

## **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

**Monday, 08 June 2015 at 14:00**

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

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### **AGENDA**

- 1 Election of Chairman  
To note the appointment by the County Council on 14 May 2015 of Councillor Liz Plant as Chair of the Committee
- 2 To note the membership of the Committee
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd June 2015 3 - 8
- 4 Apologies for Absence
- 5 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)  
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests  
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)
- 6 Summer Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children 9 - 14
- 7 Advocacy Service for Looked after Children 15 - 18
- 8 Barnardo's Peer Review of Nottinghamshire Leaving Care Service 19 - 22
- 9 Contact Service Update 23 - 28
- 10 County CAMHS Looked after and Adoption Team Service provision and developments 2014-15 29 - 34
- 11 End of year report for the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 35 - 46

12	Fostering Service Annual report April 2014-March 2015	47 - 50
13	Improving health outcomes for Children & Young People in the care of the Local Authority	51 - 56
14	Work Programme	57 - 60

## **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.
- (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 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2015 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Liz Plant (Chairman)

John Allin		Philip Owen
Boyd Elliott	A	Sue Saddington
Kate Foale	A	Andy Sissons
Alice Grice		Jacky Williams

**Foster Carer**

Sarah Maiden  
Aleks Jackowska

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Rachel Coombs	-	Group Manager, Children's Social Care
Helen Daft	-	Service Manager, Children's Social Care
Sue Denholm	-	Co-ordinator of the Virtual School
David Ebbage	-	Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services Department
Steve Edwards	-	Service Director, Children's Social Care
Linda Foster	-	Team Manager, Education Improvement Service
Michelle Lee	-	Aftercare Service Manager
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services Department.
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Service Manager, Adoption

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sissons and Councillor Saddington.

Councillor Alice Grice replaced Councillor Colleen Harwood for this meeting only.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Sue Denholm updated the Sub-Committee on the Virtual School for the Spring term 2015. She highlighted the following updates from the report:-

- A fourth Looked After Achievement Officer was recruited in December 2014. This now allows more capacity for managing out of county children and young people as well as extending to the post 16 sector where appropriate.
- Pupil Premium is being distributed to all schools with eligible Looked After Children in and out of the Local Authority. 540 pupils will be eligible.
- Each plan is specifically designed for an individual and all plans have to be agreed before distributing. If we feel the plan is not being met then the LA are able to challenge it.
- Training continued for designated teachers new to post, delivered by the virtual school co-ordinator and the team manager for the virtual school. The first event took place in December 2014 and was well received with excellent feedback and the event on 15 March 2015 had over 20 participants registered to date.

Following questions from Members the following points were made:-

- Members were informed that if the Pupil Premium plan was not happening, then the money would not get sent until a different package was agreed.
- Members raised concern over the amount of Looked after Children attending required improvement or inadequate schools. They were informed that the school the child is sent to is on an individual basis, to best suit their individual needs. The Personal Education Plan (PEP) process helps with their progress also.

### **RESOLVED 2015/001**

That the update on the Virtual School for the Spring Term 2015 be noted.

## **SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WITH SELF-HARMING BEHAVIOUR**

Helen Daft provided information to the Sub-Committee regarding self-harming behaviour in young people and the support they receive.

She explained how children in care are more likely to have had adverse life experiences, frequent moves, fractured family and care relationships all of which increase their vulnerability to adopting unhealthy coping behaviours.

Of the 255 young people currently open to Child & Adolescent mental Health Services (CAMHS) CLA & Adopted Team (December 2014), we are aware of 46 young people with active or recent self-harming behaviours. Some of these young people harm on an almost daily basis to relieve stress or tension. There are 31 females and 15 males currently open to the team.

Of those 46 young people, 19 are placed in highly specialist residential care, because of their self-harming behaviours and overall 'risky' presentation. Seven of this cohort has been admitted to hospital because of their self-harming behaviour. One young person currently remains in an in-patient setting, one young person moved from an in-patient setting directly to a long term foster placement and five young people moved from a hospital in-patient setting to specialist residential care.

The project 'Listen Up' is a self-harm project that is supported by both Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and Nottinghamshire County Council. The project is encouraging young people who self-harm to get involved. All young people are made aware of this project and the option of accessing support through it.

Following questions from Members the following points were made:-

- The Listen Up project is jointly commissioned by CAMHS and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- There has been such a big increase in self harming over the past few years. It becomes the norm for individuals once they start and try to contain it.
- The table in paragraph 7 of the report are the number of cases open at the minute. The team are not aware of any case below 10 years of age.
- Training is available for Foster Carers to help with self harm if it was ever an issue for them. Officer consultations also work with social workers and carer.

### **RESOLVED 2015/002**

That the information about Looked after Children with self-harming behaviour and the support available to them be noted

## **PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER 2014/15**

Steve Edwards gave a brief overview of the work of the Young People Looked after (YPLA), Youth Work team, situated within the Youth Service.

As part of a range of budget savings across the Council it was agreed that the Service would continue to offer strong specialist youth work services, including participation work for children and young people and youth work services for Looked After Children.

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.

A recent review and development had taken place of the process in how young people are invited to participate in shaping the services available to them. This was to assist young people in:

- taking ownership of the agenda and their involvement in the design and delivery of services
- identifying how requests link to the PLEDGE
- establishing the information required and the time needed to enable young people to actively participate
- organising and keeping track of individual projects they are involved in.

Services requesting young people's participation needed to complete and send an expression of interest form (devised by young people) six weeks prior to the published date for the sub-group meeting(s).

A committee, consisting of the Chair of No Labels, Vice Chair of No Labels, Members of the YPLA Youth Work team and a representative from the Children's Social Care management team will look at all the expression of interest forms and organise when and if it will be possible to participate in the project, based on aims, links to the PLEDGE, and time scales. This process will be in effect from April 2015.

### **RESOLVED 2015/003**

That the overview of the work of the Young People Looked After team be noted.

## **ADOPTION SERVICES BI-ANNUAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2014 TO FEBRUARY 2015**

Shelagh Mitchell provided a general update to Members on the recent activity on the service from September 2014 to February 2015.

She outlined the following points in the report:-

- The Service remained stable, with some very experienced staff, and newer members of staff becoming established in their roles. There had been some recruitment to social work vacancies, and Recruitment and Project Officer temporary vacancies.

- Table 1 in the report showed the year on year increase in adopter approvals. The majority met the six month timescale for approval. The local authority adopters had placed 10 children from other local authorities by April 2015.
- There had been a rise in Special Guardianship Orders, those children had the same backgrounds and circumstances as adopted children, but their families do not have the same rights to support assessments.
- There had been a great improvement with regards to placing children. The total number of children with an adoption plan, needing a placement, had fallen by over 50% from 2013, to the end of 2014, and the number waiting had fallen to single figures.
- Those waiting to be adopted who had been matched have an average number of days of 294 days compared with the latest quarter 3 figure of 338 days.

Following questions from Members the following point was made:-

- Members asked if there were any figures on adoption breakdowns; an estimated 3% of all adoptions broke down. This could be down to a number of factors, but breakdown on a whole is very low in Nottinghamshire.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/004**

That the bi-annual update on activity in the Adoption Service from September 2014 to February 2015 be noted.

#### **LEAVING CARE SERVICE UPDATE**

Michelle Lee provided an update to Members on the Leaving Care Team.

There had been no change to the team structure or specification since the previous report which came to the Sub-Committee on 22 September 2014.

Over the past year the numbers of young people the Team had worked with had increased from 290 to 325. An increase was predicted due to the higher numbers of looked after young people, especially the growing number of 16 and 17 year olds in care.

Our latest local data (as of December 2014) indicated that 200 of our over 18s are engaged in some form of education, employment or training.

Following questions from Members the following points were made:-

- In the report it stated 'In January 2015 staff from Barnardo's undertook a peer review of the service in order to support our preparation for Ofsted inspection and initial feedback was positive. One observation they made was that the link between the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee and the service needed to be more robust and this is currently being taken forward and will be reported on at a future Sub-Committee meeting'.

What came out of that was largely positive, no major issues for the Sub-Committee to look at.

- Looking at the wider picture, child sexual exploitation which would involve wider Member scrutiny, working on a plan to do that. The Children & Young People inspection of safeguarding will come to committee also.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/005**

That the update on the Leaving Care Service be noted.

#### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The updated work programme was considered by Members.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/006**

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

#### **FOSTER CARERS ITEMS**

The Foster Carers present at the meeting had nothing to report to the Sub-Committee.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm

**CHAIRMAN**

2 Mar 2015



**8 June 2015**

**Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, STANDARDS AND INCLUSION**

### **SUMMER 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 summer term 2015.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Virtual School Senior Leadership Team and Virtual School Improvement Plan**

2. The senior leadership team (SLT) met on 27 April 2015 and reviewed the 2014/15 virtual school improvement plan and self-evaluation form (SEF). There were also discussions on amending the personal education plan document with the changes to levels in the new academic year.

##### **Virtual School Staff**

3. Numbers of LAC in year groups and Key Stages are as follows:

Yr1	32	KS1
Yr2	34	
Yr3	35	KS2
Yr4	36	
Yr5	43	
Yr6	44	
Yr7	48	KS3
Yr8	40	
Yr9	50	
Yr10	63	KS4
Yr11	72	
Yr12	95	KS5
Yr13	48	

4. The fourth looked after achievement officer took up post in March 2015. This officer is currently undergoing an induction programme and will be focussing for the summer term on year six transition planning.

## **Designated Teacher Training**

5. Training for designated teachers will be held in June 2015. Brian Roberts from Kate Cairns Associates will be delivering two workshops over two days on Understanding Trauma and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

## **Designated Teacher Memos**

6. These continue to be sent out regularly, minimally half termly. The coordinator uses this method to communicate information, news and events to designated teachers across the County. Feedback from designated teachers and head teachers has been positive and encourages contact from all schools with the virtual school.

## **School Links**

7. Bespoke training continues to be delivered by LAC achievement officers to all settings. More recently out of authority schools with Nottinghamshire. LAC on roll have received training to meet these children's needs. This training has been well received.

## **East Midlands Network**

8. The East Midlands regional group continues to meet and has now made links with regional Ofsted inspectors. The East Midlands was represented at the Ofsted Conference held in March 2015, presenting a workshop on the needs of LAC and how schools can support this vulnerable group of pupils to access learning. This was very well received and work with the regional Ofsted group will continue through representatives of the East Midlands virtual head network.

## **Social Care Links**

9. The team manager and the co-ordinator for the virtual school have delivered training to district child protection teams across the County. The teams have received the same training on PEPs, the role of the virtual school and the importance of education, as delivered to the looked after team last academic year. This training now needs to be integrated into induction programmes for all new social workers.

## **Floor Target Schools and schools not yet good**

10. The virtual school continues to monitor looked after children in below floor target schools.
11. It is not the Local Authority's practice to move LAC from their schools if that school moves from outstanding or good judgements, as this is unsettling and detrimental to LACs' progress. Therefore the virtual school will ensure that, should there be the need, the children/young people will have input from the LAC achievement officers to ensure their educational needs are addressed.

LA	PHASE	NONE/ UNK*	OUTSTAND	GOOD	REQ IMPR	INADEQ
Nottinghamshire	Primary	4	17	112	29	3
	Secondary	0	33	75	33	4
	Other	16	5	18	1	6
Other authorities	Primary	1	10	44	15	0
	Secondary	1	8	35	10	8
	Other	5	9	5	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>21</b>

\*Unknown School or Alternative Provision or Academy Convertors with no Ofsted Judgment to date.

## Data

- The Local Authority is preparing a new data tracking system for the virtual school.

## Achievement Event

- This is going ahead as planned for 25 July 2015 at the Albert Hall and Ollie Hynd MBE has confirmed his attendance. Young people who are members of the Children in Care Council will be supporting the event with the preparations leading up to the day and organisation on the day.

## Pupil Premium

- This is being distributed to all schools with eligible LAC in and out of the Local Authority. Plans have been received which detail the expenditure and intended or evidenced impact. This will be collated in order to share good practice.
- These plans will be used by the LAC achievement officers in their day to day work supporting schools and young people.

## Projects - Letterbox Club 2014

- Positive reports from the library service evaluating the 2014 scheme have been received. Once again a very successful year with 103 children receiving parcels, 30 of which were outside of the County. 74% of the children said they enjoyed the parcels 'a lot' with 66% of carers indicating the scheme encouraged reading at school. The scheme will be continued including year 1 for 2015.

## Personal Education Plan

- PEPs will need to be updated in light of the changes in national curriculum assessment. The virtual school and senior leadership team will work on this over the summer in order to have a document ready for the new academic year.
- It is proposed that this new document will be presented to head teachers at autumn term briefings and social care staff will be invited to attend a training session.

## **Good News**

19. Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children who have achieved outstanding grades, 100% attendance, achievements in sport or for any reason that either carers or social workers would like rewarded in relation to education.

## **Other Options Considered**

20. No other options have been considered.

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

21. This report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. 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 summer term 2015 be noted.

**John Slater**

**Service Director, Education Standards and Improvement**

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

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (SS 13/05/15)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

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

Spring term report of the Virtual School for Looked After children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 2 March 2015

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

All.

C0637



**8 June 2015****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.
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 our LAC young people.
4. The service specification requires NYAS to visit all 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. NYAS also has responsibility for visiting and representing children and young people who are in secure accommodation at Clayfields House and young people secured on welfare orders.
5. NYAS employs a number of full-time and sessional 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)
6. There is additional provision, which can be spot-purchased, for young people involved in safeguarding processes or who need advocacy in relation to other services such as special educational needs and disability (SEND) processes. There is an increasing demand for this service, with two or three young people per quarter requesting representation at initial or review case conferences.
7. NYAS has maintained the regular visiting schedule which forms the backbone of the contract with them. By visiting young people 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. NYAS appointed new staff and visits were made every four weeks to ensure there were no delays in establishing visits during contract implementation. To ensure that reporting and recording of visits by NYAS is consistent, a Placements Team officer now meets monthly with NYAS to reconcile the Authority's lists of Looked After Young people with their data and ensure young people are all receiving the service.

8. In addition to the residential visiting advocacy, NYAS undertakes issues based advocacy when they represent young people with specific issues. On average nine children per quarter use the issues based advocacy service. The majority of requests are for an advocate to attend a meeting with a young person (generally a Looked After review) and support them to give their views. Advocates have also supported young people making complaints and applying for benefits.
9. 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. Clayfields House has given positive feedback about the advocacy service from NYAS.
10. Finally NYAS has a contract to provide an Independent Visiting Service for Looked after Children. Independent Visitors are volunteers who visit Looked After young people to support and befriend them. NYAS has spent the last year recruiting and training volunteers in addition to supporting existing relationships.

### **Case Study of Independent Visiting Service**

11. K was referred to the service in September 2011 by her social worker, foster carer and health professionals who felt that a positive female role model who could offer some time away from her placement and also the opportunity to engage in new activities would make a positive impact on her life.
12. K had a chaotic upbringing and was neglected by her biological family so the Independent Visitor Service offered an opportunity for K to gain confidence and boost her self-esteem. K was quite isolated in her placement when the initial referral was made and was living away from the area in which she grew up and her family contact, although settled, could sometimes be difficult for K.
13. K is a young person who is very keen on animals and enjoys getting involved and learning about them, so she was matched with a volunteer Independent Visitor (IV) who had similar interests. K was matched with her IV in November 2011 and is still matched with the same volunteer to date. K has had opportunity to take part in lots of activities with her Independent Visitor including indoor sledging, painting pots, falconry experiences, visiting wildlife parks, going to the cinema and out for a meal and most recently a visit to a hedgehog convention which she really enjoyed.



14. The service has followed the match and assessed progress for K and the impact that having a volunteer Independent Visitor has made. K reported that having an IV had helped improve things in her life, increased her confidence and that she really likes her IV. She said the service had helped her to do more of the activities she enjoys, that she looked forward to seeing her IV and that the presence of her IV had helped her to increase her self-esteem. When asked what she enjoyed most or she would change she said 'I have enjoyed everything'. At the same evaluation point her foster carer was asked to feedback to the service - she said that 'K has become more confident and the IV always makes the trips out exciting and enjoyable. K looks forward to the trips; they have a good relationship and always have fun together. I cannot thank the IV enough, these visits support both me and K and the IV is a credit to the service'.
15. Although the service has been a positive one for K, it has also added an extra level of safeguarding for her as she grows and changes; the regular visits by the IV have highlighted some issues for K both currently and along their match journey, including areas such as hygiene and her relationship with her foster carer which have been relayed to social care and have enabled positive change for K.
16. K is 13 and the match is planned to continue until she is 18; if this is possible it will make it one of NYAS's longest running matches and will hopefully have delivered many years of stability, confidence building and a positive role model for K alongside the hard work of the Local Authority, enabling her to grow and achieve her maximum potential.

#### **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 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**

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

**Financial Comments (SS 15/05/15)**

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

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

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

All.

C0640

8 June 2015

Agenda Item: 8

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

### **BARNARDO'S REVIEW OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEAVING CARE SERVICE**

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

1. The report provides a summary of the key findings of a peer evaluation of the Leaving Care Service which was carried out by Barnardo's in January 2015.
2. The report also asks the Sub-Committee to advise if there are any additional areas of the Leaving Care Service they would like to consider in more detail in order to improve services for care leavers.

#### **Information and Advice**

3. In order to complete the peer evaluation staff from Barnardos had sight of relevant documentation, conducted a case audit and held focus groups with staff.

#### **Key Findings**

4. The key findings of the evaluation were as follows:
  - a) the approach to engaging young people in employment, education and training (EET) was viewed as positive with a number of innovative approaches identified such as the work of the Achievement Advisers
  - b) the persistent approach to working with disengaged young people was highlighted as was the use of data analysis to identify areas for development such as work with Children's Centres to engage young parents in group work
  - c) the service is delivered by a positive, passionate and motivated staff group who are very experienced and understand the client group. The efforts made to maintain contact with young people was highlighted as was the flexible approach of staff
  - d) the broad application of the principles of the Staying Put policy, which provides financial support to foster carers who continue to provide accommodation for young people over the age of 18 when they have left care, was viewed as very positive as was the approach to identifying and maintaining appropriate accommodation for young people
  - e) staff and managers had similar views about the service strengths and areas for development

- f) the Lead Member for Children's Social Care was noted as having taken a real interest in the needs of care leavers and has for example shadowed workers to get a clearer understanding of this.

## **Challenges**

5. The challenges identified were as follows:

- a) evidence of a partnership approach to supporting care leavers or the Council using its influence to advocate on their behalf with partners was viewed as limited, for example care leavers are not accorded any priority in accessing Council apprenticeships
- b) there was no evidence found of specific health provision for care leavers at key points such as when transitioning into adult services or where moving across health boundaries
- c) there was a need for the wider Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee to be clearer on its role in monitoring performance in the Leaving Care Service and therefore driving improvement
- d) although the service has a very supportive approach to maintaining individual young people in suitable accommodation it was felt that at a strategic level there were real challenges with availability and accessibility made more difficult by the different approaches of the seven district council housing authorities.

## **Strengthening the service**

6. As a result of the review a number of initiatives have been identified for on-going work and will be contained within the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015 – 2018. These include:

- a Care Leaver's Health Audit which will be undertaken to inform health commissioning plans and is scheduled to take place by September 2015
- 16+ Accommodation Tender is currently at the submission stage and Leaving Care managers have been involved in the review of submissions
- the service is improving links with the Children in Care Council by ensuring that a Personal Adviser attends the Leaving Care Sub-Group and that the Children in Care Council is promoted at all the events organised by the Leaving Care team for young people
- the Traineeship Scheme continues to be promoted with young people.

## **Other Options Considered**

7. The report is for noting only.

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

8. The report asks the Sub-Committee to advise if there are any additional areas of the Leaving Care Service they would like to consider in more detail in order to improve services for care leavers (see paragraph 5c).

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. 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**

That the Sub-Committee:

- 1) notes the key findings of the peer evaluation of the Leaving Care Service which was carried out by Barnardo's in January 2015
- 2) advises if there are any additional areas of the Leaving Care Service they would like to consider in more detail in order to improve services for care leavers.

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

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## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/05/15)**

10. Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

## **Financial Comments (SS 15/05/15)**

11. 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.

Children's Social Care Staying Put Policy

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

All.

C0633

**8 June 2015****Agenda Item: 9****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 looked after children and the progress that has been achieved following the review of the Service.

**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 new service model.
5. The Contact Service provides a County-wide service and has been operational since June 2012, following an 18 month pilot project. In September 2013 a review of the service was initiated and the service is now working to revised practice guidance and procedures. The child has remained the focus of all decision making and key processes within the new service model.

**Core Offer**

6. The Contact Service 'Core offer' is to 'provide supervised contact to children and young people who are looked after by the Local Authority to inform their permanency plan until this is agreed'. Priority will be given to cases within the court arena and where there is a requirement to provide evidence to the proceedings. Contact will also be supervised where there continues to be evidence of 'significant risk' to a child/ young person 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.

## Venues

7. The greatest concern identified at the beginning of the review period was the lack of exclusive use of venues in each district. This created a reliance on ad hoc bookings of alternative venues which the service had no control over in terms of scheduling and ensuring rooms were age appropriate, safe and clean for children. The new service model has enabled:
- venues that 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
  - staff 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.
8. The County is split into three areas: North, Central and South districts:

### North:

**Worksop - Priory Contact Centre** - the venue has been open since September 2014. The venue is getting very well used for contacts and assessments, meetings and training. Facilities are for all age groups - indoors there are 2 rooms for babies, 2 for toddlers, 2 for teenagers & family groups, 2 kitchen areas and 2 bathrooms. There is a large outdoor grassed area which is securely fenced. There is a tennis court which is also used for bike riding etc.

**Retford Office at Chancery Lane** is currently used for Retford contacts and high risk contacts. There are 4 contact rooms, including a baby room, a toddler room, a teenage room and a large family room. Contact staff have developed the areas to make them child friendly.

**Ollerton Contact Centre** - based on the Dukeries Academy School site. Contacts have taken place from mid-September 2014. There are facilities for most age groups; however, some more resources are required for older children. There are 2 large rooms for all ages and a small baby room. There is a bathroom with nappy changing facilities and 2 kitchen areas which can be used for bottle making and preparation of food.

### Central:

**Sandybank Family Centre** - this established family centre has been reorganised and some refurbishment has taken place to ensure it now offers age appropriate rooms and activities. There are eight available rooms for contact and a small outside space.





## **Transport**

11. Staff have historically been required to transport children across large geographical areas; this has been a very costly and an inefficient use of resources. The new Service model includes the expectation that foster carers where possible transport children to contact. This replicates what would happen within any family and therefore will generally be in the best interests of the child. This is particularly so when the permanency plan has been agreed and they are in foster care until adulthood. The majority of foster carers have embraced the new model. The Contact Service continues to support carers who are unable to commit to this request. Training for foster carers has also been provided.
12. There are service level agreements in place with Bassetlaw Action Group in the North of the County and Nottingham City for the South, to provide volunteer drivers to support this service in partnership. Bassetlaw is working well; further work is required with Nottingham City as recruitment of drivers has been challenging. On-going advertisements and open days will hopefully increase interest in this role.

## **Mobilisation**

13. CSWs have been provided with a mobile tablet (IPad). This enables staff to record their observations of contact and upload them immediately to Framework. Social workers, who have case responsibility, now have instant access to these records for the purpose of care planning and applications to court. The second stage of this process has enabled two team leaders to electronically access all workers timetables and oversee their commitments and is anticipated that the third team leader should have access once the new devices are in place. Representatives of the Contact Service will be sharing their experiences of mobilisation with colleagues from Leeds in the next few weeks.

## **Systems improvements**

14. The paper referral form has been replaced with an electronic form that is completed through Framework. The referral form has also been revised and better reflects the information that is required by the service. The team leaders now have oversight of all cases and allocate directly to the CSW. This means that they are able to respond quickly and efficiently to problems or concerns. The successful use of One Space has assisted planning and room booking by staff for their allocated cases.

## **Review of cases**

15. All existing contact arrangements have been reviewed to determine whether they fit the new service model. This will continue to be reviewed to ensure the model and core offer is meeting the needs of children, families, social workers and other stakeholders.

## **Monitoring and audit**

16. Moving forward, greater emphasis will be placed upon planning and reviewing contact arrangements. Improved reporting through Business Objects will enable more effective monitoring and planning of the service. New cases are now regularly reviewed by the management team every three months.

## **Ongoing service developments:**

17. These are as follows:

- a) Review of the Core Offer - work will continue to ensure the service is meeting the needs of children and families
- b) Training – work will continue to ensure all staff are trained at a level appropriate to the task required
- c) Business Objects reports – further work to continue to ensure accurate monthly reporting to management team is available
- d) Staffing will continue to be reviewed to ensure the needs of the service are met in the most effective manner.

## **Other Options Considered**

18. The report is for noting only.

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

19. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

20. 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 changing role of the Contact Service with regard to looked after children and the progress that has been achieved throughout a review of the 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**

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

### **Financial Comments (SS 13/05/15)**

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

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

None.

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

All.

C0634

**8 June 2015****Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****COUNTY CAMHS LOOKED AFTER AND ADOPTION TEAM - SERVICE  
PROVISION AND DEVELOPMENTS 2014/15****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the work and service developments of the County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption team.

**Information and Advice****Introduction**

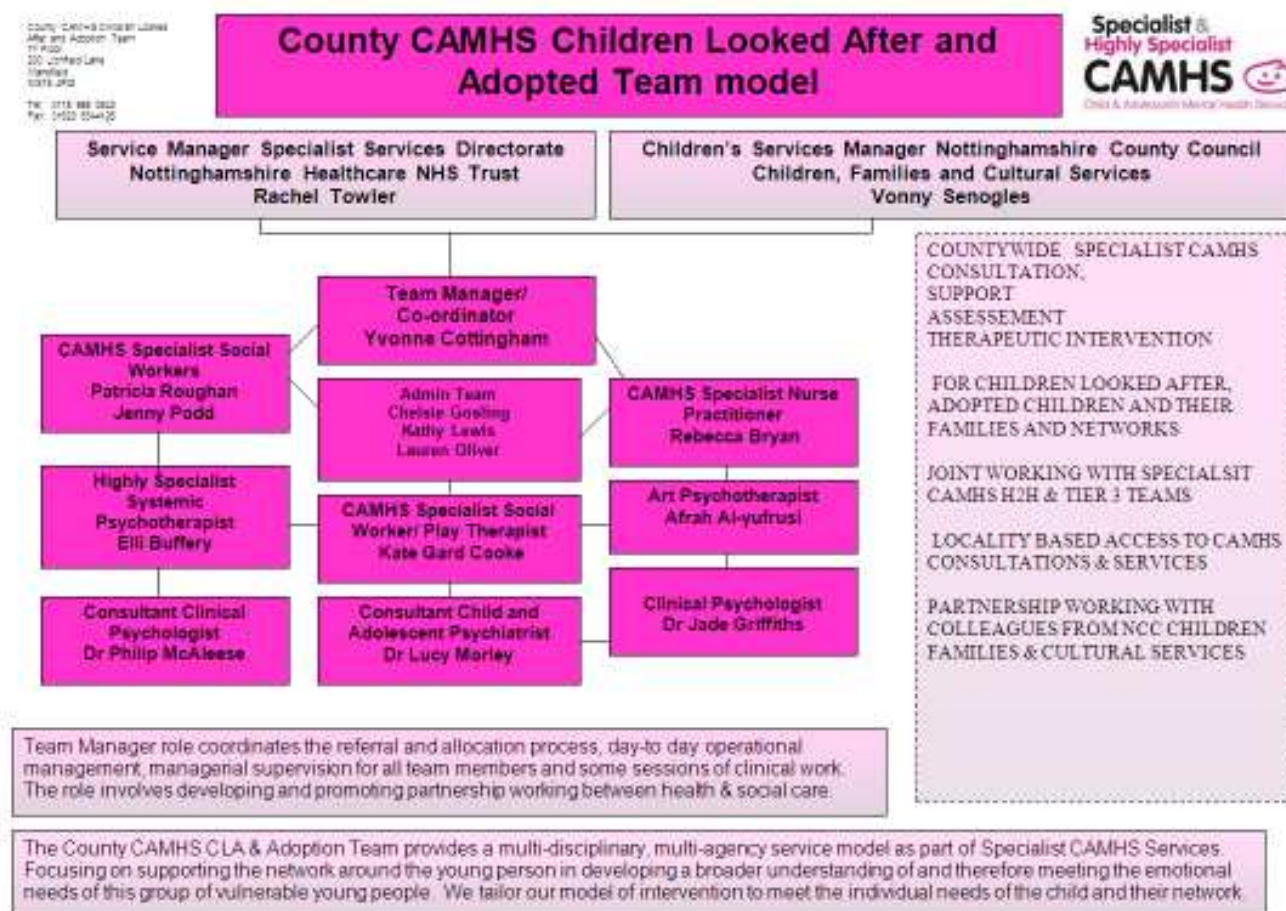
2. The County CAMHS Children Looked After & Adoption team was established in 2001, restructured in 2007, and has developed into the service currently offered. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides a service for children aged 0 - 18 years, where there are concerns about their emotional well being or mental health.
3. The County Children Looked After Team and Adoption Team is jointly commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire NHS Trust. The team is based within the Specialist CAMHS Service, Specialist Service Directorate, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

**Aims of the service**

4. The team is commissioned to specifically work with children and young people who are looked after and living away from their birth parents, in the care of Nottinghamshire Children's Services. These children and young people may be living with foster carers or living in residential care. The team also offers specialist consultation and support to children/young people who have been adopted, and their families.
5. It is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency team whose purpose is to assess the mental health needs and promote the psychological wellbeing of:
  - young people within Nottinghamshire who are living with foster carers or living in residential care
  - young people who have been adopted, and their families, or for whom adoption is being explored / planned
  - young people who are looked after or adopted and placed in Nottinghamshire by other local authorities/Health Trusts.

## Team structure

6. As illustrated in the Team Model below, the team is multi-agency; it is made up of professionals, some of whom are employed by Nottinghamshire NHS Trust and others by Nottinghamshire County Council. The team is multi-disciplinary, made up of professionals who have undertaken different types of training, including: Clinical Psychology, Specialist Social Worker, Specialist Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy, Systemic Family Therapy, Play Therapy, Art Psychotherapy. The team is supported by an administration team and led by a Team Manager Coordinator.



## Service Provision:

### Referral Pathway to access a service from CAMHS CLA & Adoption team

7. An initial CAMHS consultation with the young person's social worker is the referral pathway to accessing a service from the CAMHS CLA and Adoption team. The child/young person's social worker is asked to complete a consultation request form and book into an initial consultation appointment, where the social worker will usually meet with two members of the team. Following the consultation the CAMHS clinicians will provide a written record of the consultation detailing the ongoing CAMHS plan. This information is also shared with the child/young person's GP and the Designated Nurse for Children in Care.

## Referral Data CAMHS Children Looked After and Adoption Team

8. Between 01/07/14 & 31/12/14 the CAMHS CLA team received **102 referrals**
- Between 01/01/15 & 01/04/15 the CAMHS CLA team received **148 referrals**
- The number of open cases to the team on 30/04/15 **319 open cases**

Based on 01/01/15 – 01/04/15 data, the average waiting time for the initial CAMHS consultation with a social worker was 36 days (5 weeks).

Following the initial CAMHS consultation, young people/foster carers are generally seen within 2 weeks for treatment / follow up.

Referrals are risk assessed and any urgent self-harm referrals are seen as per the self-harm protocol – the service offers a follow-up community appointment within 7 days.

## Duration of Treatment

9. Audit shows that the average duration of treatment is 406 days (58 weeks) when considering this data there is a need to be aware that there are a number of cases that due to clinical need and complexity are open to the team long term.

## Interventions

10. The model of intervention is tailored to meet the individual needs of the child and their network, based on the evidence base: NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidelines; the views and skills of the client and their family/foster carers; and practice based evidence. Consultation can function to encourage all members of the network to remain fully engaged in improving the quality of life of the young person, rather than handing over responsibility for providing a 'cure' to experts'.
11. Alongside ongoing consultation the following additional integrative interventions may be introduced: fostering attachments; therapeutic parenting or attachment focused family based interventions such as Theraplay; Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy or Systemic Psychotherapy. The team can also provide specific diagnostic assessment, as well as the prescribing and reviewing of medication. Individual play therapy, art therapy and psychotherapy are also offered when assessed as appropriate to meet the formulated need.

## Skills training for wider LAC workforce

### Foster Care

12. In 2013-14 CAMHS CLA and Adoption Team developed and provided an 18 week therapeutic group for foster carers. The aim of the group is to support foster carers to increase their understanding of how to meet the unmet emotional needs of the young people they are caring for. The four groups completed in that period received positive evaluation from the participants. From discussion and feedback received from foster



carers and their supervising social workers we arranged to meet with our colleagues in the fostering service to discuss various options around how to enable this to be offered as an ongoing intervention for all Nottinghamshire County Council foster carers. The outcome of this is the CAMHS CLA team now deliver a 10 week 'Nurturing attachments' therapeutic group for foster carers within their localities; this also includes supervising social workers and specialist family support workers. The group sessions are two and half hours long and usually run in blocks of 5 weeks with a break to coincide with school holidays.

13. It is planned to run the groups as a rolling programme within localities with named CAMHS workers with the aim of developing a closer working relationship between the fostering service and CAMHS, and in support of the LAC strategy action point of recruiting more local authority foster carers and developing their knowledge and expertise. Groups have now taken place in Bassetlaw, South Nottinghamshire, Ashfield and Mansfield; the next group is planned to take place in Newark.

## **Residential Care**

14. The 10 week 'nurturing attachments' therapeutic group is also being offered to the staff teams in our mainstream residential units. Again the aim of the group is to support the residential staff team to increase their understanding of how to meet the unmet emotional needs of the young people they are caring for.

## **Qualitative Feedback**

15. Listed below is feedback from carers who have recently participated in the CAMHS CLA Nurturing attachments therapeutic group:

*The 10 week CAMHS course has been invaluable to me, to get down to understand lots of behaviours I have been dealing with for nearly a year and to suddenly click and help me to see the reasons has been amazing. The course was tailored to fit my particular child which meant that my reflection could be particularly focussed, and the application of what I learnt was bespoke and relevant.*

*Feeling I am on the right track and with the support and understanding of the rest of the group has been a really great experience. Dealing with other peoples experiences and the group experience understanding the reasons for behaviour in depth and it is consistent with other carers' children's experiences.*

*To help assist my child on a deeper level, although still challenging is so helpful, it can't be underestimated.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed and relished the course and would like to know more if any other training or courses become available. As a group we agreed that we found the course really interesting and relevant to all our children, we can't praise it enough'*

*My CAMHS worker has been supportive, empathetic and amazing over the last 10 months and I would have struggled a lot more without her. I get the sense with my CAMHS worker that she is "in the hole" with me and always cares and wants the best outcomes for me and my child.*



*I would recommend CAMHS to anybody, and am a true believer.*

*I recently attended a “how to manage difficult behaviour” course which to me now was just surface level and I did struggle to agree with it totally but now know the true meaning of “why and reasons” for the behaviours. Any more training would be relished and thanks to all the team involved.*

## **Summary**

16. Overall foster carers particularly valued the in-depth content and reflective nature of the group and reported a reduction in levels of stress. Feedback would suggest that as carers gained a greater understanding of the impact of their children’s early experiences on their attachment behaviours, their perception of their children’s presentation and difficulties altered. Foster carers seemed more aware of and able to meet their children’s ‘hidden needs’ and subsequently noticed a reduction in their children’s difficulties, particularly their emotional difficulties. This group programme will be further evaluated using Parenting Stress Index, Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires, Carer Questionnaires to provide more detailed data.

## **Residential Care Block Purchase**

17. The Service Manager for CAMHS and Residential Services chairs the matching panel process that has been initiated for children’s residential placements. Panel members include a member of the Placements team, registered managers from our mainstream residential homes, team manager of CAMHS CLA team and the relevant personnel from our partners involved in the residential block purchase. The aim of the matching panel is to ensure that the presenting difficulties and placement needs of young people are shared and considered by ourselves and our partners prior to a placement being agreed.

## **Other Options Considered**

18. This report is for noting only.

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

19. This report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

20. 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 work and service developments of the County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption team be noted.

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

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (SS 13/05/14)**

22. 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.

CAMHS operational guidance – ref para 3.6 re self-harm

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

All.

C0635

8 June 2015

Agenda Item: 11

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

### **END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE**

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

1. To update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee about the activities within the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April 2014 to March 2015.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The annual report, which is attached as **Appendix 1**, informs the Sub-Committee about the activities undertaken by the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) in ensuring good outcomes for the children and young people in Nottinghamshire. It also takes into consideration how well the Service is doing and identifies areas for development in the coming year 2015-16. **Appendix A** to the annual report identifies the progress made from the last annual report for 2013-2014.
3. The report focusses on the key functions of the Independent Reviewing Officers and highlights the challenge and ongoing robustness of the IRO's role when working with looked after children and young people. Over the past year, due to the looked after population stabilising, this has enabled the IROs to increasingly fulfil the wider expectations of their role and increase their contact with children and young people in order to advocate on their behalf.
4. During 2014-15 service user feedback was sought by use of questionnaires provided to children and young people over the age of nine years, professionals involved and their carers. The outcome of the questionnaires has been very encouraging and the feedback provided will assist in developing the service further.

#### **Other Options Considered**

5. The report is for noting only

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

6. The report is for noting only

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. 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 activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April 2014 to March 2015 be noted.

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

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (SS 15/05/15)**

9. 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.

End of year report for the independent reviewing Officer Service – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 22 September 2014

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

All.

C0641

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Annual Report of Independent Reviewing Officer [IRO] Service**  
April 2014 – March 2015

***“To ensure that, through the independent review process, protection and care plans for children meet their individual needs and secure better outcomes for children and young people.”***

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Independent Chair Service (ICS) covers Nottinghamshire County and sits within the Safeguarding and Independent Review service area. The ICS is responsible for quality assuring practice in relation to children in public care or children subject to child protection processes and to promote effective interagency working. The Independent Chairs have continued to contribute to the development and promotion of good practice by addressing concerns regarding care planning for children, identifying areas of development and highlighting good practice.
- 1.2 We have two groups of staff that chair meetings and this report will focus on the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) part of the service. A separate report is available in respect of the Child Protection Coordinator part of the ICS. The IRO Handbook notes that the IRO Manager is responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the Corporate Parenting Board. This report will identify good practice but also highlight issues for further development and will be available as a public document via the County Council's website.
- 1.3 Progress against actions identified in the annual report year 2013-2014 will be addressed in the body of the report and are also detailed in Appendix A.

## **2 Purpose of service and legal context**

- 2.1 The legal framework for the IRO service is set out in the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and the IRO Handbook 2010. The role of the IRO is to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council acts as a responsible corporate parent and the child's care plan fully reflects their current needs and is consistent with the local authority's legal responsibilities towards the child. The IRO assists the local authority to deliver best outcomes for Looked after Children.
- 2.2 In summary, there are two clear and separate aspects to the function of the IRO:
  - Chairing the child's review
  - Monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis

- 2.3 This report will provide information and analysis detailing the impact and performance of the Nottinghamshire IROs over the past 12 months.

### **3 Staffing/workload**

- 3.1 The profile of the IRO team consists of 14 staff (13.1 fte). As of 31<sup>st</sup> March there are 11 females (1 Black, 10 White British) and 3 male (White British). All IROs are qualified social workers with several of them having previous managerial experience within children's services. During the year we successfully recruited to one permanent position but recruitment is an ongoing activity in order to fill the 1.6 vacancies within the team which are currently covered by experienced agency staff.
- 3.2 The IRO Handbook 2010 states in order to carry out the overall roles and responsibilities as laid out in the Care Planning Regulations a full time IRO should ideally have a caseload of 50-70. Over the past year the LAC population in Nottinghamshire has remained stable at around the 850 mark and IROs have been increasingly able to take on more of the range of functions as set out in the IRO Handbook. There are a number of children receiving short breaks for less than 75 nights per year and for no longer than 24 continuous hours who have been allocated an IRO although they are not deemed to be looked after. The caseloads for IROs is averaging between 65-70. Within the team we have lead roles designated to IROs who develop specialist knowledge when working with children with disabilities, 56 in total, those who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children, 32 in total, and other vulnerable children within the looked after population. By taking on a specific lead role this helps broaden the practice and knowledge within the team and contributes to the profile of the team. Lead roles include participation of young people, liaison with CAFCASS/the Virtual School/Local Family Justice Board/Children in Care Council and foster carers meetings.
- 3.3 As part of their role IROs will whenever available attend Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Meetings held in respect of Looked after Children (LAC) given their vulnerability and need for close monitoring. They also receive monthly information about LAC who go missing the most frequently so they can keep track of how this is being addressed and also make contact with the young people to identify what the safeguarding issues are and how these could be reduced in conjunction with other professionals involved. One of the key priorities over the year has been to strengthen and develop contact with more vulnerable children and young people.

### **4 CAFCASS and Regional events**

- 4.1 There continues to be regular contact between Guardians and IROs, seminars and workshops occur twice a year and this is proving to strengthen the links between the two disciplines. In addition four regionally organised workshops have been arranged for 2015, this provides development opportunities across the region whilst promoting consistency and effectiveness. By developing links between CAFCASS and regional IROs

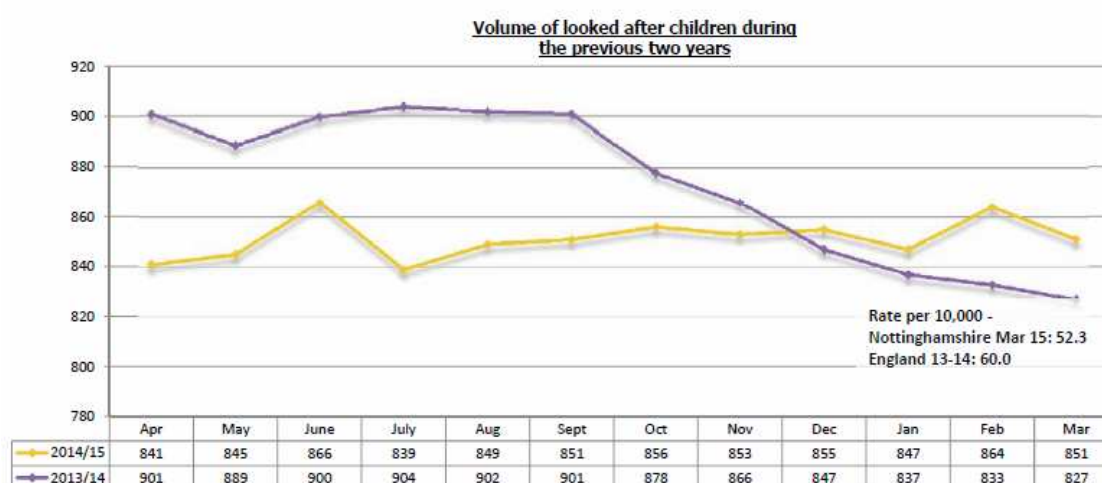
practice is shared and open discussions take place about outcomes achieved for LAC whilst debating any research which is being considered nationally. This also promotes and encourages networking between neighbouring authorities.

## 5 Business Support Staff

- 5.1 Over this past year IROs have been supported by a team of 7 business support staff, who provide a minute taking service up to 6-10 LAC meetings a week and other administrative support, including tracking looked after children reviews and alerts initiated by the IROs. They administer the initial review invites for children and young people and distribute all the minutes to all those who attended the review apart from the parents, who will receive their set of minutes from the social worker. The service managers continue to monitor the performance of IROs specifically around the timeliness of minutes, which has improved from the previous year from an average of 60% to 76% this year. Managers also audit the quality of the record of the LAC review produced by the IRO during supervision. The agendas for meetings have been reviewed over the past year and this is creating consistency in ensuring the voice of the child is integrated throughout and any safeguarding issues are documented and addressed.

## 6 Profile of LAC of Nottinghamshire

- 6.1 As at the end of March 2015, there were 851 children and young people looked after, this figure has remained stable throughout the year. The rate per 10,000 at the year-end was 52.3 which remain lower than the rates for statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2013-14, which were 56.3 and 60 respectively.





- 6.2 It is noted there has been a steady percentage of children returning home, being made subject to a special guardianship order and also young people progressing onto independent living; these activities have contributed to the LAC population remaining stable throughout the year.
- 6.3 The number of LAC reviews chaired and completed by IROs between April-March 2015 was 2,263. The percentage of children whose looked after reviews were all held within timescale is calculated on a rolling basis for the previous 12 months and the percentage at the end of March 2015 was 90.5%. This figure is a slight improvement from the end of March 2014 which was 90.3%. This is below the local target of 98%, the primary reasons for this centre on late requests for initial LAC reviews but it has been noted that on occasion there has been a miscalculation of dates by IROs.

## **7 Children with Disabilities**

- 7.1 Throughout this past year there have been a number of developments in relation to the approach undertaken with children who have disabilities. IROs encourage social workers to find the best person to complete and present the signs and symbols 'listen to me booklet' now available for children to use. More recently, reviews have been held using the person centred approach which makes them less adult orientated and more child/young person focussed. This particularly began with reviews for children with disabilities but its concept will be integrated into reviews for all LAC. The two IROs with a lead for children with disabilities meet regularly with youth workers attached to the Children in Care Council and social care team managers to review participation planning and to monitor the progress being made to enhance the views of disabled children.
- 7.2 The aim of person centred reviews is to ensure the child is at the centre of discussions and actions. This will identify what people like and admire about the child, what is important to them and what help and support they believe they need. There have been good examples of this approach taking place and with one particular social worker has been consistent when undertaking person centred work with his cases and this has produced a good balance of the child's wishes and feelings whilst including the adult's perspective on what is considered best for the child. Reports produced for these reviews reflect on the positive outcomes for the child and ensure the child is completely included.

## **8 Raising concerns/Dispute Resolution Process**

- 8.1 An escalation process is in place which enables the IRO to resolve any issues arising out of the care planning process. In the first instance, the IRO will initiate and alert and seek to resolve the concerns with the social worker and team manager. A record of this discussion and the outcome will be placed on the child's file, however if the matter is not resolved within the required 10 day timescale the IRO with their manager will consider taking action by progressing to stage 1 which involves the operational service manager.



- 8.2 During the year, 137 alerts were initiated by IROs within social care, in comparison to last year where 192 were initiated which shows a reduced amount. Only 6% of LAC reviews resulted in an alert being initiated.
- 8.3 During the past year there have been a range of issues which have been identified and addressed. The themes that emerge from alerts relate to issues around drift and delay in respect of recommendations not being completed from the previous review; quality of pathway plans; health assessments not complete; assessments not complete where a decision is needed to progress the care plan; statutory visits not being undertaken and review being held out of timescale.
- 8.4 IROs continue to demonstrate their challenge and ongoing robust monitoring which the following examples illustrate:
- *With Case one three siblings were separated in order for them to thrive which had positive outcomes for them all. Oldest child was informed contact was ceasing with her younger siblings being adopted. This child was distraught on hearing this news as she played a significant caring role for her younger siblings. The IRO organised a professionals meeting after speaking with the child and challenged the decision. Contact was resumed after a risk assessment was completed and the adopters of the younger siblings were open to contact between the siblings.*
  - *With Case two the IRO initiated an alert by requesting the local authority, (LA) freeze the placement move of a young person who was going to be placed with her sibling whom she had lived with previously which resulted in the placement breaking down. The IRO was of the view this was not in the young person's best interests as this young person has been in a number of placements which have disrupted and led to her moving. From this challenge the IRO has ensured appropriate assessments are being undertaken through CAMHS and a multi-agency meeting will be arranged to consider the outcome of the assessments before any decisions are made about which is the best setting for the young person to be placed so all her emotional needs can be met.*
- 8.5 When considering the timeliness of responses to alerts this has improved slightly from the year before although this will continue to require attention over the next year. The total number of alerts responded to within the 10 working day timescale was 51.1%. If however they are not responded to within the timescale this will automatically be progressed to Stage 1 for the service manager to consider and address. There are occasions where the IRO does not always use the dispute resolution process and will seek to speak with the social worker and manager after a review. Whilst this invariably results in the desired outcome for the child, this cannot be captured for reporting purposes.
- 8.6 If deemed appropriate, IROs will also note concerns with external partners by raising with the individual concerned and following up in writing. However,

there are only two recorded instances of this happening during the year – one in respect of a young person not having consistent contact with family whilst in Young Offenders Institution and the other was the absence of a Health Visitor who had first hand information that was relevant to the child at the review. Both of these resulted in positive actions being taken.

## **9 Participation and views of children**

- 9.1 Of the 2382 children subject to LAC reviews during this year, 1904 were 4 years old or more. Nearly half of these children and young people are recorded as having attended reviews. Of the remainder, 47.3% are recorded as having their views known to the review. Throughout the year, there were only 62 occasions when it was recorded that a child's views had not been known to the review which is an improvement from the previous year. Where views are not evidenced at the review, the Independent Reviewing Officers will endeavour to gain the views of the young person.
- 9.2 IROs have been provided with 'business cards' to give to young people to help enable the young person to contact the IRO should they wish to do so. IROs have increasingly made efforts to maintain contact with children outside of the review meeting, with a particular emphasis on, for example, vulnerable children subject to sexual exploitation, those who go missing and pose a significant challenge.

The following are examples of positive outcomes from IROs making contact:

- *Case A- School expressed concern about young person's presentation as they were not opening up to anyone. Their social worker had just been allocated so the IRO visits and the young person disclosed emotional abuse occurring within the placement. IRO then contacts social worker immediately and young person is placed elsewhere*
  - *Case B- Young person was working towards living in a semi-independent placement but felt he was being given too many boundaries. IRO visits and listens to young person's views and his agreed package of care changes as a result. Now the young person is much happier and has more trust in the local authority.*
- 9.3 The group of young people least likely to participate in their review are teenagers. IROs continue to consider creative ways in exploring how to communicate with those who do not attend or present their views for the review. Further investigation into potential use of information technology will be prioritised for the coming year.

## **10 Service User Feedback**

### **Children and young people**

- 10.1 During June and November 2014, two questionnaires were provided to children/young people aged 9 years and over, 51% responded in June.

Although a smaller sample was sought in November, there was a higher return from those who did not attend their review. The outcome of both initiatives was very encouraging and a high number of young people reported satisfaction around their participation with 88% feeling involved and 96% listened to. 100% of young people reported important things were talked about and 95% agreed with the decisions made at the review. In terms of invitations to the review 85% of young people knew who was coming and felt in control of this. One area was identified where improvement was needed and that was in relation to the young person being provided with a 'Listen to me booklet' before the review as this was not always provided consistently. In some instances, IROs have assisted those young people who wanted to complete this before the review. Of those young people who did not want to attend their review they spoke with the IRO when they visited or conveyed their views through their carers or social worker. The Children in Care Council gave positive feedback about the questionnaire stating they found it simple and easy to use, minor changes were made based on their feedback. Collating the views of children on a regular basis will be given further attention, again including the use of technology in this respect.

#### 10.2 Comments made by some young people:

- *Spoke to IRO in placement and then before the review*
- *IRO explained what would happen and I understood*
- *I had been given chance at all times to say what I wanted to and needed to say and explain.*
- *My future plans for another placement*
- *My review went well, I liked everything it was very good*
- *I enjoyed being at the review*

#### **Professionals and carers**

10.3 A similar exercise was undertaken with professionals and carers during October 2014. Out of 203 reviews that took place, 365 feedback forms were returned. It is very positive that 96% of those that responded felt welcomed by the IRO and the vast majority, 99%, reported that they were given the time to share their information, convey their views and opinions about the young person and felt respected by the IRO. Also 97% of responders noted they left the meeting having a clear understanding of the care plan for the child/young person. The only area requiring attention was the need to increase the number of attendees receiving minutes of the last meeting, this related to parents and carers receiving minutes in a timelier manner. During this year there has only been one complaint received by a parent regarding a review going ahead without her attendance, following some miscommunication as to whether the review would take place due to the wintry weather.

10.4 The Service managers for the ICS continue to observe chairs undertaking meetings twice a year and feedback is sought from professionals and carers as part of this exercise. The feedback is provided to the IRO immediately after an observation and if any areas of development are identified then this is addressed. The managers continue to seek and learn from service user

feedback and in particular further work is being undertaken to seek a way to gain views of 5-9 year old looked after children.

## **11 Feedback from audits**

11.1 The social care audit tool includes the requirement for the auditor to make comments regarding whether reviews are effective, regular and demonstrate robust scrutiny and challenge of plans. The following are some of the comments noted within the findings from LAC file audits which were included in the Children's Social Care Quality Management Framework report for quarter 3 of 2014/2015.

- *The quality of the plans was good, with clear actions identified. The plan led to a good outcome for Child A.*
- *Reviews are effective and regular. Child B participates fully and co-chairs her reviews. The previous review had challenged the lack of planning and has been revisited at this review and concluded as positive.*
- *The quality of planning has been positive for Child C. His reviews have been held regularly and Child C has largely participated in the review meetings.*
- *The IRO has been very proactive in this case progressing actions relating to contact and permanency. This has had a positive impact on Child D. Noting the LAC review decisions are concise and clear.*

## **12 Permanence Panel**

12.1 The permanence panel was introduced in March 2014 and its purpose is to scrutinise and provide support to children under the age of 15 who are not being adopted and require permanence in the way of long term fostering or special guardianship orders. The panel considers 5-8 cases per month with the focus of the panel being to ensure stability for the child and ensure the right supports are in place. Although the panel provides scrutiny and support for permanence plans, decision making remains within the LAC Review process. If the panel does not feel the care plan meets the child's needs then this will be escalated to the relevant Service Manager and if this does not get resolved then it will be escalated to the Group Managers – Safeguarding and Independent Review and Social Work Services – and ultimately to the Service Director for Children's Social Care for decision. Of all the cases considered by the panel over the year no cases have been escalated. One of the service managers for the ICS sits on this panel which enables them to consider the involvement of the IRO and provide feedback from the panel about the IROs involvement and the quality of the minutes submitted.

## **13 Key Findings**

- The LAC population has remained stable throughout the year and IROs are increasingly fulfilling the wider expectations of their role
- There are good examples of child centred challenges made by IROs to promote good outcomes

- There has been positive feedback from service users
- IROs have taken part in regional events to promote professional development and effectiveness.
- There has been ongoing liaison with key partners involved with looked after children

#### **14 Areas for Development 2015 – 16**

- IROs to help promote recognition of achievements of LAC by use of a recently developed 'celebration card' approved by the Children in Care Council - No Labels Group.
- Explore further how the service can obtain the views of children aged 5-9 years.
- Ensure that any relevant issues for partner organisations are effectively raised and recorded.
- Seek views of children and young people having a LAC review at the time where cases have been identified as part of the social care audit process, in order that their views can be included within the audit findings
- IROs to explore different means of communicating with children and young people between reviews or as part of the review by promoting child-centred planning.

11.05.15

Izzy Martin and Suzie Morris

Service Managers

Independent Chair Service

Safeguarding and Independent Review

## Appendix A – Key Areas for Development 2014-15

ACTION	COMMENTARY
Complete questionnaire with children and young people to ascertain their views about service they receive from the IROs.	Achieved.
Liaise with No Labels group to review the questionnaire and see if a similar one can be devised for 5-9 year olds.	Ongoing.
Invite more young people to chair their meetings	Achieved - although an ongoing process.
Strengthen and develop other methods of contact between IRO and young person between reviews	Achieved - although an ongoing process.
Continue to meet with CAFCASS	Achieved.
Strengthen the involvement of IROs with their lead roles	Achieved - although an ongoing process.
Service Managers of ICS continue to observe IROs chairing reviews and seek feedback from carers, young people and professionals	Achieved and ongoing.

8 June 2015

Agenda Item: 12

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****FOSTERING SERVICE: ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2014- MARCH 2015****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the activity and performance of the fostering service from April 2014 to March 2015.

**Information and Advice**

2. Nottinghamshire saw a rapid increase in the number of children in care during the period 2008 to 2013. The number of children in the Local Authority's care rose from 455 to 901 (April 2013). This created a significant demand, in a relatively short period of time, for placements for these children. The Authority needs to be able to place more children in its internal fostering service and has set a target of increasing its internal fostering capacity by recruiting 160 new foster carers over a three year period (2014-17).
3. The number of children in the Authority's care is still subject to some fluctuation but has stabilised within the range of 841 (April 2014) to 851 (March 2015). Of the 851 children in the Authority's care, 636 are placed in foster care (74.7%). Of these 636 children, 214 (34%) are placed with an independent foster provider and 422 (66%) with a foster carer approved by Nottinghamshire.
4. There are positive indicators of reduced reliance upon higher cost independent fostering and residential provision. The number of children placed with an independent fostering provider has reduced from 282 (April 2013) to 238 (April 2014) to 214 (March 2015). The number of children placed in external residential provision has also reduced from 89 (April 2013) to 81 (April 2014) to 68 (March 2015). The number of children placed with a foster carer approved by Nottinghamshire has increased in 2014/15 from 380 (60%) of all children in foster care to 422 (66%). Internal fostering capacity has increased by 42 placements from April 2014 to March 2015. In a report entitled *Local Authority Foster Placements: Regional and Local Trends in England*, published by a social care research organisation (sufficiency.org.uk) in June 2014, Nottinghamshire was named as one of the top ten performing councils in respect of the number of placements it provides in each of its foster homes (more than 1.6 compared with the national average of 1.3).
5. There have been a number of initiatives which have contributed to this outcome. There has been a proactive and sustained advertising and marketing approach resulting in a slight increase in enquiries to the fostering recruitment team. 705 enquiries were received, compared with 696 enquiries in the period April 2013 to March 2014. The



conversion rate (enquiry to approval) has increased to 9% compared with 8% in 2013/14 and 6% in 2012/13). 66 new foster households were approved in 2014/15, compared with 65 in 2013/14. The Authority lost 26 foster households in 2014/15 so the resultant net gain to the Authority, in 2014/15, was 40 households.

6. Another initiative which has had an impact upon the recruitment of foster carers has been the Authority's promotional activity with foster carers approved by an independent fostering provider. The Authority invited this section of the foster carer community, when care was being provided to a child looked after by Nottinghamshire, to consider a transfer of approval to Nottinghamshire. This initiative resulted in 7 foster households transferring to Nottinghamshire in 2014/15.
7. In April 2014, the fostering service introduced a new fee paid fostering scheme to attract foster carers for children aged 11 years plus. It was anticipated that this would attract appropriately skilled and experienced people to foster an older child and funding was made available for 9 new foster households. This new scheme attracted 3 new foster carer approvals in 2014/15. One household was approved under the 11+ scheme in April 2015 and 3 assessments are currently being progressed but the low number of approvals reflects the challenge in providing foster carers for older children - even when competitive fees are provided.
8. An important factor in supporting the sufficiency of internal fostering provision is the way in which the Authority retains and develops its existing foster carers. The Authority lost 26 foster households in 2014/15 compared with 36 in 2013/14 and 10 in 2012/13. The reasons for people ceasing to foster were choosing to retire (due to reasons of age and/or health); a change in circumstance (relationship breakdown/ change in job and location) and for safeguarding reasons, that is, when the agency did not consider them to be suitable to continue to act as foster carers.
9. In April 2015, there were 372 approved foster carers (245 mainstream; 25 home from home/contract care; 37 support carers; 65 family and friends (31 permanent approval/34 temporary approval). In April 2015, 59 of the 245 mainstream foster homes had vacancies, that is, a vacancy rate of 24% and an occupancy rate of 76%. The social care research ([sufficiency.org.uk](http://sufficiency.org.uk)) reported in September 2014 that the average national occupancy rate was 73%. Nottinghamshire performs slightly above average in this regard.
10. The fostering service has strengthened its support strategy to foster carers and children who foster. In 2013/14 the first county-wide Sons and Daughters event took place with a further event taking place in October 2014. This celebration event will take place on an annual basis as part of the children who foster strategy. The annual event will be organised by children who foster, through the Sons and Daughters Council, with support from staff. The contribution of the foster carers' birth children to the outcomes for a fostered child has long been appreciated and recognised.
11. The fostering service has a good reputation in respect of the support it provides to its foster carers. This is evidenced by a very low level of complaint from foster carers (three formal Stage 1 complaints in 2014/15) and by the level of foster carer retention. The support strategy has continued to be enhanced by engaging foster carers in service developments. Foster carers have been involved in recruitment activity, media interviews



and a group of foster carers have attended consultation forums regarding activity within the transformation programme. The joint team meeting initiative (between foster carers and supervising social workers) was introduced in January 2014 and has proved to be very successful and well received. These joint team meetings will continue in 2015/16. The fostering service continues to support its foster carers in their professional development and professional identity through a varied programme of learning, training and developmental opportunities.

12. The fostering service is a service for children. A changed approach to long term family finding for children in the care system has had mixed results. The profiles of children who wait for a long term foster family have been featured on the online learning and information portal for foster carers and in the fostering magazine (Fostering in Nottinghamshire). These initiatives have identified two internal foster families for children in residential care (one aged 8 years and one aged 7 years. The children who wait strategy will continue in 2015/16.
13. In 2014 there was expansion of therapeutic fostering (fostering futures); and increased provision of long term placements for disabled children (contract care); progress is also being made in establishing the family and friends fostering team. Consideration is being given to establishing an independent review service for foster carer reviews. Two areas of activity are identified within the Transformation Programme for 2015/16 – efficiencies within the allowances/fees that are payable to foster carers and the structure of the fostering service.

### **Other Options Considered**

14. This report is for information only.

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

15. This report is for information 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 information on the activity and performance of the fostering service from April 2014 to March 2015 be noted.

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

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

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**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (SS 20/05/15)**

18. 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.

Local Authority Foster Placements: Regional and Local Trends in England, published June 2014 by [sufficiency.org.uk](http://sufficiency.org.uk) (social care research organisation).

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

All.

C0639

**8 June 2015****Agenda Item: 13****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN THE CARE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on the role and purpose of the Children in Care and Adoption Health Team.

**Information and Advice**

2. It is well documented that the health of children and young people in care is worse than that of their peers. They often enter the care system as a result of abuse and neglect, having missed scheduled vaccinations and health appointments. In addition, the longer term outcomes for children in care remain poorer than their peers. Two thirds of all children in care have at least one physical health complaint and they are more likely than their peers to experience problems including speech and language delay, bedwetting, co-ordination difficulties, eye or sight and dental problems.
3. Children in care should have the same opportunities as their peers, including being safe and given the potential to move successfully into adulthood and achieve their full potential.
4. It is a statutory responsibility for health teams to assist the local authority in addressing the needs of children in care through effective commissioning, delivery and co-ordination of health services and through individual practitioners providing co-ordinated care for each child, young person and their carers.
5. Health services are commissioned to address inequalities in health and to meet the requirements of '*The Statutory Guidance for Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children*', Department of Health (2015), promoting the health and well being of children in care.
6. The Children in Care and Adoption Health team includes Community Paediatricians with identified Designated Professionals and Clinical Nurse Specialists. The team are based across three locations in Nottinghamshire (Children's Centre City Hospital Campus, Nottingham; King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield; and The Hurst, Bassetlaw); and deliver the service for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Health Partnerships) and the same team provides a service to Nottingham City Care.

7. The team has a responsibility to ensure they:
- meet their statutory obligations
  - provide holistic health assessments for children when they enter the care system and throughout their journey in care, within statutory timescales
  - identify physical and emotional health needs through the initial and review assessments, with the formulation of health recommendations and an action plan, working closely with children/young people, other health care professionals and Children's Social Care colleagues to promote positive outcomes for children in care
  - work with children/young people and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Looked After colleagues to ensure that the emotional health needs of children in care are met
  - as Designated Professionals, by representation at different health and social care forums, ensure that the health needs of children in care are raised and recognised.

## **Key areas of work**

### **Key performance indicators**

8. There is scrutiny of our performance for children in care coming through for their health assessments, with a requirement to respond to the statutory timescales whilst maintaining the quality of the assessments.
9. The service is performance monitored against key performance indicators as follows:
- initial health assessments (IHAs) completed within statutory timescales (28 days)
  - review health assessments (RHAs) completed, every six months for children under 5 years old and annually for over 5 years old
  - registration with a GP
  - registration with a dentist
  - immunisation uptake and data.

### **Partnership working**

10. The Designated Nurse for Children in Care and Adoption is a member of the Looked After Children (LAC) Strategy group and has participated in the development of the health action plans for the next five year strategy.
11. We have embedded a secure electronic sharing of information through secure email accounts. This has enhanced sharing of notifications and information about children in care between health and social care teams and enables timely sharing of information relating to health assessments and health information.
12. We continue to work towards the sharing of health data regarding the Initial Health Assessments (IHAs), Review Health Assessments (RHAs), GP registration and immunisation status of children and young people in the care of the Local Authority, via secure systems. This will be cross matched with social care health data and should ensure systems have up to date and accurate health information.

13. There is health representation at key multi-agency meetings including the permanency panel and missing children/hotspot meetings where the health needs of children in care are identified, discussed and appropriate advice given. The Designated Nurse for Children in Care and Adoption and one of the Clinical Nurse Specialists has had involvement in this year's annual multi-agency audit for Child Sexual Exploitation.
14. The Clinical Nurse Specialists continue to expand their co-location across the different localities, working directly with social care colleagues, enabling face-to-face discussion about individual children/young people. The nurses all have mobile working devices which enables remote access working.
15. We have a named representative who attends the Children in Care Council meetings. We are pleased to report we have developed a '*Children in Care information*' leaflet about the team and service; and an '*Important Health Information*' leaflet (Health Passport) and information pack for care leavers though engagement, participation and collaboration from this active group of young people. They were key in the development of the leaflets and very influential and vocal on their 'wants' and 'likes' and 'dislikes'.
16. The '*Important Health Information*' leaflet is being used for care leavers at their last health assessment before they leave care at 18 years old. They are given an information booklet with personal information about their health history and information about how to access healthcare once they leave care and are living independently. Identified health promotion information will be given and signposting to other relevant health information (leaflets, websites, web links).
17. The 'voice of the child' is embedded within clinical practice and is always asked during health assessments and clearly documented in the clinical records. This is audited annually and reported within the governance framework of Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.
18. The Adoption team has written a policy for Nottingham University Hospital Trust, '*Managing Hospital records for children who have been placed for Adoption or who have been adopted*' and a leaflet '*The Health needs of Children Placed for Adoption and on Granting of the Adoption Order - Advice for Adopters*'.
19. We have close working relationships with our safeguarding colleagues in health and social care and have representation at all the relevant forums. We recognise children in care need to be safeguarded and any concerns identified and responded to by the team are clearly embedded in clinical practice. The nurses receive group safeguarding supervision regularly from the Named Nurse for the Trust and this is a mandatory requirement.
20. We deliver Level 3 Safeguarding training '*Recognising and Responding to the Health Needs of Children and Young People in Care*' to Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Nottingham City Care colleagues. We have also provided bespoke training to GP trainees and social care colleagues.
21. We continue to develop and provide training to foster carer and pre/ post adoption parents and regularly provide health input to the Local Authority foster carer training.
22. The Medical Advisors for adoption attend the adoption panel meetings.

23. We work closely with the CAMHS Looked After team on individual cases and through regular joint meetings / consultations and information sharing. We have an established Communities of Interest group for children in care.
24. We have strengthened the pathway for returns of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQs) which helps inform holistic health assessments and identifies to the CAMHS LAC team children who have emotional health issues of concern and require additional interventions.

### **Future developments and opportunities**

25. We continue to work with commissioners to review the current KPIs, making the outcomes more meaningful and measureable, providing evidence of children in care having improved health outcomes, i.e. vaccinations up-to-date, dental health needs met and attendance for annual dental checks, vision tests attended; and emotional health needs are identified through completion of SDQ's. These will be further enhanced through the work with the LAC Strategy.
26. We actively seek the views and participation of children/young people about the care they receive from health and future developments of the service. We recognised that the specific requirements of our children/young people did not fit with the corporate 'your feedback matters' questionnaire. We have written our own children in care specific feedback leaflet and are in the process of purchasing iPads for downloading the leaflet onto, to make possible real time feedback. Feedback leaflets are being formatted to fit with our other leaflets, designed by the young people in the Children in Care Council. All this feedback will be linked into the Trust's 'your feedback matters' website for auditing purposes and will be included as part of the annual report.
27. Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is looking at the use of Health platforms for managing health conditions. We are in early discussions of looking at the development of a health platform for children in care to direct them to children in care specific app. and the use of Quick Response (QR) codes for the leaflets and health promotion information and sign posting.
28. The team is an early implementer of the Department of Health England's 'You're Welcome' which is a set of quality criteria for youth-friendly health services, encouraging health service providers within and outside the National Health Service (NHS) to meet those criteria. The quality criteria are helping to provide a framework for change in how resources are allocated, and are helping to ensure better health outcomes. We are in the early stages of gathering evidence to meet the criteria to achieve accreditation.
29. We will continue to report annually on this work.

### **Other Options Considered**

30. The report is for noting only.

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

31. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

32. 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 role and purpose of the Children in Care and Adoption Health Team be noted.

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

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

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (SS 22/05/15)**

34. 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.

Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Looked After Children (Department of Health/DCSF, 2015)

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

All.

C0647



8 June 2015

Agenda Item:14

## **REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2015/16.

#### **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 -**

David Ebbage

Tel: 0115 977 3141

### **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 2015-16

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
<b>14 September 2015</b>			
Adoption Service bi-annual report: March to August 2015	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Tracey Coull
Leaving Care Service update	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Michelle Lee
Work Programme		Steve Edwards	
<b>11 January 2016</b>			
Autumn Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 – six-monthly progress reports	For information	Steve Edwards	Dawn Godfrey
Independent Reviewing Officer Service - update	Six monthly update	Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin
Work Programme		Steve Edwards	
<b>7 March 2016</b>			
Spring Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm/ Linda Foster
Provision, achievements and progress of the Children in Care Council and participation of children and young people looked after 2015/16	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Adoption Service bi-annual report: September 2015 to February 2016	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Tracey Coull
Leaving Care Service update	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Michelle Lee
Work Programme		Steve Edwards	
<b>13 June 2016</b>			
Summer Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm/ Linda Foster
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 – six-monthly progress reports	For information	Steve Edwards	Dawn Godfrey
End of year report for the Independent Reviewing Officer Service	For information	Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin

<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>
County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption Team – service provision and developments 2015/16	Annual information report	Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles
Improving health outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Local Authority	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Amanda Edmundson/ Shelagh Mitchell
Fostering Service annual report	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Jayne Austin
Contact Service update	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Helen Daft
Advocacy Service for Looked After Children	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Work Programme		Steve Edwards	
<b>To be placed</b>			
Children who run away or go missing from care		Steve Edwards	Terri Johnson
Members' visits to independent children's homes		Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell