

15 January 2018**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES****PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE
LEAVERS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, 2018-21****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report asks the Committee to recommend the proposed Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire for the period 2018-21, attached as **Appendix 1**, to Policy Committee for approval.
2. Committee is also asked to determine the regularity of progress reporting in relation to the Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21.

Information and Advice

3. In 2018, the current multi-agency Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 will come to a close. The 2015-18 Strategy has driven a number of improvements and service developments over the course of its lifetime to date. It has also addressed a number of areas for development identified by Ofsted in 2015, where services for care leavers were graded as 'requiring improvement' under the Single Inspection Framework.
4. It is acknowledged that there is even more that can be done to ensure that partners work better together around a shared vision for looked after children (LAC) and care leavers in Nottinghamshire.
5. A Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children & Care Leavers for the period 2018-21 has therefore been developed in collaboration with key partners, which include health commissioners, health providers, education, police, housing and children's social care. The Strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**.
6. A period of consultation was undertaken between November 2017 and January 2018 with service users, staff, partners and key stakeholders, including the Children and Young People's Committee. Feedback from looked after children and care leavers was also obtained via the Children in Care Council and its respective sub-groups, which captured their views and experiences of both the previous 2015-18 Strategy, as well as the vision and ambitions of the new 2018-21 Partnership Strategy. A summary of the consultation feedback is available as a background paper.

7. As corporate parents for all looked after children and care leavers in Nottinghamshire, we want to provide our children and young people with the best possible start in life. As they prepare for adulthood, we want to inspire our young people to fulfil their own ambitions and dreams. For this reason, we have continued to integrate our strategy for our looked after children *and* care leavers, to ensure the best possible support is provided as they reach adulthood.
8. Through this renewed Partnership Strategy, we want to deliver a genuine, multi-agency, child-centred strategy, accepting that there is more to do to ensure that all partners are accountable for outcomes. We want to make best possible use of our collective resources to achieve our shared ambitions. In collaboration with key partners, we want to use our collective commitment to give every looked after child strong foundations and support to thrive in adulthood.
9. Our collective vision for looked after children and care leavers is a simple one, and one that has been shaped by the children and young people we look after:

We want our children and young people to have every opportunity and the support they need to be the best they possibly can be. We will give our children strong roots of stability, love, encouragement, positive relationships and healing from past harm. We will give our children wings of resilience, ambition, aspirational goals and practical and emotional support into successful adulthood

10. Underpinning the vision are six ambitions that reflect the high aspirations and expectations that we, as corporate parents, have for every looked after child and care leaver:
 - a) Looked after children and care leavers are safe and feel safe
 - b) Looked after children and care leavers experience good physical, emotional and mental health & wellbeing
 - c) Looked after children and care leavers fulfil their potential
 - d) Looked after children and care leavers make a positive contribution to their communities
 - e) Looked after children and care leavers have a successful transition to adulthood
 - f) Looked after children and care leavers achieve sustained and fulfilling employment and economic independence.
11. New governance arrangements have also been consulted on with key partners, in order to establish a governance model that ensures that all partners recognise and act on their responsibilities and our shared ambitions for looked after children and care leavers.
12. A "Looked After Children & Care Leavers Partnership Board" - a multi-agency group of senior officers - will be responsible for planning, reviewing and developing all aspects of our work with looked after children and care leavers, and providing support and challenge across the partnership. The Partnership Board will be responsible for developing and monitoring an annual 'Delivery Plan', identifying the key actions, timescales and intended outcomes across all partner members. The Board will hold its inaugural meeting in January 2018.
13. As agreed at the Children and Young People's Committee meeting on 18 December 2017, updates on the Partnership Strategy's progress will be reported to Committee on a regular basis, in accordance with Committee's corporate parenting arrangements.

Other Options Considered

14. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. To ensure the effective delivery of services which will drive the improvement of outcomes for looked after children and care leavers in Nottinghamshire within the resources available to the Council and its partners.
16. To support the local authority to deliver on its statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the looked after child and to act as good corporate parents.

Statutory and Policy Implications

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

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

18. The strategy and action plan seek to strengthen support and practice which will ensure looked after children and care leavers continue to be safeguarded.

Implications for Service Users

19. Looked after children and care leavers will benefit from improved services and multi-agency working aimed at improving outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) recommends the proposed Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21, attached as **Appendix 1**, to Policy Committee for approval.
- 2) determines the regularity of progress reporting in relation to the Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 20/12/17)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 20/12/17)

21. 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.

Draft Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children & Care Leavers 2018-21 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 December 2017.

Summary of consultation feedback

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1069