

Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Monday, 17 March 2014 at 14:00

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

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 December 2013 | 3 - 4 |
| 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 | Spring term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children | 5 - 14 |
| 5 | Looked After Children Strategy update | 15 - 20 |
| 6 | Leaving care service update | 21 - 26 |
| 7 | Adoption Service - bi-annual report | 27 - 32 |
| 8 | Advocacy Service for Looked After Children | 33 - 36 |
| 9 | Numbers of Looked After Children and Young People placed in Externally managed residential homes | 37 - 40 |
| 10 | Work Programme | 41 - 44 |

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 Christine Marson (Tel. 0115 977 3887) 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.

Meeting CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date Monday 9 December 2013 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Liz Plant (Chairman)

John Allin
Alan Bell
Boyd Elliott
Kate Foale

Colleen Harwood
Philip Owen
Sue Saddington
Jacky Williams

Foster Carer

Dawn Clements

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jayne Austin	-	Fostering Service Manager
Rachel Coombs	-	Group Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Sue Denholm	-	Co-ordinator, Virtual School
Linda Foster	-	Support to Schools Service
Mary Jarrett	-	Service Manager, Commissioning & Placements
Christine Marson	-	Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services Department
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services Department.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2013, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AUTUMN TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Sue Denholm, Co-ordinator for the Virtual School updated the Sub-Committee on the progress of the virtual school.

RESOLVED 2013/025

That the update on the virtual school for the Autumn term 2013 be noted.

COMMISSIONING OF PLACEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN FROM OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN CHILDREN'S HOMES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mary Jarrett, Service Manager, Commissioning & Placements gave an overview of the process of commissioning children's placements and the responsibilities of the Local Authority towards children from other local authorities.

RESOLVED 2013/026

- (1) that Nottinghamshire County Council continues to place children and young people within the County of Nottinghamshire as far as is possible.
- (2) an update report be brought to all future meetings of the Sub-Committee.
- (3) the arrangements for commissioning children's placements be reviewed annually.

FOSTERING SERVICE: BUSINESS ACTIVITY REPORT

Jayne Austin, Fostering Service Manager updated the Sub-Committee on the Fostering Service placement activity, service demand, and recruitment and retention of foster carers.

RESOLVED 2013/027

That the overview of the business activity currently being undertaken within the fostering service be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

A revised work programme was circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED 2013/028

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.37 pm.

17 March 2014**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE 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 2014.

Information and Advice**Virtual School Senior Leadership Team and Virtual School Improvement Plan**

2. The senior leadership team (SLT) met on 23 September 2013 and discussed the virtual school improvement plan and self-evaluation form (SEF) for 2013/14. Suggestions were made for improvements to the documents and members of the SLT agreed to send examples of front sheets to improve the review process of both documents.
3. The SLT met again on 30 January 2014. The SEF and improvement plan were considered fit for purpose with the addition of the implementation plan for reviewing objectives. It was agreed that relevant revision guides would be purchased by the Virtual School for year 11 pupils. The secondary head teacher on the SLT suggested requesting 'schools rate' to reduce cost. This was agreed and has been actioned. Further updates have been made to the SEF and improvement plan to incorporate the most recent data available at the time of writing. These documents will be updated again when the Department for Education (DfE) releases the Local Authority RAISEonline report. These will be sent to the SLT in the second half of the spring term.

**Deployment of Virtual School Staff and Challenge to Schools on Looked After Children
Performance**

4. The number of statutory school aged young people at the time of writing was 610; some of these are educated out of county. Currently there are 298 primary aged looked after children (LAC) and 312 secondary aged LAC. 163 are out of county (72 in primary education and 91 in secondary).
5. The two Looked After Children Achievement Officers continue to support schools, social workers, carers and the wider network for looked after children. This can take the form of

training to schools, development of bespoke educational packages or school support to ensure LAC access the best educational provision they can. Virtual school staff also challenge all stakeholders as necessary on issues that may impact on outcomes of LAC. The number of LAC currently receiving support from the virtual school is 340.

6. Those children/young people not supported by the virtual school are monitored through termly tracking data submitted to the virtual school by schools. Personal education plans are also submitted to the co-ordinator for quality assurance purposes. If issues emerge as a result of this monitoring, the virtual school will become involved with additional LAC to support schools to resolve the identified issues which are preventing learning.
7. The annual evaluation of data is shared with all head teachers in all phases of education at the spring term head teacher briefings, using the most recent data available. The virtual school shares the strengths and areas for development in detail for all LAC pupils, boys and girls by key stage and identifies the areas requiring improvement. The virtual school also provides information on appropriate interventions which it challenges head teachers to ensure are in place to support any underachieving LAC in their schools. This is followed up by LAC achievement officers during school visits.
8. The virtual school made a business case for an additional achievement officer in the academic year 2012/13. This was successful and a temporary member of staff, seconded to the team until March 2014, has been providing direct challenge to all schools with year 11 LAC, in and out of county, to ensure that designated teachers are monitoring LAC pupils' progress against aspirational targets and have plans in place to accelerate progress for underperforming LAC. This has involved visiting schools and other settings to ensure that young people are receiving the correct support to achieve the best outcomes possible, have had correct careers advice and guidance and, if required, the LAC achievement officer has supported schools and settings to think creatively to support vulnerable young people. This member of staff will also ensure the revision guides are sent to the pupils as soon as they are delivered. A progress review is planned in each of these schools in March or April 2014. The new Education Improvement Service (EIS) structure includes a third permanent LAC achievement officer which has now been approved and once a permanent appointment has been made the virtual school is aiming to roll this programme out to other year groups. Meanwhile schools return termly progress tracking data to the virtual school which is used to plan universal and targeted interventions in areas of underperformance.
9. The impact of the virtual school is evidenced in the very recent value added data which has just been released in the local authorities RAISEonline for 2013. This indicates that:
 - there is a **rising trend in value added** for LAC **at the end of key stage 2** between 2011 and 2013.
 - value added is calculated using aggregated average point scores in reading, writing and mathematics for all Nottinghamshire LAC pupils compared with national aggregated scores for all pupils. A score of 100 denotes the average national value added score for all pupils. Figures above 100 are deemed to be above the national average for value added and figures below 100 are below the national average for value added.
 - The value added to LAC attainment, from their baseline on entry to Notts schools, has improved from below the national average in 2011 (98.9 Notts/ 99.8 national) and in

2012 (98.1 Notts/ 99.6 national) to above the national average in 2013 (100.7 Notts/ 99.8 national), where nationally LAC are below average.

- in mathematics in 2013, value added for Notts LAC is above national (105.5 Notts/ 99.8 national)
 - in reading value added for Notts LAC is above national (101.5 Notts/ 100.0 national)
 - in writing value added for Notts LAC is above national (100.4 Notts/ 99.8 national).
10. This indicates that the work of the Nottinghamshire virtual school in partnership with Nottinghamshire schools is having a positive impact on outcomes for Nottinghamshire's looked after children (see **paragraph 24** for the full data evaluation).
11. **At key stage 4, the trend in value added 2011 to 2013 for Notts. LAC is stable and in line with value added nationally, (where the average score is 1000, based on the average point score for all pupils taking into account their best 8 grades at GCSE or equivalent)**
- 2011: 948.9 Notts LAC, 944.5 national LAC
 - 2012: 948.6 Notts LAC, 951.6 national LAC
 - 2013: 928.6 Notts LAC, 949.6 national LAC.
12. This indicates that the value added for LAC both in Nottinghamshire and nationally is below the national value added for all pupils. The virtual school therefore continues to have a focus on improving progress and attainment overall at key stage 4 and on improving the number of Notts. LAC who reach the age related expectation of 5 A*-C including English and maths (see **paragraph 8**)

Termly Designated Teacher and LA Training

13. Five workshops on the following subjects have been delivered during February 2014: Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD); behaviour and the physical environment; understanding trauma; making effective use of the pupil premium; and self-harming behaviours. All these workshops were at full capacity and feedback was consistently positive.
14. All LA officers continue to undertake training on the needs of looked after children and they have attended the designated teacher training running this autumn term.

Designated Teacher Memos

15. These continue to be sent out regularly, minimally half termly. Designated teachers continue to advise the virtual school that they find these updates very useful.

School Links

16. Individual requests continue to be received for training from the virtual school on the needs of looked after children cross phase. The virtual school offers bespoke training sessions to schools and FE colleges as a result.

East Midlands Network

17. The East Midlands Network meeting of virtual schools is due to be held at the end of March 2014.
18. The National Steering Group for Virtual School Heads will also be meeting at the end of March followed by the national conference for virtual school heads which will be held at Oxford University on 27 March 2014 and the Co-ordinator will be attending both events.

Social Care Links

19. Training will be provided on the new personal education plan (PEP) to the looked after team social workers; the Co-ordinator is currently awaiting an invitation to a social care training event.
20. The LAC Achievement Officers will also use the looked after social work team's building as a base to work from in order to provide regular ongoing support to social workers.

Floor Target Schools

21. The virtual school monitors all children in schools below floor targets. Education improvement advisors will discuss looked after children's progress, attendance, behaviour and any support needs in the primary/secondary schools they are supporting.

Data

22. The SIMS system is now populated with looked after children and young people. Some functions such as contextual information can be used.
23. Collections continue to be monitored by the LA to support 100% return.

Evaluation of test and examination results for Looked After Children in 2013

24. The key headlines, updated with the latest RAISEonline data, are as follows:

Key Stage 2 with a cohort of 38 pupils (18 of 23 with matched data, that is a key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessment, have special educational needs and 6 of the 18 have a statement of special educational needs.)

- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC achieving a **good level 4 or above in reading** is 53% compared with 49% nationally. RAISE reports this as in line with national as the number of pupils not reaching a good level 4 is not statistically significant
- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC achieving at **least level 4 or above in reading** is 63% compared with 63% nationally. RAISE reports this as in line with national
 - the gap between Nottinghamshire non-LAC and LAC is 23% (63% LAC/86% non-LAC) on this measure compared with a national gap of 23% (63% LAC/86% non-LAC). The Nottinghamshire gap is in line with the national gap.

- there is no comparative data on this measure for previous years
- the proportion of LAC in Nottinghamshire schools making two levels progress from key stage one to two in reading is in line with all Nottinghamshire pupils and non-LAC (88.9%/88.5%) in reading.
- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC **achieving a good level 4 or above in writing** is 45%, compared with 54% nationally. RAISE reports this as in line with national as the number of pupils not reaching a good level 4 is not statistically significant.
- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC **achieving at least level 4 or above in writing** is 45%, compared with 54% nationally (3 children). RAISE reports this as in line with national as the number of pupils not reaching a good level 4 is not statistically significant.
 - the gap between Nottinghamshire LAC and non LAC is 39% (45% Notts LAC/84% Notts non-LAC) on this measure compared with a national gap of 29% (54% LAC/83% national)
 - there is no comparative data on this measure for previous years
 - however, the proportion of LAC in Nottinghamshire schools making two levels progress from key stage one to two in writing is in line with all Nottinghamshire pupils and non-LAC pupils (92%/92%) in writing
 - nevertheless, this is an area for improvement within the virtual school improvement plan and has been raised with head teachers at head teacher briefings this term. Head teachers have been advised to identify underperforming LAC in their schools in this area and have been asked to use the pupil premium funding to ensure appropriate interventions are in place for current cohorts.
 - this data will also be shared with secondary head teachers at the forthcoming head teacher briefing and they will be asked to target pupil premium and year 7 catch up funding to support year 7 LAC who are not yet meeting age related expectations in order to accelerate their progress and catch up with their peers.
- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC in **key stage 2** achieving a **good level 4 or above in mathematics** is 45% compared with 45% nationally. RAISE reports this as in line with national.
- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC achieving at **least level 4 or above in mathematics** is 61%, compared with 60% nationally. RAISE reports this as in line with national
 - the gap between Nottinghamshire LAC and Nottinghamshire non LAC is 25% (61% LAC/86% non LAC) on this measure, compared with a national gap of 25% (60% LAC/85% non LAC). The gap is in line with the national gap.
 - the gap has narrowed in comparison with 2012 by 3% (1 child)
 - the proportion of LAC in Nottinghamshire schools making two levels progress from key stage 1 to 2 in mathematics is below all Nottinghamshire pupils and non-LAC (72.2%/89.4%/89.5% - 4 children)
 - this is therefore also an area for improvement
- The proportion of all LAC in Nottinghamshire schools achieving a **good level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics** is 32% compared with 33% nationally.

- The proportion of all LAC in Nottinghamshire schools achieving **at least a level 4** or above in **reading, writing and mathematics** is 37% compared with 45% nationally.
 - there is no comparative data on this measure for previous years
 - the gap between Nottinghamshire LAC and non LAC is 39% on this measure, compared with a national gap of 31% (a difference of 2.5 pupils)
 - the proportion of LAC in Nottinghamshire schools making two levels progress from key stage one to two in reading, writing and maths is just below all Nottinghamshire pupils and non-LAC pupils (69.4%/78.7%) on this measure (3 children)

This indicates that LAC make as much progress as their peers across the key stage in reading and mathematics. However in 2013 the gap is wider than national due to the under-performance of three children in writing.

The Virtual School Improvement Plan therefore has a significant focus on working with schools to accelerate the progress of LAC across all year groups so that an increasing proportion of LAC reach age related expectations by the end of key stage 2, with a particular focus on writing.

Key Stage 4 with a cohort of 63 pupils (42 of 56 with matched data, that is a key stage 2 and key stage 4 assessment, have special educational needs and 14 of the 42 have a statement of special educational needs.)

- The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC achieving at least **5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at A*-C grade including English and mathematics** is 13% in 2013 compared with 20% nationally. This outcome is an improvement on 2012, when LAC achieved 9.8% on this measure. However, attainment is still not as high as in 2011 when 14.6% of LAC attained 5 or more A*-C (including English and maths).
 - non LAC in Nottinghamshire achieving at least 5 or more A*-C grades including English and mathematics is 63%. The gap between Nottinghamshire LAC and non-LAC on this measure is 50%, compared with a national gap of 40%. (The gap is wider than the national gap. The difference equates to 6 LAC needing to achieve this measure for the gap to be in line with the national gap)
 - the Nottinghamshire gap on this measure has, however, narrowed in comparison with 2012 when the gap was 51.2%. The national gap has narrowed by 4%.
- The proportion of Nottinghamshire LAC achieving at least **5 or more A*-C grades** is 42.9%.
 - the performance of Nottinghamshire LAC is above LAC nationally (36.6%).
 - the proportion of all children in Nottinghamshire achieving at least 5 A*-C grades or more is 88.4%, which is 6.6% above the national average for all children (81.8%)
 - the attainment of Nottinghamshire LAC on this measure remains broadly in line with outcomes in 2009 and 2012, which were a significant improvement on outcomes across 2010 - 2011
 - the gap between all Nottinghamshire children and LAC in Nottinghamshire is 45% on this measure and is in line with the national gap of 45.2% on this measure

- The proportion of LAC in Nottinghamshire schools making expected progress (3 levels) in English is 26% compared with 36% of LAC nationally and 70% of non LAC pupils in Nottinghamshire and nationally. This is reported in RAISE as in line with national.
- The proportion of LAC in Nottinghamshire schools making expected progress (3 levels) in mathematics is 21% compared with 32% of LAC nationally and 68% of non LAC Nottinghamshire pupils and 70% of non LAC children nationally.
- This indicates that LAC make significantly less progress from their starting points than non LAC children in Nottinghamshire and nationally, although progress is in line with national for LAC (see 2 bullet points above this one) and value added is in line with value added nationally (see paragraph 11 above).
- The Virtual School Improvement Plan therefore has a significant focus on working with schools to accelerate the progress of LAC across all year groups so that an increasing proportion of LAC reach age related expectations by the end of key stage 4.

Achievement Event

25. The 2014 event planning is now underway and consideration is currently being given to using the Nottingham Playhouse or The Albert Hall as the venue in place of Rufford Park, due to the number of attendees. Young people also felt they wanted to move the venue to one more suitable for a formal event. Young people are to visit venues with the virtual school and looked after youth team to make the final decision.

Pupil Premium

26. £900 Pupil Premium per eligible LAC (in care for six months continuously) is now in the process of being sent to all schools with Nottinghamshire looked after pupils. Schools have to inform the virtual school of the type of support that is being provided before the funding is released. Examples of schools' use of the pupil premium funding are listed below:
 - occupational therapist input in class for sensory processing, resources and staff training
 - class residential visit
 - music therapy with music therapist
 - extra support within class so that LAC can work within a small group
 - additional time with learning mentor to discuss relevant issues: relationships, safety
 - weekly maths tuition at home with 'First Class Solutions' tutor
 - alternative curriculum provision
 - TA support to attend sports club/social activities
 - TA support in class – for bespoke reading, writing, handwriting practice
 - 1:1 support for multi-modal project
 - Transport to attend 'Science on Stage' rehearsals at the Royal Concert Hall
 - additional support for transition to KS3
 - weekly counselling sessions

- coursework support catch-up, revision guides and equipment
27. LAC achievement officers monitor the impact of these interventions with schools that they are supporting.

Projects

28. The 2013/14 multi-modality project is now underway with phase two starting in January 2014. There are now more than 30 children and young people taking part in this project which ran for the first time in 2010/11. The practitioners have received some very positive feedback from a participant's carer recently, who highlighted the enormous benefits for our LAC taking part in such an innovative project. A full evaluation of this project will be available after August 2014.

Aims of the project are:

- to engage young, vulnerable people in literacy through a multi-modal approach involving the use of different text types as well as different source materials (audio, visual, pictorial, digital as well as more traditional written texts)
- to support teachers and carers to look for opportunities to engage children in their care with literacy activities that lead to creative, high quality outcomes;
- to support teachers in recognising opportunities to engage young people in literacy through developing links with home and school;
- to develop teachers' and carers' subject knowledge of multi-modal texts;
- to raise teacher confidence about selecting visual and digital texts to engage vulnerable groups and improve attainment;
- to raise awareness of and develop skills in ICT to support young people's literacy development.

Personal Education Plan

29. This document has been updated to reflect the new reporting measures now in place. It has been redesigned to ensure appropriate educational information is provided to enable the Co-ordinator to challenge and support schools with looked after children on the educational progress that is being made.
30. Children/young people have redesigned their section of the PEP, where they input their views on the provision in the school or other educational setting. The paperwork has now been signed off by the Children in Care Council and is ready for printing and distributing with the new personal education plan document.

Good News

31. Book tokens have been sent out once again to children and young people for a variety of successes including:
- excellence by performing above the targets set at school
 - applying oneself in studies and having high attendance
 - highest number of behaviour credits in school

- brilliant work in numeracy and big improvements in writing
- story written and published
- for achieving a distinction and also for passing a tractor test
- exceeding targets; good GCSE results; continued enthusiasm at school
- great PEPs
- good progress at school

32. Book tokens are also presented at the annual Achievement event.

Other Options Considered

33. This report is for information only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

34. This report is for information only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

35. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, 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 update on the virtual school for the Spring term 2014 be noted.

John Slater

Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (NDR 25/06/12)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0036

17 March 2014

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Sub-Committee on the progress of the action plan for the Looked After Children Strategy.

Information and Advice

2. It was identified that our approach to Looked After Children would benefit from the development of an over-arching strategy which outlines the commitment of the Council and our partner agencies to supporting children in care. The strategy has been developed based on what young people have told us is important to them in The Pledge for Looked After Children, published in October 2010.
3. Nottinghamshire's commitments to Looked After Children, as set out in The Pledge, underpin our Looked After Children Strategy which was published in August 2012. This strategy identifies the Council's ambition for its Looked After Children and young people, ensuring that they receive placements that meet their needs, have access to high quality education and enjoy positive activities that support them to achieve their full potential. For those children who require permanent alternative families it means ensuring that effective plans are made so that they achieve permanence as quickly as possible.
4. The LAC Strategy action plan, attached as **Appendix 1**, had a number of work streams which included piloting new panel arrangements for entry to care, reviewing the support in place for kinship care and care leavers, and the wider range of options for permanency available to children and young people in the care system.
5. Key actions in all priority areas have been completed which include:
 - a review of The Pledge for Looked After Children to ensure it continues to reflect the priorities of children in care in Nottinghamshire
 - the establishment of a Permanence Panel to ensure greater scrutiny of permanent placements and ensure robust support arrangements are in place
 - production of a new review booklet to ensure young people's voices are heard and that they shape their own care plans
 - a new guide to adoption is available for older children and young people to help them understand the opportunities and challenges this presents, and how they can influence the process

- all new looked after children and existing looked after children with significant changes to circumstance will have a designated Educational Psychologist
 - two additional Looked After Children Achievement Officers have been recruited to the Virtual School
 - most district councils are now offering free or reduced cost sports and leisure activities for looked after children and young people
 - a new data sharing system is in place between Health and Children's Social Care that will assist in identifying health concerns of looked after children
 - an increase in the number of salaried carers for young people in need of specialist foster care placements
 - the establishment of a new Family Assessment and Contact Service which provides a consistent approach to contact across the County
 - increased leave available for Nottinghamshire County Council staff who are taking on the care of a child through a special guardianship order.
6. Following a review of the LAC Strategy action plan in November 2013, additional work streams have been identified which further support the Council's commitment to children in care. Progress on these work streams will be monitored by the LAC Strategy Steering Group as part of the ongoing six monthly action plan monitoring, to ensure the priorities of children in care are promoted. These additional work streams include:
- the involvement of looked after children and young people in a two year self harm research project through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
 - Children's Social Care representative for the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Participation Group
 - the current review of the Children's Disability Service through the Children's Social Care Transformation Programme.

Other Options Considered

7. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, 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.

Implications for Service Users

10. Looked After Children will benefit from clear commitments from the County Council and partner agencies which support them, based on what young people in care have told us is important to them in The Pledge.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

11. The Strategy commits Council and partner services to giving Looked After Children the same opportunities as any other group of children and young people.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

12. The Strategy strengthens the commitment of the Council and partners to effectively safeguarding this vulnerable group of children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the update on the progress of the action plan for the Looked After Children Strategy be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

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 (KLA 21/02/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Looked After Children Strategy – report to Policy Committee on 18 July 2012
Looked After Children Strategy update – report to Policy Committee on 16 January 2013
Looked After Children Strategy update – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 16 September 2013

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.

C0375

LAC Strategy Action Plan Monitoring

Theme	Number	Action	Achieved?
Participation & Joining In	1	Work with young people to produce a new review booklet to ensure their voices are heard	Yes
	2	Ensure reviewing officers use the consultation booklets with children and young people prior to every review	Ongoing
	3	Create a Facebook page to enable better communication and networking with young people	Ongoing
	4	Continuously review 'The Pledge' to ensure it continues to reflect the priorities of all age groups in care	Yes
	5	Ensure that care planning decisions such as placement changes are not made outside the review process, and that children are always involved in these decisions	Ongoing
	6	Ensure children who live in independent sector placements can access the same opportunities and services as those who are placed within NCC	Partially
	7	Ensure care planning is inclusive and reflects the views of parents and carers	Yes
	8	Produce a new guide to adoption for older children and young	Yes
	9	Develop a participation strategy that outlines how agencies will gather and promote the views of children looked after	Ongoing
	10	Ensure that all children looked after will have a link educational psychologist	Yes
	11	Monitor LAC in below floor target schools and also those LAC in satisfactory schools	Yes
	12	Improve the timeliness and quality of Personal Education Plans	Yes
	13	Ensure that teacher assessment data is robust and good quality	Ongoing
Education	14	Review funding mechanisms that currently support the education of looked after children	Yes
	15	Minimise the number of times looked after children need to move to a different school during their education	Yes
	16	Remove barriers to school admissions for Looked After Children	Ongoing
	17	Ensure that the staffing and resources available to the Virtual School are sufficient	Yes
	18	Improve the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) support to Looked After Children at the end of Key Stage 4	Yes
Health	19	Work with District Councils to improve access to council-run sport and leisure facilities for looked after children	Partially
	20	Ensure that social care and health systems work more closely together to provide accurate and timely information	Yes
	21	Ensure commissioning arrangements for health services for LAC and care leavers are prioritised and maintained in the light of health reforms	Yes

LAC Strategy Action Plan Monitoring

Theme	Number	Action	Achieved?
Safe & Stable Placements	22	Consultation exercise to review the experience of children and young people in placements, to understand where we can improve	Ongoing
	23	Pilot a Creative Solutions Panel	Yes
	24	Ensure that disruption meetings are held in a consistent way in all types of placement	Yes
	25	Continue to expand the number of salaried carers for young people in need of foster care	Yes
	26	Explore ways of better managing the challenges that social media bring to placements	Yes
	27	Maintain our commitment to inclusive adoption planning and support	Yes
	28	Develop our support to children and young people in permanent kinship placements	Ongoing
Relationships	29	Establish a new Family Assessment and Contact Service which will provide a consistent approach to contact across the county	Yes
	30	Develop a training and information pack for social workers in the throughcare team	Yes
	31	Delegate more authority to foster carers to make day to day decisions about contact plans with family and friends	Yes
	32	Continue to recruit foster carers from a wide range of diverse backgrounds	Partially
	33	Review of internal and external provider services to ensure that placements are VFM and are providing the best possible experience for LAC, their birth families and carers	Ongoing
	34	Further develop our support to children and young people in permanent placements to ensure that these remain stable and continue to meet their needs	Yes
	35	Ensure that all LAC with permanent fostering plans have life story work completed	Ongoing
Moving to Adulthood	36	Scope the viability of an integrated transitions service for children with disabilities	Yes
	37	Continue to recruit foster carers under the 14+ scheme to support the Staying Put Policy	Ongoing
	38	Develop supported lodgings and extend accommodation options for care leavers	Yes
	39	Increase availability of apprenticeships within NCC for care leavers	Yes
Emotional Wellbeing	40	Services to looked after young people will all contribute to the emotional wellbeing of our looked after children and young people	Ongoing
	41	Identify new ways of measuring positive progress in emotional resilience and wellbeing of our looked after children and young people	Ongoing
	42	Further assess mental health and emotional needs of Looked After Children through the refresh of the CAMHS needs assessment	Yes
	43	Increase leave available for NCC staff who are taking on the care of a child through a special guardianship order	Yes

17 March 2014**Agenda Item: 6**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

LEAVING CARE SERVICE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information about the service to care leavers provided by the Leaving Care Service set up in September 2013.

Information and Advice

The Service

2. The Leaving Care Service provides an advice and practical support service for young people who have left the care of the Local Authority. The statutory framework for this support is contained in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 with expectations updated by the 2010 Care Planning Regulations and Guidance Volume 3.
3. In September 2013, the Leaving Care Service was restructured for reasons outlined in a previous report to the Sub-Committee in June 2013. There is now a clearly defined transfer point to the Leaving Care Service when a young person leaves care at the age of 18 years. Personal advisers are introduced to young people six months before they reach 18 in order to make introductions and to become involved in the young person's plans for adulthood. The focus of this support is to help care leavers maximise their employability through access to appropriate education and training, to find safe, affordable and sustainable accommodation and to ensure that care leavers have a named adult who they can turn to for advice and guidance when needed.
4. The support offered through our Leaving Care Service includes the allocation of a named personal adviser, financial help with further and higher education (fees, travel and accommodation, and resources such as equipment), help with benefits and meeting Job Centre Plus requirements, finding and sustaining appropriate training and education, access to health care, finding appropriate accommodation and financial support to set up a first home, a Staying Put Scheme that allows young people to stay with foster carers post 18 years, and help with independent living skills.
5. When looked after young people reach 18 years of age, their maintenance, accommodation and health needs are met through mainstream sources with the personal adviser providing guidance, advocacy, and practical support depending on the young person's level of independent living skills and existing support from community or family

and friends. Whilst this support ends at age 21 years for most young people, for those in education it can extend up to age 25 years. Even where we have ended our involvement with young people at 21, if they wish to pursue a course of education or training post 21 years, they can come back to us for an assessment of need and where necessary we have a duty to offer support.

6. The service is made up of 2 two teams, North and South. There are 13 full time equivalent (fte) Personal Advisers (grade 5 staff) and two fte 18+ Achievement Advisers providing specialist advice on education, training and employment issues. Management of the team is provided by 1.6 fte social work qualified Team Managers and a 0.5 fte Children's Services Manager. The staff group is stable and most members of the team have worked with care leavers for a number of years so there is a great deal of expertise and knowledge within the staff group. Current average caseloads for personal advisers are 23 young people. The service is currently carrying two vacancies.
7. The service currently works with 290 young people. This number has risen over the past year from a consistently average number of 250 over previous years and reflects the growth in the looked after population in the County. The cohort is made up of the following:

Ethnicity	Count								
Asian or Asian British Any other Asian background	10	Age	Count	Gender	Count	Disability	Count		
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	1								
Black or Black British African	2								
Black or Black British Caribbean	1								
Mixed Any other mixed background	2								
Mixed White and Asian	1								
Mixed White and Black African	2								
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	11								
Other Ethnic Groups Any other ethnic group	26								
White Any other White background	2								
White British	231	16	1	Female	115	No	262		
White Polish or other Eastern European	1	17	31	Male	175	Yes	28		
Total :		18	83	Total :		Total :			
		19	77						
		20	75						
		21	15						
		22	4						
		23	4						
Total :		Total :	290	Total :		Total :		Total :	

8. Whilst 89 of these young people are living outside of Nottinghamshire, 47 of these live in Nottingham City with another 42 living within 50 miles of the County in Leicestershire, Derbyshire or Derby. Only 20 young people are further afield and these include young people who are at university. The Looked After Children strategy supports local placements for children and this has a definite link to positive outcomes once they leave care. This means that we are able to maintain meaningful contact with most young people in order to offer the support with independent living that they need.
9. In the financial year 2012/13 the cost of the service was £1,670,440. This includes staffing, running costs and payments made to and on behalf of young people such as higher education tuition fees, accommodation, Staying Put arrangements, Home Establishment payments to young people and maintenance and accommodation for former unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.

Performance Data

10. The service performance is measured annually through the National Performance Indicator 148 data set. Performance is measured in three key areas which focus on outcomes for young people. Over the past ten years this has been measured when young people reach age 19 years but for the first time in 2014 we will also report on outcomes at age 20 and 21 years which will allow us to identify whether young people are sustaining positive outcomes over time.
11. A snapshot of our performance in December 2013 showed the following:
 - Out of 77 19 year old care leavers, 100% have maintained contact with the service, 95% are in suitable accommodation and 66% are in education, employment and training.
 - Out of 61 20 year old care leavers, 98% have maintained contact with the service, 93% are in suitable accommodation and 56% are in education, employment and training.
 - Out of 41 21 year old care leavers, 100% have maintained contact with the service, 90% are in suitable accommodation and 66% are in education, employment and training.
 - Across the County care leaver population as a whole, 99% remain in touch with the service, 63% are in education, employment or training and 94% are in suitable accommodation. These indicators compare favourably with other local authorities.

Recent Developments

12. We are continually trying to improve life outcomes for young people. Care leavers are an extremely diverse group and outcomes will be affected by a number of factors, not least background, pre-care experiences, stability within the care system and personal resilience. Research tells us that young people who remain in care until they are ready and able to live independently do better in terms of economic independence and social inclusion than those who leave early. To this end we have developed a Staying Put Policy in line with the central government framework that allows looked after young people to remain with their foster carers post 18 years. Young people finance the rent element of the arrangement and make a contribution to food and utilities with an allowance to the provider paid by Nottinghamshire County Council. There are currently 18 young people in a Staying Put arrangement and a further 12 young people benefitted from being able to stay with their ex foster carers under the scheme before leaving when they were ready. The current running cost is £3,302 per week.
13. Care leavers are trying to find work in a national and global recession. Youth unemployment continues to be high nationally, and many jobs for under 25 year olds are low paid, temporary or part time. There are currently 23,000 Job Seekers Allowance claimants in Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw having the greatest number) with 3,500 18 to 25 year olds being a target group for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Young people with complex needs will find getting work or into education particularly difficult and for those young people the ability to sustain a benefit claim will be vital. The

Achievement Advisers have worked alongside DWP officers to develop the Government initiative which hopes to fast track claims for care leavers. In addition, where young people are put forward for work programmes through the DWP, additional support will be offered to support attendance and compliance to prevent sanctions and support young people with the new Claimant Commitment planning to help young people develop skills for work. We are at the early stages of linking with a national charity to support young people who wish to get involved with volunteering as a way of developing skills for employment.

Success Stories

14. 63% of care leavers are in a variety of employment, education and training settings. Jobs include retail, hospitality, and carer roles. One young person has set up her own business as a dog groomer. Ten Nottinghamshire care leavers are currently studying at universities across the country and courses include teaching, youth work, engineering, accountancy, communication and linguistics, media production, fine art and social care and health. One young person has recently applied for additional funding from the Authority to support her during her Master's Degree studies in psychology. Over the past couple of years two young people have travelled to Africa and China to do voluntary work.

Participation and Service User Views

15. The service aims to engage young people in group activities where possible. One member of our team has recently started attending the Children in Care Council Care Leavers Group as a representative in order to get young people's views and answer any queries they may have about leaving care. We have written information available for young people about the service and are in the process of updating the intranet information on the Nottinghamshire County Council website.
16. We have put on two successful events this year which attracted 39 care leavers. The events included a healthy eating cooking session, budgeting and practical living skills exercises and a chance for young people to get together in a relaxed environment with staff. Feedback statements from young people included:

"It takes too long to get an adult social worker, complaints take too long. This can cause problems with money"

"There should be better joint working with other agencies, housing forms and A1 form to be easier to fill in and understand"

"Pathway Plans not used in life so I do not see them as necessary"

"They help with everything ...like a house and college"

"I have learnt things I never thought I could learn"

"Leaving Care have found me a place to live and I am happy"

“Leaving Care team have helped me get through college and find somewhere to live. Without their support I wouldn’t be where I am. Thank you”

Other Options Considered

17. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, 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 service to care leavers provided by the Leaving Care Service be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children’s Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 13/02/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Leaving Care Service update – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 24 June 2013

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.

C0371

17 March 2014

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

ADOPTION SERVICE BI-ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with a six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from September 2013 to February 2014.

Information and Advice

2. The Government continues to focus on adoption in an attempt to cope with the growing numbers of children looked after nationally. This focus is two-fold: to exit more children by adoption; and to exit children more quickly by adoption.
3. The Children and Families Bill currently progressing through Parliament now has an amended clause, whereby the Secretary of State could remove the ability to practice as an adoption agency from a specific local authority, following debate in Parliament. This is amended from the power to take the adoption function from any or all local authorities.
4. The volume of work in the adoption service in 2013-14 is expected to be as follows:

	2013-14 (Estimated)	2012-13	2011-12
Adoptive Family Approvals	60	45	31
New Adoption Plans	75	104	81
Children Placed	108	86	51
Children Adopted	85	40	42

5. This shows the required improvements in recruiting adopters. The national picture is a 15% increase in adoptions to March 2013. In Nottinghamshire we have also seen an improvement in the timeliness of assessing adopters. Before the new Stage Two Process of assessing and approving adopters was implemented in July 2013, approximately 30% of adopters were approved within eight months. Under the new process approximately 60% are approved within six months.
6. Nottinghamshire has increased recruitment by almost 100% since 2011-2012.

7. The table below shows the number of children discussed each month at the homefinding meeting, from March 2013:

Month	Children Waiting	Match	Hold	Total
March	45	53	13	111
April	32	49	25	106
May	23	60	21	104
June	24	46	23	93
July	22	42	11	75
September	22	42	16	80
November	24	49	9	82
December	20	59	3	82
January	19	46	11	76
February	20	35	10	65

8. The number linked to our own adopters has steadily increased, and the number linked with other agencies has now fallen dramatically.
9. Our Partnership with a Local Voluntary Agency continues to provide placements for children within the Midlands, thus reducing the need for permanence social workers to travel great distances.
10. The number of children waiting for adoption has steadily fallen over the year, from approximately 35 to 20, and the children in this group are those we would expect – siblings, older single children and children with development complexities.
11. For these children we deploy a range of intensive homefinding activities:
- Adoption Activity Days
 - feature in Children who Wait / Be My Parent publications
 - DVD footage on Children who Wait / Be My Parent websites
 - specific advertising
 - Register exchange events - national
 - Register exchange events - local
12. On 14 January 2014 the Department of Education (DfE) published an update to the adoption scorecards, covering the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013. The scorecards were introduced as part of a new approach to address delays in the adoption system, as set out in 'An action plan for adoption: tackling delay' (March 2012).

13. Performance thresholds make clear the Government's expectations for timeliness in the adoption system. The three scorecard indicators are:
 - A1: average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (target 608 days)
 - A2: average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (target 182 days)
 - A3: measures the number and percentage of children who wait less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (recorded as a percentage - no targets set for local authorities).
14. The scorecards published in January 2014 show that overall nationally there has been no improvement in timeliness since 2009 to 2012. Against the updated thresholds for A1 and A2, only 36 local authorities met both thresholds and 65 authorities failed to meet both thresholds.
15. Nottinghamshire is one of the authorities that failed to meet both thresholds. Edward Timpson, the Children's Minister, has written to all local authorities, including Nottinghamshire, to stress that meeting the thresholds will need an increasingly sharp focus, especially as thresholds become more challenging over the next few years. By 2016, the targets for A1 and A2 will be 426 days and 121 days respectively.
16. The DfE has also stated that, whilst the national picture is disappointing, the data does not cover 2013 to 2014 - the year in which a number of significant changes to the adoption system were made and which are expected to deliver improvements.
17. The 2013 scorecard shows that Nottinghamshire has not achieved the target in either the 'placing' (A1) or 'matching' (A2) indicators described above. In placing (A1), the target has been missed by 17 days, and in matching (A2), the target has been missed by 35 days. In A3, 57% of children are placed within 20 months of entering care in Nottinghamshire, compared to the national average of 55%.
18. As stated by the Children's Minister, adoption targets are ever tightening with the aim of improving performance and placing children more quickly. The national picture demonstrates the challenge that this squeezing of targets presents to local authorities. If the 2012 targets were still in place (639 days for placing, and 213 days for matching), Nottinghamshire's 2013 performance would have met the placement target and only been 4 days off the matching target.
19. The performance data used in the scorecard is also historic data, whereas the targets set are current. This makes it difficult for local authorities, all of whom have completed historic performance in relation to adoption, to meet targets being set now and squeezed further in the future. For example, the matching measurement (A2) for 2013 is applied to all children adopted from April 2010 to March 2013. These children are likely to have become subject to placement order between 2009 and 2012, which will therefore in no way reflect current performance. In Nottinghamshire, for children adopted between April and December 2013, the average matching time is 191 days, 9 days off the target of 182 days. However, the 2013 scorecard reports Nottinghamshire as 35 days off this target

because it uses historic performance data. It is also worth noting again that the target for placing (A1) has reduced by 21 days between 2012 and 2013 (639 to 608 days), which sees our historic performance being judged as off target by 17 days in the 2013 scorecard.

20. Over the past 2 years the percentage of Looked After Children (LAC) placed for adoption in Nottinghamshire has risen from 4% to 10%. This performance measurement better demonstrates that a robust consideration of adoption for all children requiring permanence is taking place.
21. Nottinghamshire has also implemented Foster to Adopt, which allows children to be placed earlier with their permanent family by using fostering regulations, prior to adoption placement. One child has been successfully placed, for another it was considered but not achieved, and for a further two is being actively undertaken.
22. The percentage of the Nottinghamshire looked after children (LAC) population placed for adoption has risen from 4% to 10% over the last year, and is now at the level we would expect to maintain.
23. Our Partnership (enabled by Adoption Reform Grant) with a Local Voluntary Adoption Agency - Adopt Together - is proving successful. As well as placing children, other benefits are:
 - staff training
 - adopters training
 - early identification of children in Nottinghamshire in need of adoption support
 - shared adoption support work
 - improved professional relationships
 - peer support.
24. We are expecting in 2014:
 - further guidance on Fostering to Adopt
 - new Regulations regarding adoption support, including personalised budgets.
 - more Adoption Reform Grant (£50m nationally)
 - to maintain new fully staffed levels
 - developments in the voluntary sector, particularly in adoption support
 - consultation on the new two stage process for Adopters in light of practice and experience.

Other Options Considered

25. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

26. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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 six-monthly report on activity in the adoption service from September 2013 to February 2014 be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 21/02/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

An action plan for adoption: tackling delay – Department for Education (March 2012).

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.

C0372

17 March 2014

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with 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.
3. The Advocacy Service for Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City was provided by Barnardo's from February 2011 and is commissioned until 31 March 2014.
4. In September 2013 the Service was re-tendered and in December 2013 the contract was awarded to the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) which will begin work on 1 April 2014.
5. The service specification requires NYAS to visit all children and young people placed in external and internal residential units no less than eight weekly. This is in addition to representing children and young people with specific concerns at Looked After Reviews and enabling them to use the complaints systems.
6. NYAS will employ a combination of paid and volunteer advocates, using staff from other regions where these are based nearer to our young people (for example, using staff from their Cumbria office to advocate for our young people living in Cumbria.)
7. The Service covers Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City looked after children and young people and has additional provision to ensure representation for young people secured at Clayfields House.
8. There is additional provision, which can be spot-purchased, for young people involved in safeguarding processes.

9. 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 our LAC and young people.
10. The total value of the contract for City and County is £180,000, with the County paying £120,000 as we have approximately 900 LAC plus a Clayfields House contract (the City have approx 500 LAC). The cost of the contract has been provided for in the 2014/15 budget.

Other Options Considered

11. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, 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

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 21/02/14)

15. There are no financial implications arising directly from the report, though the financial implications of the tender process reported are contained in paragraph 10 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0369

17 March 2014

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

NUMBERS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLACED IN EXTERNALLY MANAGED RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information about the number of looked after children and more detail about those placed in externally managed residential children's homes.

Information and Advice

2. There are currently 843 children and young people who are looked after by Nottinghamshire. Of these, 670 are in foster care, 8 are placed with parents, 82 are placed for adoption and the remaining 83 are placed in residential care settings.
3. **Table 1** gives a breakdown of where the 83 looked after young people in residential care are located:

Table 1

Location of residential units		Number of young people (% of all young people in residential care)
Nottinghamshire	(internally and externally provided units)	42 (of which 16 are placed in Nottinghamshire County Council's own children's homes)
Nottingham	(external provision)	8
Derbyshire	(external provision)	13
Lincolnshire	(external provision)	4
Leicestershire	(external provision)	3
Wetherby	(external provision)	1
Coventry	(external provision)	1
Hyde	(external provision)	1
Cumbria	(external provision)	2
Doncaster	(external provision)	1
Shrewsbury	(external provision)	1
Staffordshire	(external provision)	2

Rutland	(external provision)	1
Sheffield	(external provision)	2
Barnsley	(external provision)	1
Total		83

4. The majority of children and young people who are not placed in Nottinghamshire are placed in neighbouring authorities.
5. A number of young people who are placed externally are in specialist provisions, for example, young people who are on remand count as part of the looked after children (LAC) population, although the Local Authority has no control over this placement. However the numbers of these are currently low – only one at the time this report was written.
6. The Placements Team visit all external placements at least every six months, and more frequently where concerns have been expressed, young people are more vulnerable or where there are additional or complex needs or contracting arrangements. For example two visits to Cumbria have been scheduled in the last three months. The Children, Families and Cultural Services department's senior leadership team is also visiting young people in external provision with Anthony May, Corporate Director making a visit in October 2013 to young people placed at 'Wings' Residential School in Newark and Steve Edwards, Service Director, Children's Social Care, making a visit to Fell House in Cumbria in February 2014. This is in addition to the regular and routine visits and monitoring by children and young people's social workers.
7. The Commissioning and Placements Team is actively exploring the commissioning of more externally managed residential beds to complement our internal provision within Nottinghamshire and will up-date the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee with the development of this provision. It is expected that the majority of Block Purchase beds would be within the County.

Other Options Considered

8. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The report is for noting only.

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 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 number of looked after children and young people placed in externally managed Residential Children's Homes be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

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 (KLA 21/02/13)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0370

17 March 2014

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2013/14.

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, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Assistant Democratic Services Officer -

Christine Marson

Tel: 0115 977 3887

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 2013-14

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
9 June 2014			
Fostering Service annual report		Steve Edwards	Jayne Austin
Physical health of Looked After Children		Steve Edwards	Sharon Thompson/ Rachel Coombs
Independent Chairs Service – annual report		Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin
Work Programme		Steve Edwards	
To be placed			
Adoption Service annual report (September)		Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Advocacy Service - NYAS	Presentation/information	Steve Edwards	Mary Jarrett
LAC CAMHS – evaluation/outcomes		Steve Edwards	Rachel Coombs

