's high profile Closing the Educational Gaps conference in July 2017.

### **Letterbox Club**

13. The virtual school has received the evaluation of the 2016/17 'Letterbox Club' project. Once again, feedback suggests that it has been very well received with both carers and children/young people very much enjoying the parcels and contents. The evaluation has indicated a positive impact on the participants' enjoyment of reading and in some cases inspired children to begin reading with their carers.

### **Good News**

14. Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children for a host of reasons including achieving accelerated learning, reaching targets and beyond target grades and accomplishments in sports and drama.

### **Other Options Considered**

15. No other options have been considered.

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

16. This report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the update on the virtual school for the spring term 2017 be noted.

**Marion Clay**

**Acting Service Director, Education Standards and Improvement**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

19. There are no direct 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.

Autumn term report of the virtual school for looked after children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 13 December 2016.

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

All.

C0953





**13 March 2017****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****CONTACT SERVICE UPDATE****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 and Advice**

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. **Core Offer**
  - 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. The Contact Service provides an average (from data January – December 2016) of 678 contacts per month, or 169 per week, which is a small reduction on the previous year.

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.

From April 2016 – January 2017 the number of supervised contacts were split across the county as:

- Central 1785 – Supervised Contacts
- North 1317 – Supervised Contacts
- South 1069 – Supervised Contacts

Over the previous year 44% of the children who have supervised contact are 4 years and under and 56% of children are 5 years and older.

## 8. Venues

We have 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 recently adapted kitchen area which works well for older children. There is a service level agreement with the School and we pay a charge for the costs. 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 those 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. There will shortly be some major building work, which will cause disruption but may result in better use of the building longer term. This venue is used for higher risk contacts.

#### **Central:**

**Sandy Bank** – This is considered as the central base of the Contact Service, as this is where the managers and business support officers are based. The team leaders do work across their area in the respective venues to ensure management presence and oversight. Sandy Bank has ten 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** – One room is available at all times and following current building work it is hoped to have the use of a second, larger room. 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, especially after school.

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

### **9. Transport**

It is now embedded 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.

### **10. Staffing**

The establishment is: 0.5 f.t.e. Children's Service Manager, three f.t.e Team Leaders, and 24 f.t.e. Contact Support Workers. We have a pool of seven Relief Contact Support Workers to support with the flow of work and cover emergencies. The workers are assigned to a particular area, although there is an acknowledgement that we are a countywide service and at times flexibility is required to cover contacts.

Service delivery is Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 7 pm and some occasional weekend work.

### **11. Training**

It is now a specification of the job description that children's Contact Support Workers hold a Level 3 City and Guilds Diploma in Children and Young People's Workforce. In the past year training was undertaken by those CSWs who needed this qualification.

### **12. Systems**

The supervised contact episode on Framework is being updated to remove unnecessary information and ensure that the episode contains the necessary information for reporting purposes.

Onespace is used for planning and scheduling contact and this is effective and fit for purpose.

All staff have a Lenovo Think Pad, this enables recording well within the seven days limit. Beeston and Sandy Bank now have Wi-Fi installed in the buildings which supports connectivity for staff.

### **13. Review**

Contact arrangements are regularly revised to ensure the service maintains its core offer and that this offer meets the needs of children and families.

### **Other Options Considered**

14. The report is for noting only.

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

15. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That the Sub-Committee notes the contents of the report.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Children's Social Care**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

18. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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

Contact Service Annual Data Report.

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

All

C0955



**13 March 2017****Agenda Item: 7**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

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

1. To provide information about the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 s.26A imposes a duty on the Local Authority to make arrangements for the provision of advocacy services to support a young person who intends to make a complaint. Subsequent statutory guidance on care planning, child protection and the fostering National Minimum Standards all make reference to children having a right to access advocacy support.
3. Since 1 April 2014 the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children (LAC) in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City has been provided by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) as a joint contract. The contract was awarded to NYAS following a competitive tendering process. The NYAS bid was scored most highly by the Children in Care Council and the Commissioning Teams from City and County. The bid was favoured because in addition to having years of experience of delivering specialist advocacy services NYAS has a 24 hour helpline which can be accessed by all Nottinghamshire's LAC and young people.
4. The service specification requires NYAS to visit all young people placed in external and internal residential units no less than every eight weeks. This is in addition to accepting referrals to represent children and young people with specific concerns at Looked After Reviews and enabling them to use the complaints systems. NYAS also has responsibility for visiting and representing children and young people who are in secure accommodation at Clayfields House.
5. NYAS employs sessional advocates. There are currently nine trained advocates available to work with Nottinghamshire young people as well as the salaried advocate who is specific to the contract. As a national organisation, NYAS is able to use staff from other regions where these are based closer to the care placement of a Nottinghamshire young person.
6. There is additional provision, which can be spot-purchased, for young people who are not looked after but are involved in safeguarding procedures and who may need support

so their views can be heard in the initial conference or review conference. Similarly the service can respond, if requested, to those who need advocacy in relation to special educational needs or disability processes. There continues to be a low take up for this service in the County.

7. NYAS maintains a visiting schedule and all residential homes with Nottinghamshire young people placed are visited by an advocate. By visiting young people in residential settings regularly, relationships are established and young people are more likely to approach an advocate when they have a specific issue for which they require representation. To ensure that reporting and recording of visits by NYAS is consistent, a Commissioning Officer from the Placements Team meets quarterly with NYAS to review performance. This process is conducted jointly with Nottingham City Social Care. Other more frequent local contact between the Placements Team and NYAS helps reconcile the Authority's lists of Looked After young people with NYAS data to ensure young people in residential placements are all receiving the service.
8. Over the last three quarters of the current financial year (April-December 2016), 473 visits were made by NYAS to Nottinghamshire young people in residential settings and on average 76 young people were seen during each quarter. The number of calls by children and young people to the NYAS national helpline over the same period was 28. The latest quarterly performance monitoring meeting was held on 30 January 2017 and the figures in this report are taken from that meeting.
9. In addition to the residential visiting, NYAS undertakes "issue-based advocacy" where they provide support for young people to address their specific concerns. During Quarter 3 the number of referrals for an advocate received by NYAS was 21. Requests received were mainly in relation to placement moves/concerns; attendance at Looked After Reviews or issues with carers/social workers. NYAS held 36 open cases of issue-based advocacy for Nottinghamshire young people during the quarter.
10. Annual reporting on delivery of the advocacy service in Clayfields House demonstrates that again young people confide in their advocates after a period of visiting has allowed a relationship to be established. The majority of young people placed at Clayfields House are from out of county and require support from advocates to represent their views about where they would like to live or services they would like to receive when they return home. An advocate has been into Clayfields House each week during the last quarter and 32 young people have had the opportunity to express views on their care.
11. Finally NYAS has a contract to provide an Independent Visiting Service for Looked After Children. Independent Visitors are volunteers who visit young people in care to support and befriend them. NYAS recruit and train volunteers. This service has shown only slow growth in the training of volunteers with a further two fully trained in quarter 3. This has not been aided by the fact the coordinator has been absent due to sickness and latterly maternity. A service manager and a coordinator from another area are covering the post whilst a short term contract is advertised. The number of fully trained Independent Visitors available to Nottinghamshire is currently six although four are currently "on hold" due to work or personal commitments. There are currently two Nottinghamshire young people matched and another 17 awaiting a match. It is expected at least a further four matches will be made in quarter 4. On a positive note, there has been a substantial



increase this last quarter in the number of people (11) contacting the service to express an interest in volunteering to be an Independent Visitor.

### **Progress of contract**

12. The contract with NYAS is due to end on 31 March 2017. There is then the option to extend the contract, initially for a further year and possibly for two. After consideration an extension of six months has been agreed with NYAS until the end of September 2017. The service provided by NYAS, whilst adequate, suffered from staffing difficulties and after a slow start has struggled to maintain the levels of residential visiting expected in the contract. This has mitigated against developing the service further and in some aspects, Independent Visiting for example, the waiting list remains long. The extension will allow time for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City to revise contract specification targets and to complete the tender for a provider. It is expected that the new advocacy contract will continue to be jointly commissioned by the two Authorities but at the time of writing Nottingham City have not yet officially confirmed their continued participation. Joint work on the specification is already underway and joint meetings with commissioning and procurement staff have taken place. In the unlikely event Nottingham City decide not to renew, Nottinghamshire will continue to commission an external service. The value of the future contract will not exceed that of the current contract.
13. Consideration will be given to a specification which includes residential visits to those looked after young people who have moved on from residential care and into sixteen plus supported accommodation. Many are housed in staffed “core” accommodation within the county and could be reached by the current residential visiting model.
14. The Clayfields House aspect of the contract has been generally working well, however it too will be reviewed with the relevant Clayfields’ staff and the specification for the future secure advocacy service revised.
15. Beyond simply the number and frequency of advocate visits to Nottinghamshire’s Looked After young people, consideration will also be given to improving the sharing of “soft” information gathered by advocates on these visits. This will aid understanding of the issues raised by our young people about their experience of the care system and will be a valuable resource for future care commissioning, both internal and external.

### **Other Options Considered**

16. The report is for noting only.

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

17. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such

implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the information about the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children be noted.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Children's Social Care**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

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

All.

C0956

**13 March 2017****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****ADOPTION SERVICE UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide a six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from September 2016 to February 2017.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Government continues to drive improvement of performance in the adoption sector, with a range of legal, policy and organisational changes.
3. The National Adoption Leadership Board, chaired by Andrew Christie with representatives from the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the voluntary sector and academics continues to monitor performance and drive change.
4. The quarterly adoption survey is a DofE monitoring tool. The survey reports on all significant dates for all children with an adoption plan and, from 2014, for all adults who have completed a Registration of Interest in adoption. Further reporting fields have been added such as disruption data pre order and data to assess if Nottinghamshire children have been placed with in house or external adopters.
5. The data allows national and local analysis of number and demographic of children waiting for adoption and adopters available to take placements of children. This data informs the scorecard which sets targets in relation to placement order being obtained to children being matched and children entering care to placement with an adoptive family. These targets are 121 and 426 days respectively.
6. The Government continues to stimulate growth in the voluntary sector by making available adoption grant monies. From September 2015 to October 2016 the Government ring fenced £30m to all local authorities to apply to the Department for Education (DfE) for reimbursement of inter-agency fees for hard to place children. Nottinghamshire claimed £552,000 in fees in the last financial year and an additional £356,000 in this financial year. The grant will be paid up until 31 March 2017 but only for children who have waited for longer than 18 months; there are no eligible children within Nottinghamshire.
7. There is less of a mis-match between the children waiting: siblings, older children, those with complex backgrounds, developmental delay, and approved adopters. Nottinghamshire County Council has very few adopters waiting at present. The adopters

who continue to wait have a narrower matching profile than peers - for example only wanting a girl or a very young child or having birth children; all of these factors are additional matching considerations.

8. Nottinghamshire performance is as follows:

	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>April-Sept 2016</b>
Adult approvals	58	55	31	12
New adoption plans	67	66	79	28
Children placed	91	84	73	16
Children adopted	88	96	74	29

To give context to the above table grant monies enabled us to place our harder to place children with non-Nottinghamshire County Council families hence the drop in adult approvals. We are now seeing an increase in adult approvals.

9. Of the matches made in 2015-2016, 29 children were placed with Nottinghamshire families, and 44 children placed with families from other agencies. It should be noted that the number of new plans is now steady, thus children placed and adopted in the coming years will fall correspondingly. In addition, Nottinghamshire County Council is now able to place children from other local authorities with its adopters. Eight children were placed in the last financial year and eleven children during this reporting period. This practice impacts positively on national performance on numbers of children waiting. Nottinghamshire County Council are able to recoup £27,000 for a single placement, £43,000 for a sibling group of two children and £60,000 for a sibling group of three children (these figures are agreed nationally). Over the last 12 years Nottinghamshire's pre order disruption rate has been 3.5% which is slightly higher than the national average of 3.2% and reflects the fact that the Council is ambitious in its plans for children and places more complex children where there is a greater risk for disruption.
10. The number of adopters that the Council has approved reduced to coincide with the fact that there are fewer children waiting - the Council has consistently matched children who have waited a substantial period of time and children whose first placement has disrupted. Whilst this is a good outcome for these children it does reflect negatively on the adoption data as it takes us longer to place such children. Those children now waiting have complexities which make them harder to place. There are currently twelve children waiting including several older sibling groups who have all experienced extreme neglect and physical abuse. The Council's current recruitment practice is to not recruit adopters who are only interested in the 0-2 years age range, adopters who have birth children aged five and under and adopters who already have a non-related adopted child aged seven and under. The recruitment strategy is constantly reviewed based on the needs of the service. Up to date research into matching underpins our recruitment strategy, this is in relation to adopters having birth children and the age gap between non related adopted children, both of which may destabilise adoptive placements of subsequent children.
11. Adoption support continues to be an area of development for the Government. Since 1 May 2015 all local authorities have been applying to the Adoption Support Fund on

behalf of adopters in order to purchase support packages. All Nottinghamshire applications have been successful with circa £252,000 awarded to fund support packages. The fund will continue for the next four years.

12. Nottinghamshire County Council continues to utilise all home finding opportunities for children – publicity, adoption activity days, adoption register events, local profile sharing events and this consistent activity across the range does produce matches for most children. There is no one activity proving more successful than another. Local media continues to be utilised to publicise the need for adopters and videos of adopter stories have been added to the Council's web pages. Throughout the year there has been a sustained recruitment campaign for foster carers which also benefits the recruitment of adopters. Consistent partnership working with children's social care allows the service to track children who may be in need of adoption and plan its recruitment strategy accordingly.
13. Changes to legislation in March 2014 allows children to be placed in a fostering placement which will become adoption. This is not the same as foster carers who may then choose to adopt (about 15% of all adoptions of children from care are by foster carers) but relates to approved adopters who are also temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child, to enable a child to be placed with them at an earlier point. This is then a foster placement until it becomes adoption.
14. There is an element of risk for the adopters in this type of placement, but the advantage is that the child is settled in a permanent placement at a much younger age, usually an adoption placement can only be made after a child is subject to a Placement Order and the adoption panel has recommended a match which the agency decision maker agrees. However, a foster to adopt placement can be made at any point in the time before the Placement Order.
15. Increasingly adopters are considering fostering for adoption. Nottinghamshire has seen one child placed at under three months of age and adopted at nine months of age. There are a further three placements in progress currently, and we have made seventeen foster for adopt placements in total. The use of Fostering for Adoption means that children can be placed earlier with their permanent family which is a positive for them.
16. In June 2015 the DfE set out proposals to move to regional adoption agencies. The belief is that regionalisation will speed up matching and markedly improve life chances alongside reducing costs. £4.3 million has been made available to stimulate initial changes in the sector. The East Midlands Adoption Consortium, which consists of Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City, Derbyshire, Derby City, Leicestershire, Leicester City, Lincolnshire, Adopt Together, Faith in Families and Coram, has been awarded further funding to progress regionalisation of these seven local authorities and three voluntary adoption agencies who placed a total of 390 children in the last financial year. Work is progressing regarding regionalisation on both a strategic and operational level.
17. The adoption service will move on or around 1 March 2017 from privately rented premises at Chadburn House in Mansfield to Nottinghamshire County Council accommodation at Trent Bridge House. The move will result in significant financial savings based on reduction of rental costs.

18. Future plans for the service include:

- consolidating learning and practice for fostering for adoption (ongoing)
- consolidating learning from Adoption Support Fund and expanding claims for support packages (ongoing and evidenced in increase in packages funded)
- reviewing the process to identify any delay in the Placement Order to match process and highlighting the longer timescales to place Nottinghamshire's difficult to place children (in progress with a working party in place)
- building on the reputation of the Council when placing children to enable the Council's adopters to adopt children from other local authorities (ongoing)
- working with partner agencies to continue to drive proposals to move to regional adoption agencies (ongoing to 2020)

### **Other Options Considered**

19. The report is for noting only.

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

20. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That the six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from September 2016 to March 2017 be noted.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Children's Social Care**

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

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

23. There are no direct 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.

Adoption Service update: March to August 2016 – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 12 September 2016

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

All.

C0957





**13 March 2017****Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR YOUTH FAMILIES AND CULTURAL  
SERVICES****PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN  
CARE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER 2016/17****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the work of the Young People Looked After (YPLA) Youth Work team, situated within the Youth Service. The YPLA team is responsible for:
  - The Children in Care Council (CiCC) and ensuring that young people looked after are represented at all levels in the Nottinghamshire system of Youth Participation
  - Encouraging and enabling young people, who are looked after, adopted or living in residential care to engage in positive activities provided by the YPLA team and to independently access mainstream provision.
  - Engaging with at least 250 unique individuals (children and young people looked after) in more than 1200 sessions of activity with youth work staff.
  - Working in partnership with Children's Social Care and the Group Manager for the Access to Resources section.

**Information and Advice**

2. The YPLA team is responsible for the planning and delivery of a range of positive activities outside of the school day for looked after and adopted young people. This is to enable young people to come together to participate and have fun in events throughout the year as well as to have a voice about their life in care through the work of the CiCC. The CiCC structure includes a number of sub-groups, which provide a mechanism for a range of groups of Looked After Young People to be involved in the Nottinghamshire system of Youth Participation. Representatives from each sub group then meet as the formal CiCC board (also known as No Labels). The opportunities on offer for young people to engage are designed to promote and support them to build their confidence and self-esteem as well as to develop new experiences.
3. Young People Looked After are signposted to universal services across the County, as well as encouraged to participate in group work activities. This assists young people to

develop positive relationships with other young people and youth workers to help broaden their horizons, learning new skills and having new experiences. Young People Looked After have participated in a wide range of activities throughout 2016/17, with more events planned for the remaining financial year.

4. Activities are designed to help support a holistic assessment of children and young people's needs and to help close the gap in educational attainment through joining in activities outside the school environment. The positive activities young people participate in provide a platform for young people to share their views about life in care, which helps to promote placement stability, as young people are actively engaged. A number of these young people will go on to be members of the sub-groups of the CiCC and attend No Labels meetings where sub-group representatives come together with a range of senior officers and elected Members to design and shape services available to them.
5. The CiCC listens to what children and young people are saying and these views are taken forward and acted upon. There is also an expectation that the membership of the CiCC will be encouraged to have an active role in the Young People Board. The strategic development of the CiCC has direct links to the Looked After Strategy and is set within a vision for Children, Families and Cultural Services.
6. The work of the CiCC has direct links to the PLEDGE which is a set of promises (set within the Looked After Strategy) that Nottinghamshire County Council has made to Young People Looked After and has strategic commitment from senior management and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.
7. The CiCC sub-groups and No Labels have all met six times since April 2016 with further meetings planned from March 2017. To date young people have been actively involved in a number of events or participated in sharing their views and making decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
  - Consultation with young people on the LAC strategy review, and influencing the key priorities and action plan.
  - "My story" which articulates the experiences LAC children had of the health system
  - LAC young people attending the All Parliamentary Group debating the motion "Children can't leave care until they have completed a money management course"
  - Working with the Coordinator of the Virtual School on planning and delivering the Achievement Event in July 2016
  - To provide information for LAC young people on how CAMHS is structured and how support is accessed
  - Young people participating in the training of foster carers attending foundation training
  - LAC young people were involved with planning and delivering workshops at the launch of the D2N2 Youth Work Alliance
  - The CiCC have been approached by Waterways to develop a project led by young people to increase the participation, interest and involvement of young people in waterways across Nottinghamshire. (This is an ongoing project).
  - LAC young people are being consulted on their Pathway plans to ensure they are understood by young people, and are clear regarding actions, time scales and who is responsible in delivering actions (ongoing project).

- Looking at the quality of care and whether human rights are upheld in care and in residential schools (ongoing project)
  - Looked After Young People were also involved in the launch of the Health for teens website as part of the Young People's Health Strategy, enabling young people to access better online health information
  - Consultation with young people in care describing who in the care system has made the biggest difference to them and why, via short film, poem and/or photo.
8. Expression of Interest forms (EOI) were introduced in April 2015, following a review of the process of how young people are invited to participate in shaping the services available to them. The CiCC have received twenty-five EOI since April 2016, allowing young people to:
- Take ownership of the agenda and their involvement in the design and delivery of services.
  - Identify how requests link to the PLEDGE.
  - Establish the information required and the time needed to enable young people to actively participate.
  - And enable organisations to keep track of individual projects they are involved in

#### **Other Options Considered:**

9. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options

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

10. The report is for noting only.

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

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the overview of the work of the Young People Looked After Team be noted.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director Youth Families and Cultural Services**

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

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**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

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

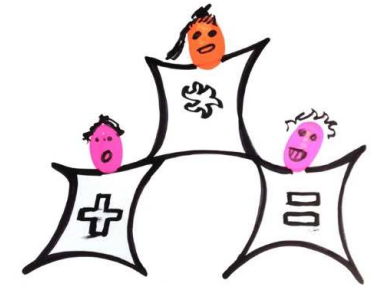
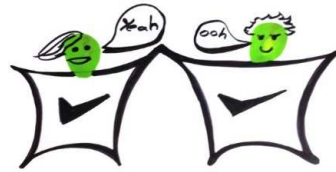
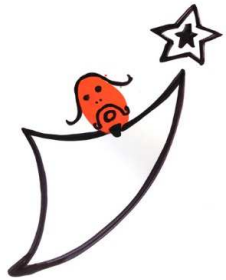
**Background Papers and Published Documents:**

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.

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

All.

C0954



# Young People's Review of the LAC strategy

## By Keeley & Darren



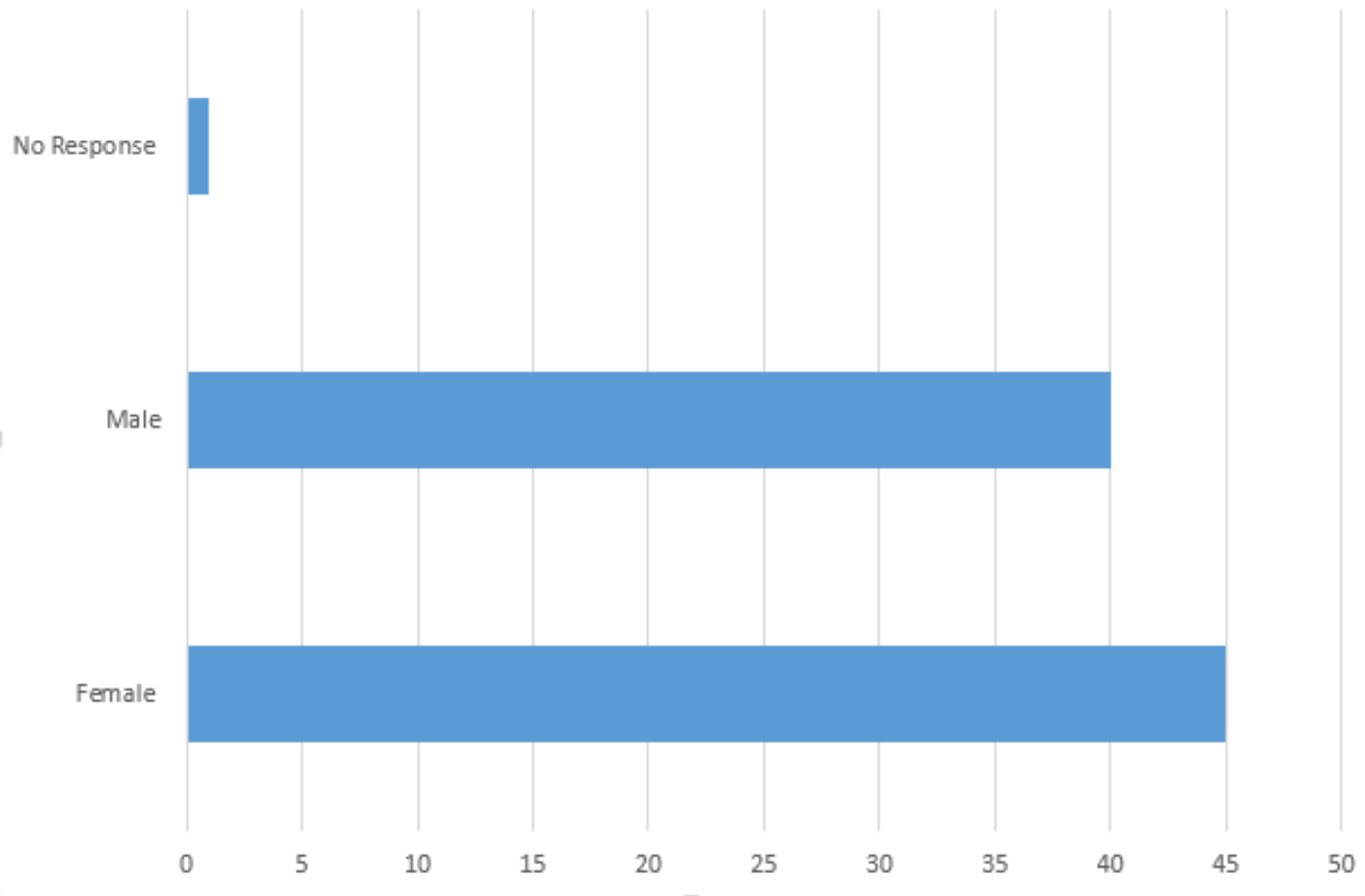
# Age Categories

- Group one – 3yrs to 12yrs
- Group two – 13yrs to 17yrs
- Group three – 18yrs to 20yrs
- Group four – 21+

Overall it was the ages 13-17 in which we received the most forms back from, when collecting our information upon looked after children's thoughts and feelings of the LAC strategy.

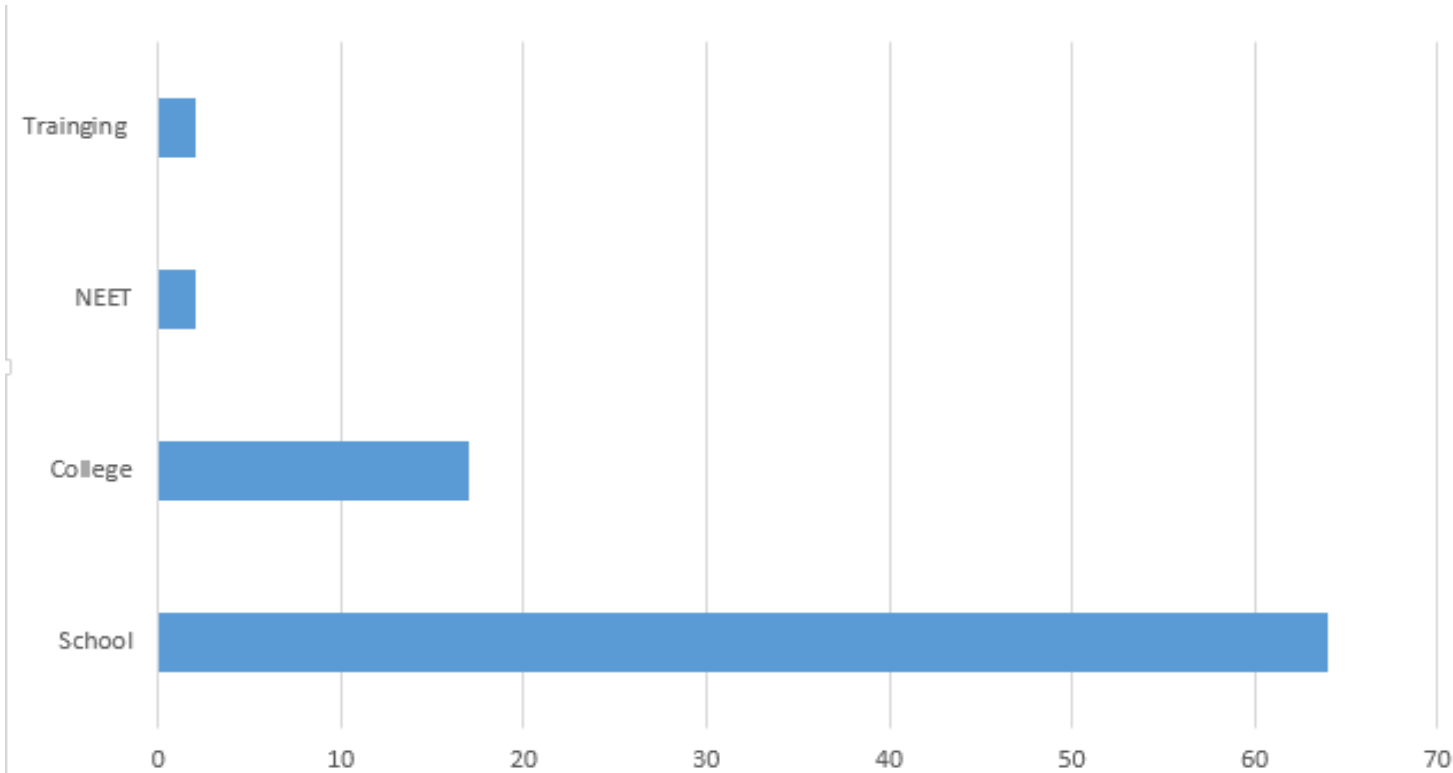
It was great to see such a wide variety of age's, and the way the participation team managed to reach all age groups. Whether they were helped by, schools, social workers, residential carers or foster carers reaching out to them individuals. The way the form is laid out means its easier for anyone younger or disabled to take part without feeling restricted, we got this back as feed back that the number scoring out of 5 was easy to understand.

# Gender



We either got no response due to certain members not wanting to identify their gender, we need to update the consultation when it asked for gender. Some people created their own boxes and others either left it blank or ticked both.

# Training, school, college, or NEET



We use NEET, when we are talking about not in education or training, due to this potentially being a option and they can still get involved within the consultation process.

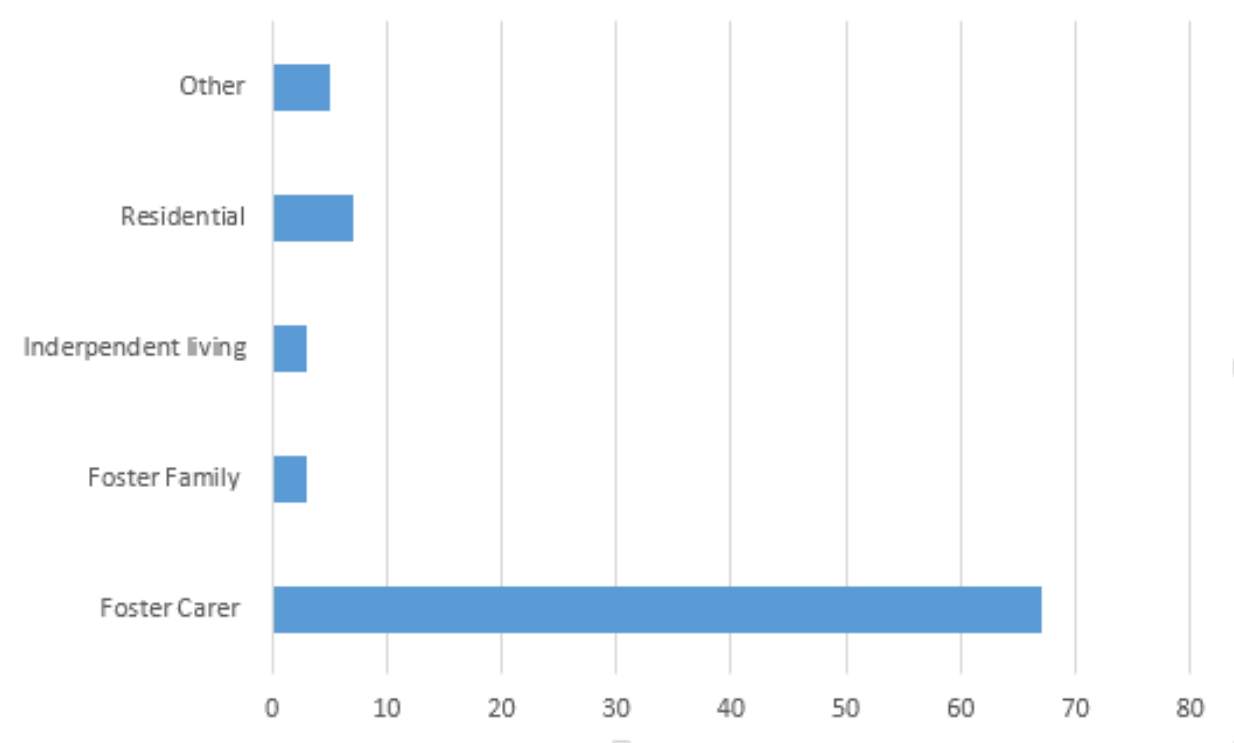
We found most of the results the young people were in school, this also backed up the majority age group of 13-17. it was great to see the amount of LAC we still have in college, education or training.



# Where our young people are placed

- With Foster Carers
- With family members
- Residential homes
- Independent living (On my own)
- Other (Somewhere else)

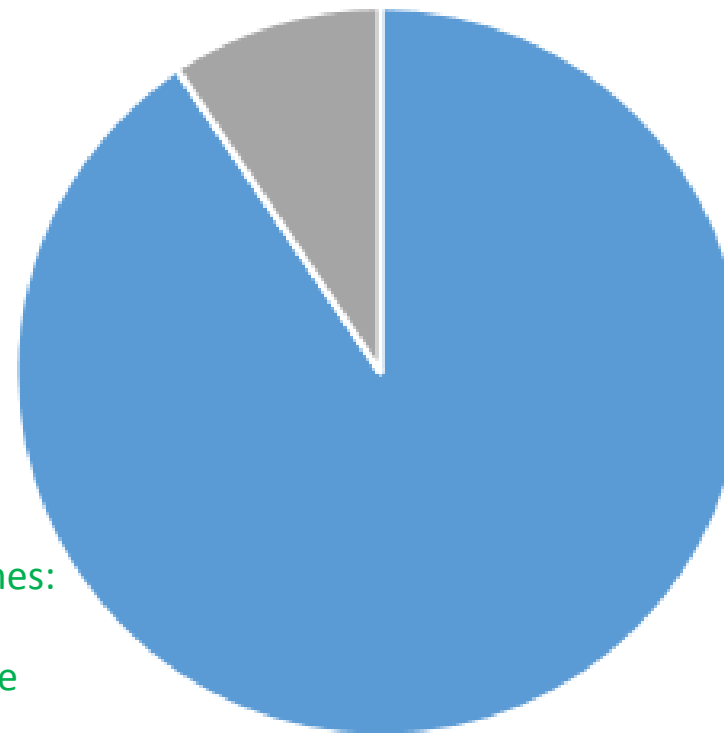
We have a few of our young people select other due to them being in supported housing, this can either be 24 hour full support, someone a phone call away, a weekly visit or day staff in the building in which they are living in. However a select few chose other due to them not wanting to classify where they live. This could be due to them not wanting to be labelled.



# Are the themes important to LAC

The high amount of blue is the response being yes, this is due to the amount of different areas in which we cover under the LAC strategy, most individuals are able to relate to one of the themes.

The LAC strategy themes:  
Happy and Healthy  
School, work or college  
Where you live  
Having your say  
Friends and family  
The Future



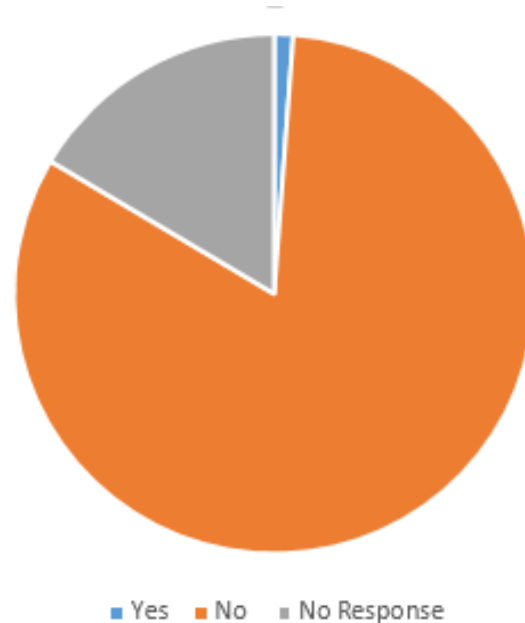
■ Yes ■ No ■ No Response

The reason we received no response from some of the young people was due to them not understanding the LAC themes, or the person supporting the young person in completion of the consultation didn't even understand themselves (e.g. some foster carers). There was such a small minority in which said no, they are not on the pie chart, some said no due to not finding one of the themes important therefore ticking no.

# Ideas young people had for new themes

The orange is a no, for if they didn't want to change any of the themes or if they didn't have new any ideas of what some new themes could be.

The no response is down to people not being able to think of new ones, or not understanding the question, many people think the themes are set in place so what's the point.



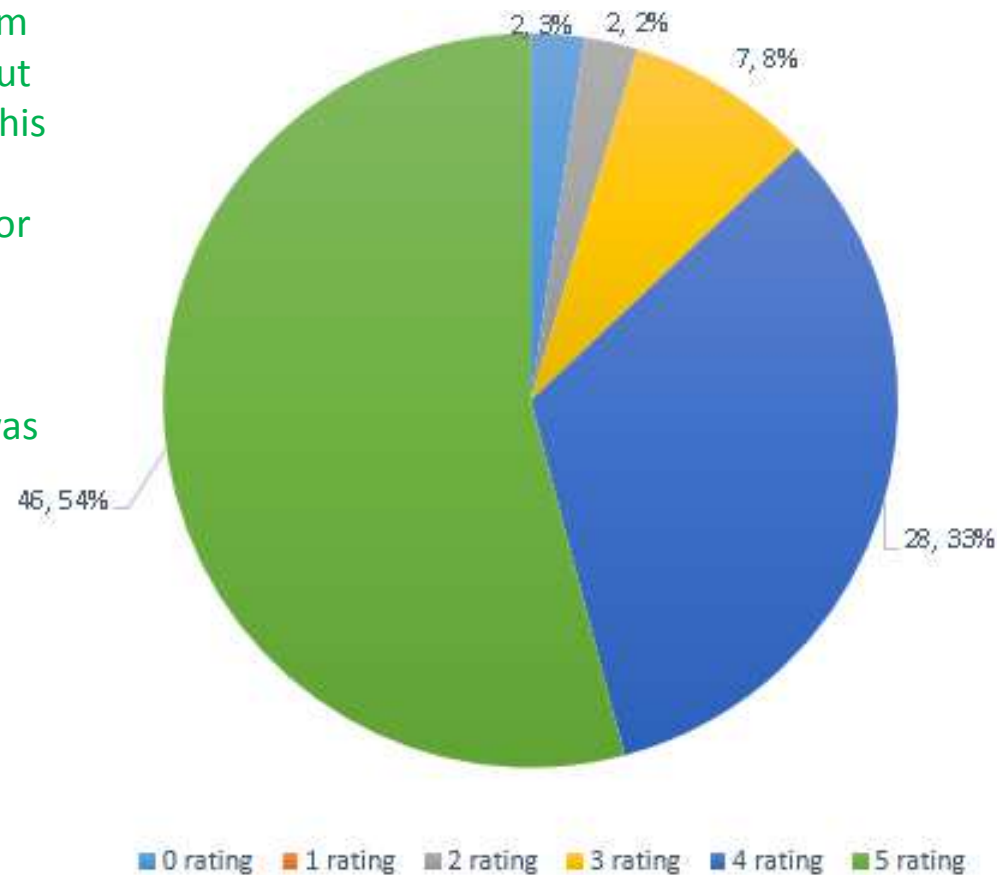
Even though pets was mentioned within consultation, we need to make it clear that pets would fall under where you live. This can be done in the future question by putting bullet points next to each theme when stated. We understand why pets was popular, and this is because people turn to them when lonely and they enjoy the company of living with them. Due to it falling under where you live pets will not be a future theme.

## Comments and possible changes to the next LAC strategy review document

- Pets was mentioned a lot.
- Young people often listed ideas such as budgeting and finance which can fit in The Future LAC theme but we feel that the key themes needed an explanation of what fits into the theme.

# School, Work or College

Upon the consultation form we has a scoring system out of 5 upon each category, this is the results in which we received for school, work or college, the 5 being the highest, and 4 being the next, to the move on to 3, then two, the score of 1 was not selected.

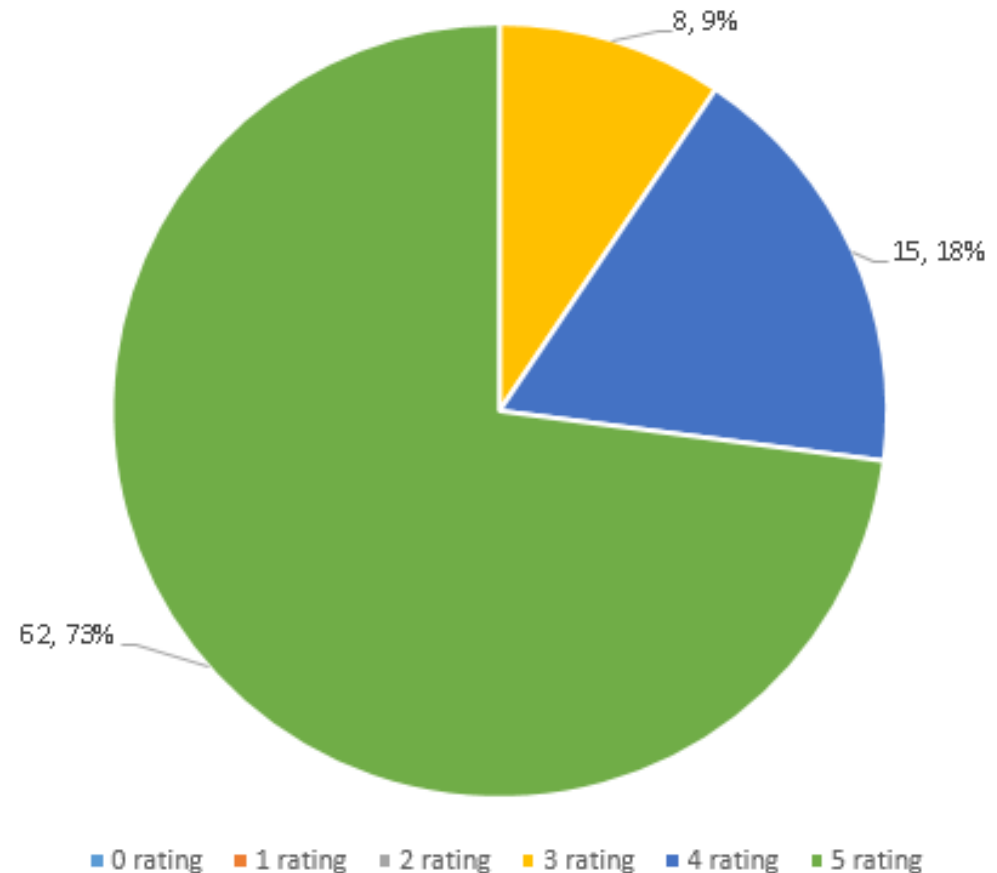


This is positive to see the two highest numbers, with the most majority for school, work and college as stereotypically most LAC would talk negatively when it comes to school, but nearly half of the participants scored it a 5.

# Where you live

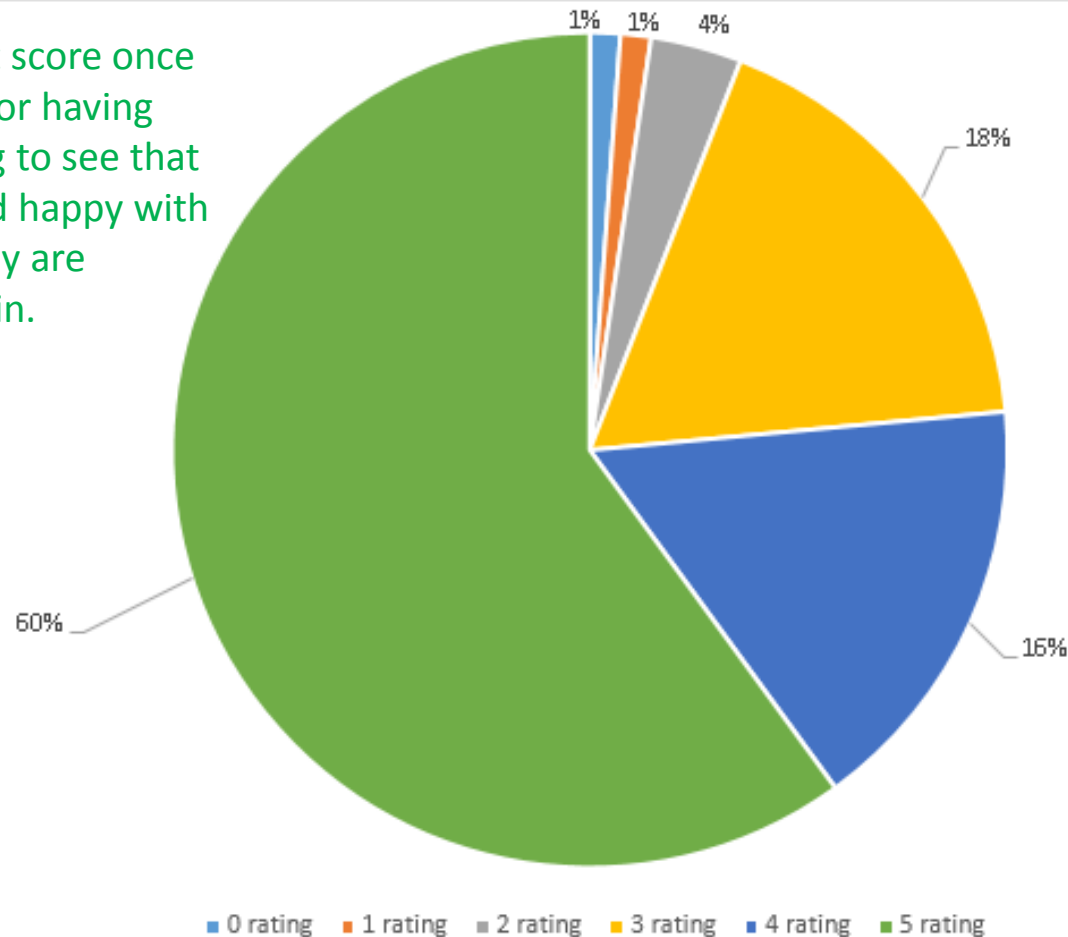
The green is a high rating of a 5 for where people live, this is great to see, then the blue being a 4 is the next highest, anyone who placed a 1 that filled in the consultation form with support will receive some more work to find out any issues, and how where they live can be improved. However if they were not support when filling it out, will not be able to be followed up due to it being anonymous.

We also need to take into consideration that when people were filling out the consultation they may have had a conflict with someone they live with, something may have put them in a bad mood all before filling out a form, in which they are asked to rate how happy they are with where they live.



# Having your say

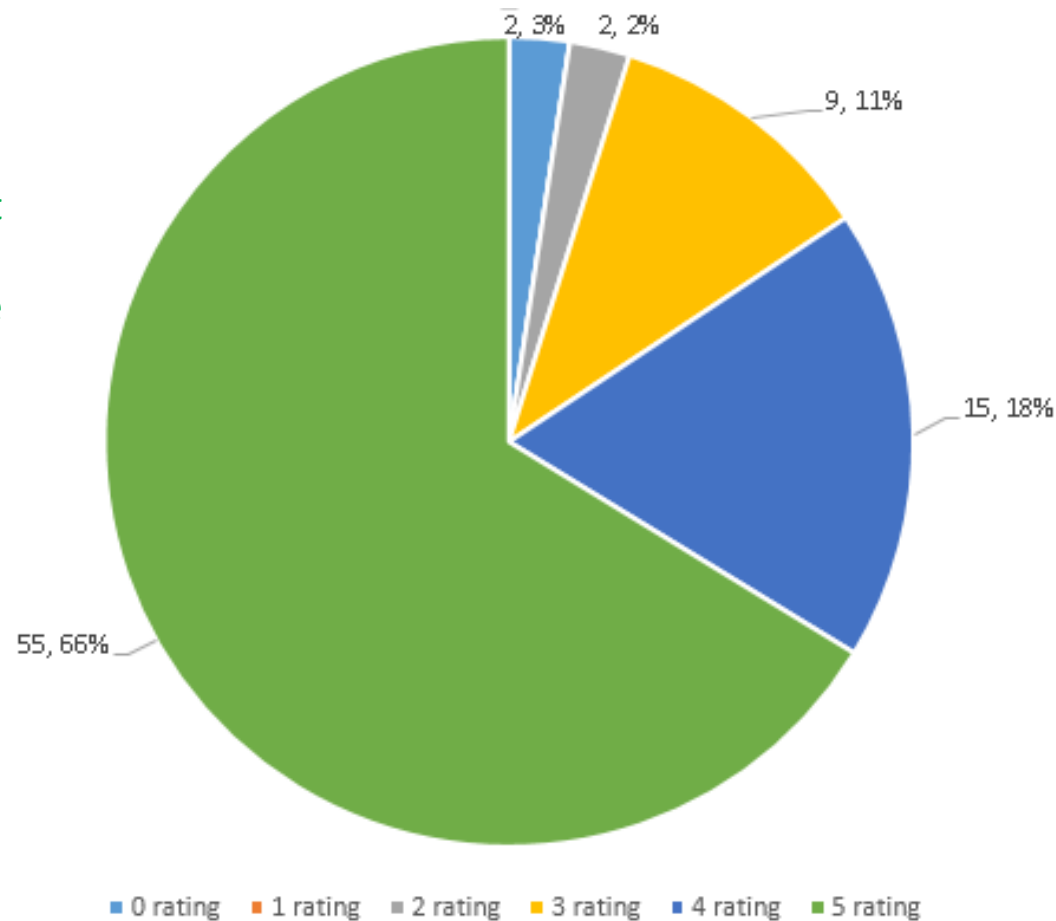
Five was the highest score once again, but this was for having your say, its amazing to see that people are good and happy with how much input they are actually able to put in.



Having your say would fall under several categories such as at CICC, when talking to someone at home or a social worker and then a change being apparent. But also at LAC reviews they are being able to speak and to be listened to.

# Family & Friends

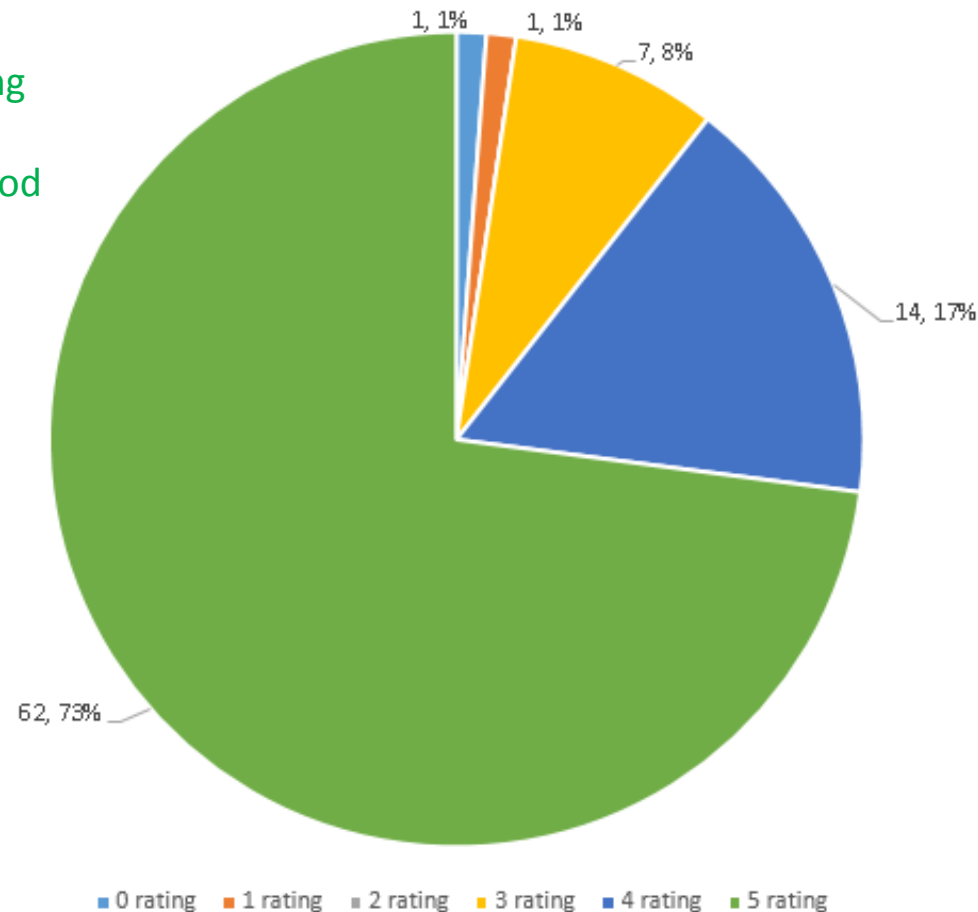
5 and 4 were our highest for friends and family, this is great to see that contact is still happening, quite often people will relate this to their friends at school.



Its sad to see that the minority of 0 , 2 and 3 are apparent upon the pie chart, however this may be because the young person has just gone into care, so rules and regulations are still being established, contact is at its little, they are unhappy in their situation, or they could have been in the small minority on the school section up above, therefore not having as many friends as they would like.

# Feeling Happy & Healthy

The majority portion on feeling healthy was the highest score possible once again, this is good due to people eating right, visiting the doctor, and just generally being happy.

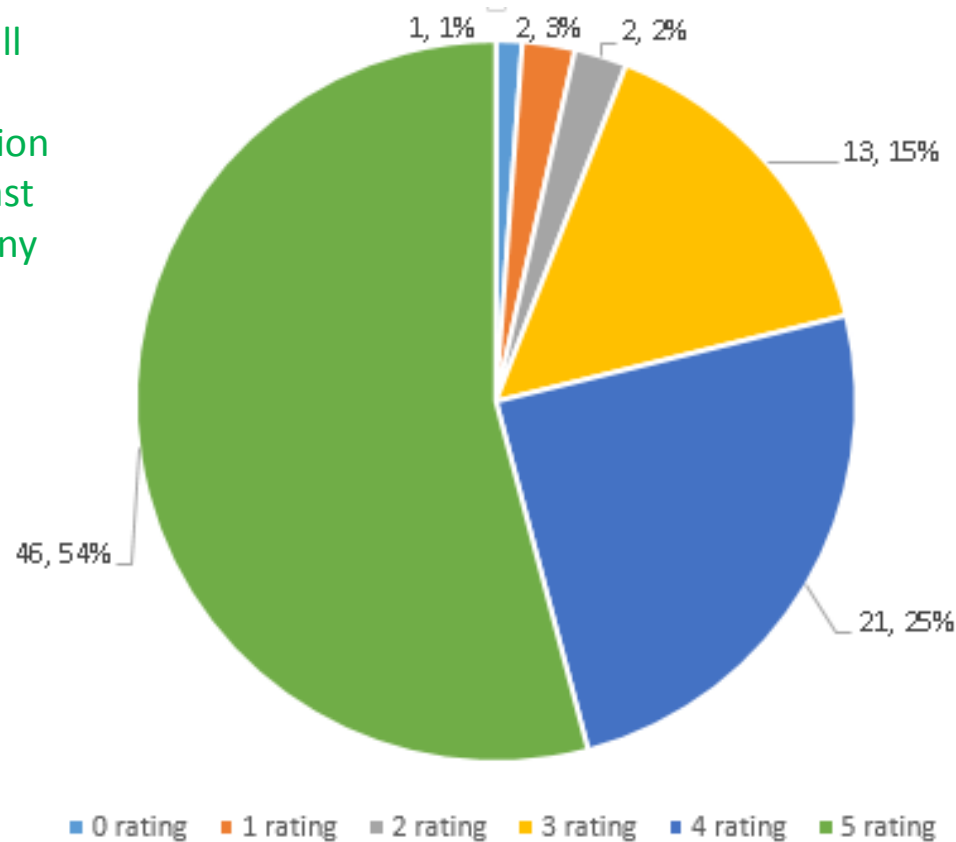


We have to consider that on the day the young person may have had a cold, tummy ache or something upon them lines the day they was filling out the consultation this may have affected their score. Also they have been unhappy about something going on, and there just seen it as I'm not happy and scored on the lower side of the scale. All of these things we taker into consideration before making changes.



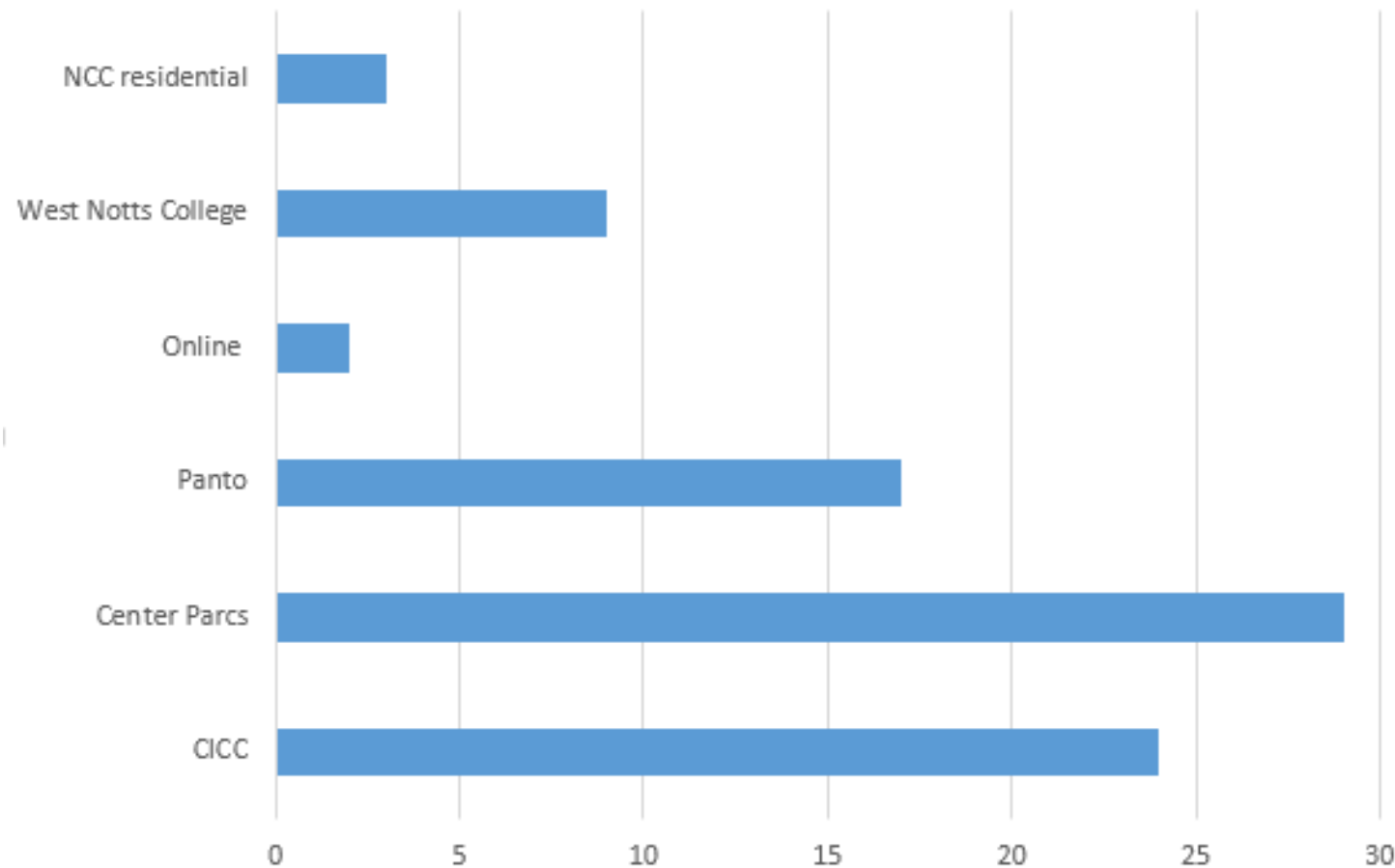
# The future

Even though the future still received 5 as its highest rating, this is the one section in which there was the least amount of 5's there in many factors in which could of resulted in this, one being the Variety of age groups.



When we mention the variety of age group we mean from the ages 3-21+, this is due to them having unrealistic dreams (i.e walk on the moon) but also not understanding the future. As for the older ones they may be in a bad place and may see no upside and therefore scoring on the lower end of the scale. But also some of our participants may understand however be unsure of what they would like to do in the future. But they are still successful results with 5 as the highest.

# How we gathered the consultation?



Its great at the variety of support we received when collecting the information and the variety of places in which we received the information from.

## Future action plan – Young people views

- To design a survey which can be emailed out and completed online/returned.
- Survey Monkey needs to go out at the same time as the launch of the LAC Strategy consultation.
- It should go to Centre Parcs event – this worked well.
- Possible send to IRO's to pass on to young people who are having a review during the consultation period.
- To work with West Nott's College again - this worked well.
- More residential homes to be involved, especially private homes.

Any comments or questions?

13 March 2017

Agenda Item: 11

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

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2016/17.

### **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 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.

### **Other Options Considered**

5. None.

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

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

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. 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/S**

- 1) 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**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Assistant Democratic Services Officer -**  
Julie Brailsford  
Tel: 0115 977 4694

### **Constitutional Comments (SLB)**

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

### **Financial Comments (PS)**

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

### **Background Papers**

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.

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

All

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17**

<b><u>Report Title</u></b>	<b><u>Brief summary of agenda item</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Report Author</u></b>
<b>12 June 2017</b>			
Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2016/17) – services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Summer Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Marion Clay	Sue Denholm/ Janeen Parker
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 – six-monthly progress reports	For information	Steve Edwards	Amanda Collinson
End of year report for the Independent Reviewing Officer Service	For information	Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin
Improving health outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Local Authority	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Kathryn Higgins/ Shelagh Mitchell
Fostering Service annual report	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Naomi Sills
Leaving Care Service update	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Michelle Lee
County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption Team – service provision and developments 2016/17	Annual information report	Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles
New accommodation provision for 16-21 year olds	Six-monthly update reports	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell/ Beth Downing

