

# **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

# Monday, 12 September 2016 at 14:00

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

# AGENDA

1	Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 2016	3 - 8
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
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#### <u>Notes</u>

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

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

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

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Julie Brailsford (Tel. 0115 977 4694) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar <u>http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx</u>



# minutes

#### Meeting CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date

Monday 13 June 2016 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

#### Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

# COUNCILLORS

Liz Plant (Chairman)

Jim Creamer A Maureen Dobson Boyd Elliott Kate Foale Philip Owen Sue Saddington Andy Sissons Jacky Williams

#### **Foster Carer**

Aleks Jackowska Dawn Clements (apologies) Sarah Maiden

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jayne Austin	-	Fostering Service Manager					
Sue Denholm	-	Virtual School Co-ordinator, Children's Social Care					
Steve Edwards	-	Service Director, Children's Social Care					
Alison Fawley	-	Democratic Service Officer, Resources					
Kathryn Higgins	-	Designated Nurse, Children in Care					
Michelle Lee	-	Children's Services Manager					
Izzy Martin	-	Service Manager, Independent Chair Service					
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Group Manager, Access to Resources					
Janeen Parker	Acting Team Manager, Education Standards & Inclusion						
Georgina Staveley - Business Support Assistant, Children, Families Cultural Services.							

#### **CHAIRMAN**

The appointment by the County Council on 12 May 2016 of Councillor Liz Plant as Chairman of this sub-committee was noted.

#### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

It was reported that Councillor Jim Creamer had been appointed in place of Councillor Colleen Harwood, for this meeting only.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Dobson.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 4 2015/16) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

The report provided a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/013**

That the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 January to 31 March 2016 be noted.

# SUMMER TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The report provided an update on the virtual school for the summer term 2016.

The following points were raised:

- At KS1 there had been a drop in each of the three separate subjects for the percentage of looked after children meeting age related expectations. The outcomes were broadly similar to the East Midlands region but below national.
- The outcomes at KS2 had remained broadly similar to 2014-15 and were in line with the percentage achieved by the East Midlands region but were below the national average. However over a three year period the outcomes demonstrated a trend of improvement.
- The percentage of Nottinghamshire's LAC who attained age related expectations (5+ A\*- C including English and maths) at the end of KS4 had improved by 1.7 percentage points compared to a national increase of 1.6 percentage points and a 0.8 percentage point decline for the East Midlands cohort. Over a three year period Nottinghamshire's outcomes showed a year on year trend of improvement.

- The percentage of LAC pupils making expected progress in English (3 levels form KS2-4) had improved by 10 percentage points to 39%. This placed Nottinghamshire's performance on this measure above the national average for 2015 and indicated that the three year average showed a strong trend of improvement in English.
- The percentage of LAC pupils making expected progress in mathematics declined from 29% in 2014 to 24% in 2015 which was 5 percentage points below the national average. Despite the drop the three year average shows a 3% improvement whilst the national average had remained static.
- Key actions were in place to provide challenge and support to every school or setting wherever a LAC attends or is on roll. Termly teacher assessment data was being collected and would enable the virtual school team to closely track termly progress and target resources.
- The annual Achievement Event would be held on 16 July 2016 at the Albert Hall in Nottingham and the guest speaker would be Simon Weston. All committee members were invited to attend.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/014**

That the update on the virtual school for the summer term 2016 be noted.

#### END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) SERVICE

The report focused on the key functions of the Independent Reviewing Officers and highlighted the challenge and ongoing robustness of the IRO's role when working with looked after children and young people. Over the past year the LAC population had remained stable and had enabled IROs to increase contact with children in order to advocate on their behalf. IROs had continued to find creative ways to ensure that children and young people were able to contribute to or attend their looked after reviews.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/015**

That the activities and performance of the Independent Reviewing Officer service from April 2015 to March 2016, and the areas of focus in the coming year, be noted

#### BLOCK PURCHASE OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS CONTRACTS

The report provided the Committee with an update regarding the progress of the block purchase of children's residential placements contracts.

The following points were raised and discussed:

• Homes to Inspire had decided not to purchase the property they had identified in in Mansfield.

• Homes to Inspire were continuing their search to find suitable properties in the County and would engage with local councillors when properties had been identified and would hold a consultation with local people at the appropriate time.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/016**

That the progress on the block purchase of children's residential placement contracts be noted.

#### FOSTERING SERVICE: ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2015 TO MARCH 2016

The report provided the Committee with information on the activity and performance of the fostering service from April 2015 to March 2016.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/017**

That the information on the activity and performance of the fostering service from April 2015 to March 2016 be noted.

#### LEAVING CARE SERVICE UPDATE

The report provided the Committee with an update on the Leaving Care Service.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- The progress had been made with the provision of accessible emotional wellbeing and mental health services for care leavers and CAMHS now offered consultation to the Leaving Care Service. Negotiations were taking place with Adult Services and Health commissioners so that Nottinghamshire LAC were identified as a priority group for assessment.
- The workforce team was proactive in supporting work experience and apprenticeships for LAC and could offer a bespoke work experience placement by matching up the young person to what was available. The National Apprentice Scheme was very competitive and usually expected certain standards in literacy and maths and that this sometimes made it difficult for LAC to meet the criteria.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/018**

That the update on the Leaving Care Service be noted.

#### LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN & CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY UPDATE

The report updated the Committee on the progress of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 and shared the updated priorities for 2016-17.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/019**

1) That the update on the progress of the action plan for the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 be noted.

2) That the priorities of the Annual Action Plan for 2016-17 be noted.

# WORK PROGRAMME

The updated work programme was discussed and considered by Members.

# **RESOLVED 2016/020**

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

# FOSTER CARERS ITEMS

There were no items for discussion from foster carers.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm

CHAIRMAN 13 June 2016



12 September 2016

Agenda Item: 4

# **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. This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee by the designated professionals for Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups on the health organisations' contributions to improving health outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Local Authority during 2015/16.

# **Information and Advice**

- 2. It is well documented nationally that the health of children and young people in care is worse than that of their peers living with birth families. Contributing factors may include the impact of poverty, poor parenting, physical/sexual abuse and neglect that may have been suffered prior to entry to the care system. Almost half of children in care have a diagnosable mental health disorder and two thirds have special educational needs (NICE, 2013). They often enter the care system having missed scheduled vaccinations and health appointments. Delays in identifying and meeting their emotional well-being and mental health needs can have far reaching effects on all aspects of their lives including their chances of reaching their potential to lead happy and healthy lives as adults.
- 3. Parents want their children to have the best start in life, to be healthy and happy and to reach their full potential. As corporate parents, those involved in providing local authority services for the children they look after should have the same high aspirations and ensure the children receive the care and support they need in order to thrive.
- 4. Under the Children Act 1989, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS England have a duty to comply with requests from a local authority to help them provide support and services to looked after children. This is done through effective commissioning, delivery and co-ordination of health services and through individual practitioners providing coordinated care for each child, young person or their carers.
- 5. In recognition of the identified health inequalities and in response to the guidance laid out in the "Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Looked After Children" Department of Health 2015, Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust (Health Partnerships Division), Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust (NUHT), Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SFHFT) and Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (DBHFT) are the providers of the Children in Care and

Adoption Health Team Service. This specialist team consists of Doctors, Medical Advisers (adoption) and Clinical Nurse Specialists and dedicated administration support working with children in the care of the local authority across Nottinghamshire County. The service is underpinned by Practice Guidance.

- 6. Health is responsible for ensuring that looked after children have:-
  - a holistic health assessment when they enter the care system and throughout their journey in care within statutory timescales.
  - their physical and emotional health needs identified through initial and review health 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 looked after children.
- 7. The designated professionals (Doctors and Nurses) working for the six CCGs ensure that the health needs of looked after children are raised and recognised in all appropriate forums across the health and social care community. They influence the development of service specifications and monitor identified key performance indicators that are reported to the CCGs.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 8. The provider health organisation's service is performance monitored against national guidance:
  - Initial health assessments
  - Review health assessments
  - Registration with a GP
  - Registration with a dentist
  - Immunisation uptake and data.

#### **Initial and Review Health Assessments**

9. Initial health assessments are completed by Paediatricians. Review health assessments are undertaken by the Clinical Nurse Specialists twice a year for children under the age of 5 years and annually for all children over the age of 5 years up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. From these assessments a health plan is formulated. The plan includes information from the child's GP, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) via the social worker, any information from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) colleagues and relevant information from parental health records/completed parental health forms, if consent is given. The aim is to provide a comprehensive assessment of current health needs including any previous history which may have implications on the child or young person's future health outcomes. This plan is shared with the social worker, GP and other health partners, carers and child or young person if appropriate.

#### **GP** and Dental registration

- 10. The number of children registered with a GP has been consistently high (above 98.8%) during 2016/17.
- 11. The number of children registered with a dentist has been consistently high at 83.2% or above. Plans going forward into 2016/17 are to record data on children having being seen by a dentist as well as registered to ensure appropriate treatment is accessed.

#### Immunisations

- 12. The immunisation status of a child / young person demonstrates the protection of individual children and the community against a range of diseases. There is a national childhood immunisation programme which all children are expected to complete. Immunisation status is recorded at all health assessments identifying any outstanding immunisations in the care plan with the recommendation that they are completed.
  - Primary Vaccination (up to the age of 5) rates have been consistently high throughout 2016/17 (90 100%)
  - Changes to how the Human Papillomavirus vaccination (annual vaccination) data is collected have been made going forward into 2016 and this data will now be collected annually over the academic year which should capture the information more accurately for 2016/17.
  - The School Leaver booster uptake continues to be challenging as it is frequently refused by young people. The School Aged Immunisation Service in future will target and support children in care to ensure vaccinations are up to date and improve performance.

#### **Data and Performance**

13. Work has commenced to improve data collection for better reporting on key performance indicators, to identify needs, gaps and improve accuracy and presentation of reports. It is vital that the service is confident in the data being produced and able to see where in the pathway improvements need to be made.

#### Emotional health of Looked After Children

- 14. The national picture of the rates of emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties are four to five times higher amongst looked after children than the wider population (Children's Care Monitor, 2013/14). A pathway is in place for returns of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQs) which helps inform holistic health assessments and identifies to CAMHS Looked After Children (LAC) team those children who have emotional health issues of concern and require additional interventions.
- 15. The Children in Care team works closely with the CAMHS LAC team on individual cases and through regular joint meetings / consultations and information sharing. For those looked after children who do not meet thresholds for CAMHS LAC team involvement their

management is via the Clinical Nurse Specialists with links to universal services and the third sector.

#### Children Living Out of Area

16. There can be differences in the quality of provision of services offered for children and young people who are placed out of our area. There is a quality assurance process undertaken on all review health assessments that are not completed by the Nottinghamshire Children in Care team. Those health assessments that do not meet the expected quality assurance standards are challenged with the health organisation providing this for example by sending a letter clearly setting out the issues and holding back payment of the invoice. There is work on-going around continuing to improve the quality assurance process.

#### Children Leaving Care

- 17. It is recognised that care leavers, particularly if they have experienced unstable placements or have been placed out of area, are vulnerable to not having sufficient information about their own health as well as having limited information about their family and significant history.
- 18. From April 2015 care leavers due their last health assessment were offered an Important Health Information Pack. This pack provides all care leavers with information about their individual and family health history as appropriate. The Children in Care Council were active participants in the design and development of this. A joint audit between health and social care is underway to examine the quality of the information pack given. The results of the audit will be shared internally within social care and health in order to make any changes needed to improve the information given to young people.

#### Adoption

- 19. The Medical Advisers and Clinical Nurse Specialist for adoption are responsible for ensuring that where the Local Authority indicates that it is seeking a plan for adoption, the relevant medical information is provided in a report. This report is initially to aid agency decision making and will be updated and shared with prospective adopters and the matching panel as well as the child or young person in the future.
- 20. Additional Adoption work includes:
  - Adult Health Reports
  - Medical Advice to Adoption Panel
  - Information sharing with Prospective Adopters.

#### Summary

21. The designated professionals have identified key areas of work for 2016/17. Moving forward the designated professionals will in future submit the CCGs looked after children annual report to the Sub-Committee.

#### **Other Options Considered**

22. The report is for noting only.

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

23. The report is for noting only.

# **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. 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 Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee notes the update on the health organisations' contributions to improving health outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Local Authority during 2015/16.

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

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

Kathryn Higgins RGN, RM, RHV, BSc (Hons) Designated Nurse for looked after children (secondment) NHCT (on behalf of County NHS CCGs (5) & City CCG) Kathryn.higgins2@nhs.net

Cathy Burke Nurse Consultant Safeguarding (Designated Nurse Looked after children) RGN, RHV, BSc (Hons), MA (NHS Bassetlaw CCG)

Dr Melanie Bracewell Consultant Community Paediatrician/Designated Doctor for looked after children/Medical Adviser for Adoption (County South CCGs and City CCG)

Dr Victoria Walker Consultant Paediatrician/Designated Doctor for looked after children – Community and General (County North CCGs)

Dr Ashraf Consultant Paediatrician & Designated Doctor for looked after children

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(NHS Bassetlaw CCG)

# **Constitutional Comments**

25. As this report is for noting only constitutional comments are not required

# Financial Comments (SS 01/08/16)

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

# **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

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

All.

C0829



# Nottinghamshire County Council

12 September 2016

Agenda Item: 5

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

# PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 1 2016/17) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

# **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1 April and 30 June 2016.

# Information and Advice

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

#### **Key Operational Data**

4. At the end of Quarter 1 2016/17, a total of 798 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which represents a further drop since the end of Quarter 4. LAC numbers have been falling monthly since January 2016 and quarterly since Quarter 2 2015-16. Quarter 1 has seen the lowest number of children admitted into care for over two years. The LAC rate per 10,000 of 49.1 remains significantly lower than the rates for our statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2014/15, which were 57.8 and 60 respectively. Data indicates that the reduction in numbers of LAC is due to a steady number of care leavers reaching 18 each quarter, but also due to a steady number of younger children exiting care each quarter, most likely related to the timeliness of court proceedings, adoption planning, and Special Guardianship Orders (SGO) arrangements now achieved.

	2014-15				2015-16				2016-17
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Numbers of children in care (as at									
Quarter end)	866	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798
LAC Rate per 10,000	53.2	52.3	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.8	53.3	51.6	49.1
Number of children admitted into									
care	119	82	94	100	103	100	87	76	63
Number of children discharged									
from care	86	90	95	109	92	82	90	94	85
Number of care leavers (as at Quarte	r end)+						302	224	219

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

		201	4-15			201	5-16		2016-17
Age Range	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Under 1	37	33	40	41	40	43	37	27	27
1-4 years	152	150	125	118	123	128	131	112	90
5-9 years	182	166	176	170	168	168	171	163	151
10-15 years	289	293	302	312	317	335	341	345	344
16+ years	206	209	213	210	207	201	187	192	186
Total	866	851	856	851	855 875 867 839			839	798

2014-15					2015-16				2016-17
Gender	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Male	459	451	447	448	447	456	465	452	429
Female	407	400	409	403	408	419	402	387	369
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798

	2014-15						2015-16			
District	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Ashfield	218	211	213	212	214	214	211	202	201	
Mansfield	184	175	166	175	168	182	186	184	169	
Bassetlaw	164	160	156	156	158	160	154	149	142	
Newark	123	125	124	129	127	130	133	123	116	
Broxtowe	57	55	54	55	57	56	54	51	49	
Gedling	47	52	56	56	55	67	62	63	60	
Rushcliffe	23	23	28	22	23	17	18	21	20	
Out of County/Unknown	50	50	58	46	53	49	49	46	41	
Total	866	851	856	851	855 875 867 839				798	

5. All districts have seen a decrease in the number of looked after children since the last quarter. The age profile of looked after children continues to get older with 14% now aged 4 and under and 66% aged 10 or over, compared with 19% and 61% respectively a year ago. The gender profile of looked after children has remained static from Quarter 4 to Quarter 1.

#### **Other Options Considered**

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

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

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

# **Statutory and Policy Implications**

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

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

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

#### **Implications for Service Users**

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

# **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That the Committee notes the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 April to 30 June 2016.

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

# For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Shelagh Mitchell Group Manager, Access to Resources T: 0115 977 74169

#### E: shelagh.mitchell@nottscc.gov.uk

# **Constitutional Comments**

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

# Financial Comments (TR 09/08/16)

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

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

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 19.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

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

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

All.

C0865

Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee:	Performance Update - July 2016
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The key indicators identified below are aligned against the outcome statements in the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy. All indicators are updated with the most up-to-date information as at the time of writing the report. These six outcomes are: 1). Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy, 2). Looked after children and care leavers are safe, 3). Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential, 4). Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood, 5). Looked after children and care leavers are listened to, 6). Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships. (p) = provisional data

	LAC & Care			Notti					
Update	Leavers Strategy Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Current Value	Current Reporting Period	Best tobe	Previous Value	Previous Annual Perform- ance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
and py	1.1	Average Strengths and Difficulties Question (SDQ) Score per LAC	14.2 (p)	2015/16	High	14.9	15.5 (2012/13)	13.9 (2014/15)	14.0 (2014/15)
en	N/A	Percentage of LAC with up to date immunisations	85.2% (p)	2015/16	High	60.9%	67.8% (2012/13)	87.8% (2014/15)	81.1% (2014/15)
child are alth	N/A	Percentage of LAC who have had their teeth checked by a dentist	53.1% (p)	2015/16	High	64.3%	53.0% (2012/13)	85.8% (2014/15)	78.6%
d after children leavers are hap and healthy	1.5	Percentage of LAC who have had their annual health assessment	82.3% (p)	2015/16	High	89.6%	71.3%	89.7% (2014/15)	86.1% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC whose development assessments are up to date	27.1% (p)	2015/16	High	70.6%	75.9% (2013/14)	(2014/13) 89.4% (2014/15)	(2014/13) 77.2% (2014/15)
Looked care le		Percentage of LAC identified as having a substance misuse problem	5.9% (p)	2015/16	Low	0%	(2013/14) 0.9% (2012/13)	(2014/13) 4.0% (2014/15)	(2014/13) 4.4% (2014/15)
	2.1	Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation	79.9%	2016/17 Q1	High	79.5%	92.8%	80.7%	75.3%
d after and care are safe	2.3	Percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC missing from placement by individual child	9.2%	2015/16 Q4	Low	8.5%	(2014/15) 11.0% (2014/15)	(2014/15) 6% (2014/15)	(2014/15) 7.2% 2014/15
Looked ildren a :avers a	N/A	Return Interviews completed within timescale	55%	2015/16 Q4	High	72%	64% (2014/15)	_	_
Looke children leavers	N/A	Percentage of LAC convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand	0% (p)	2015/16	Low	1.0%	6.0% (2012/13)	4.9% (2014/15)	5.0% (2014/15)
en tial	3.1	Percentage of LAC achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English & Maths) at KS4	14.8%	2014/15	High	13.1%	NA	13.8% (2014/15)	13.9% (2014/15)
r children leavers r potential Lal)	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 2 at KS1 in Reading	64%	2014/15	High	76%	76% (2013/14)	71% (2014/15)	64% (2014/15)
after care l their annu	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 2 at KS1 in Writing	55%	2014/15	High	67%	`67%´ (2013/14)	`63%´ (2014/15)	59% (2014/15)
	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 2 at KS1 in Maths	68%	2014/15	High	76%	76% (2013/14)	73%	66% (2014/15)
Looked and ( achieve (	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Reading	66%	2014/15	High	72%	72% (2013/14)	71% (2014/15)	73% (2014/15)
Loc å	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Writing	58%	2014/15	High	55%	55% (2013/14)	61% (2014/15)	58% (2014/15)

			Update		Update		LAC & Care Leavers	Key Performance Indicator		Notti	nghar	nshire			
			Strategy Ref	Rey Ferrormance indicator	Current Value	Current Reporting Period	Best to be	Previous Value	Previous Annual Perform- ance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours				
en '	;	tial	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Maths	58%	2014/15	High	69%	69% (2013/14)	64% (2014/15)	62% (2014/15)				
children	leavers	eavers potential	3.3	Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training aged 19-21	46.1%	2016/17 Q1	High	47.3%	50.9% (2014/15)	47.8% (2014/15)	42.5% (2014/15)				
	<u> </u>	ir po	3.3	Percentage of care leavers in higher education aged 19-21	4.1%	2016/17 Q1	High	4.5%	4.0% (2014/15)	6.0% (2014/15)	5.7% (2014/15)				
	after care le their		N/A	Percentage of LAC permanently excluded	0.0%	2014/15	Low	0.0%	0.0%	0.13% (2014/15)	0.13% (2014/15)				
oked	Looked and c achieve	achieve	N/A	Percentage of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	14.6%	2014/15	Low	12.6%	12.6% (2013/14)	`10.3%´ (2014/15)	`10.3%´ (2014/15)				
Loc		achi	N/A	Percentage of LAC classed as persistent absentees*	3.1%	2014/15	Low	4.1%	`4.1% (2013/14)	`4.9%´ (2014/15)	`4.8%´ (2014/15)				
Looked after	childre	are epar	5.3	Percentage of LAC with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan	51.5%	2016/17 Q1	High	62.6%	60.2% (2014/15)	_	-				
Loo	chil	n are prepar	4.2	Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation	79.9%	2016/17 Q1	High	79.5%	92.8% (2014/15)	80.7% (2014/15)	75.3% (2014/15)				
after	children and care	are d to	5.2	Percentage of LAC who got the chance to speak to their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to their LAC Review	35.8%	2016/17 Q1	High	37.1%	39.7% (2014/15)	-	-				
d af	and	ers a	5.4	Percentage of LAC who felt their IRO involved them in the LAC Review they attended	97.0%	Feb-16	High	100.0%	_	_	-				
Looked	dren	leavers are listened to	5.4	Percentage of LAC who felt listened to in the LAC Review they attended	90.0%	Feb-16	High	92.0%	_	_	-				
Ľ Ľ	Chile		5.1	Percentage of LAC and care leavers who have completed a Listen to Me booklet	31.0%	2016/17 Q1	High	31.0%	29.0% (2014/15)	-	-				
Looked after	lrei	and care leavers build	6.2	Percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year	9.4%	2016/17 Q1	Low	10.4%	9.8% (2014/15)	10% (2014/15)	10% (2014/15)				
Loo aft	chilc '	and leav bu	N/A	Percentage of looked after children placed 20 miles or more from home	12.9%	2016/17 Q1	Low	11.9%	16% (2014/15)	14% (2014/15)	13.4% (2014/15)				

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



12 September 2016

Agenda Item: 6

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

# COUNTY CAMHS LOOKED AFTER AND ADOPTION TEAM - SERVICE PROVISION AND DEVELOPMENTS 2015/16

# Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the work and service developments of the County Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Children Looked After (CLA) and Adoption Team.

# **Information and Advice**

#### Introduction

- 2. The County CAMHS Children Looked After and Adoption Team was established in 2001, restructured in 2007, and has developed into the service currently offered. 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 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, and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

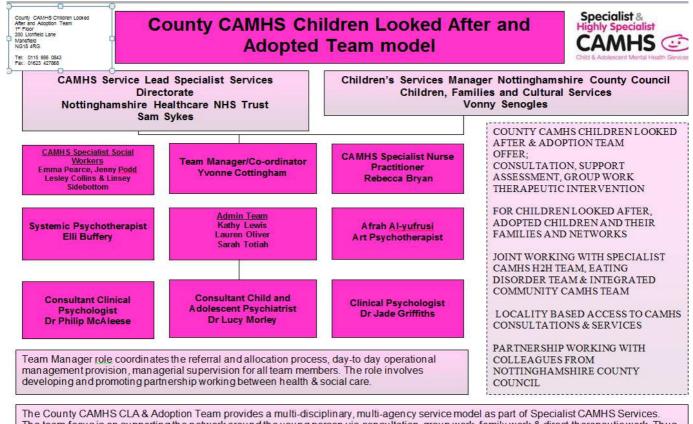
#### Aims of the service

- 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, promote the psychological wellbeing and placement stability 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 and multi-disciplinary; it is made up of professionals, some of whom are employed by Nottinghamshire NHS Trust and others by Nottinghamshire County Council, who have undertaken different types of training. The team is supported by an administration team and led by a Team Manager Coordinator employed by Nottinghamshire County Council.



The County CAMHS CLA & Adoption Team provides a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency service model as part of Specialist CAMHS Services. The team focus is on supporting the network around the young person via consultation, group work, family work & direct therapeutic work. Thus enabling the network to develop a broader understanding of and therefore meeting the emotional needs of this group of vulnerable young people. We tailor our model of intervention to meet the individual needs of the child and their network.

#### **Referral Data CAMHS Children Looked After and Adoption Team**

7.	01/10/15 - 31/12/15 CAMHS CLA team received Average waiting time for an initial CAMHS consultation	<b>80 referrals</b> 30 days
	01/01/16 - 31/03/16 CAMHS CLA team received Average waiting time for an initial CAMHS consultation	<b>81 referrals</b> 36 days
	01/04/16 - 30/06/16 CAMHS CLA team received Average waiting time for an initial CAMHS consultation	<b>87 referrals</b> 27 days

- 8. Referrals are risk assessed and any urgent self-harm referrals are seen as per the selfharm protocol – the service offers a follow-up community appointment within seven days.
- 9. Following the initial Choice appointment/CAMHS consultation with the Social Worker, young people/foster carers are generally seen within two weeks for treatment / follow up.

#### Service Provision:

#### Pathway to access a service from CAMHS CLA and Adoption Team

10. An initial CAMHS consultation with the young person's social worker is the pathway to accessing a service from the CAMHS CLA and Adoption Team. The expectation is that the young person's social worker completes a consultation request form and books into one of the initial consultations. These appointments are offered weekly and are accessible to social workers via booking in with a named business support person within their own team. Following the appointment the CAMHS clinicians will provide a written record 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.

#### **CAMHS** Initial Interventions

11. 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'.

#### **CAMHS Ongoing Interventions**

- 12. Dependent on the outcome of the initial and follow up appointment, the plan may be for CAMHS involvement to be ongoing consultation to the network and the following additional integrative interventions may be introduced over time to carers and young people: fostering attachments group; therapeutic parenting or attachment focused family based interventions such as Theraplay; Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) or Systemic Psychotherapy. The team can also provide specific diagnostic assessment, as well as the prescribing and reviewing of medication.
- 13. Therapeutic interventions with young people include assessment, self-harm follow up, DDP, Theraplay, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, (CBT), Psychotherapy / Psychological / Systemic Integrative Interventions. Self-Help and Psycho-Social education are also offered when assessed as appropriate to meet the formulated need.

#### Skills training for wider Looked After Children (LAC) workforce

#### Foster Care

14. In 2013 the CAMHS CLA and Adoption Team developed and provided a therapeutic 'fostering attachments' 10 week therapeutic group for foster carers. The group sessions are two and a half hours long and usually run in blocks of five weeks with a break to coincide with school holidays. The aim of the group is to support foster carers to increase their understanding of how to identify and meet the unmet emotional needs of the young people they are caring for, also to support one of the earlier LAC strategy action points of recruiting more local authority foster carers and developing their knowledge and expertise to promote placement stability.

15. Groups have now taken place throughout the County in Bassetlaw, South Nottinghamshire, Ashfield, Newark and Mansfield. As a result of discussion and feedback received from foster carers and colleagues in the fostering service, the group is now offered 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. A number of supervising social workers and specialist family fostering support workers have also attended the group.

#### **Residential Care**

16. The 10 week 'nurturing attachments' therapeutic group has been adapted for the staff teams in the Council's mainstream residential units. Again the aim of the group is to support the residential staff team to increase their understanding of how to identify and meet the unmet emotional needs of the young people they are caring for with the aim of promoting placement stability.

#### **Qualitative Feedback**

17. Each foster carer was given an evaluation form that offered them the opportunity to make anonymous qualitative comments about their experience of the Fostering Attachments Group. Below are the comments that were received:

"The course has been excellent. I've put a lot of the course work into practice with my children and it has helped. The CAMHS clinician has delivered the course excellently. I've recommended the course already."

"I found all the course content helpful, it enabled me to reflect upon the behaviour of children and make sense of it."

"A very interesting and relevant course that I think any foster carer would find very useful at the beginning of their fostering career."

"It's given me a better understanding of shame and its impact".

"Every aspect of the course was useful, I would thoroughly recommend it. I think this course would be better at the beginning of everyone's fostering placements."

"I found the course very interesting and I have a better understanding of attachment".

"Helped me recognise why \*\*\*\* behaves the way she does, what I can do to help her."

"I found it particularly useful meeting other carers and hearing their experiences, advice given and just feeling like you're not alone".

"Has helped improve my relationship with my child"

18. None of the carers in this group could identify anything that they found unhelpful.

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#### Summary

- 19. The evaluation of the Nottingham Fostering Attachments Group (2016) suggests that following the group, carers' experiences of caring for their child were more positive. In particular the data suggests that carers developed a better understanding of their children and reported to have a better relationship with them. The data also indicates that carers' stress levels were lower after the Fostering Attachments Group. There was a sense from this set of carers that the Fostering Attachments Group increased their awareness of attachment related difficulties and therefore their ability to recognise when/if their child was struggling. Although this may have led carers to at times feel more overwhelmed, the data suggests that carers' stress levels reduced as they developed a better understanding of their children.
- 20. This group programme will be further evaluated using Parenting Stress Index, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires and Carer Questionnaires to provide more detailed data.

#### **Residential Care Matching Panel**

21. The Service Manager for CAMHS and Residential Services chairs the matching panel process that has been initiated since the block purchase of residential care. Panel members include a member of the Placements Team, registered managers from the Council's mainstream residential homes, the team manager of the CAMHS CLA team and the relevant personnel from the Council's 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 the Council and its partners prior to a placement being agreed.

#### **Other Options Considered**

22. This report is for noting only.

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

23. This report is for noting only.

# **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. 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

# For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Vonny Senogles CSM CAMHS & Residential Services T: 07974235931 E: vonny.senogles@nottscc.gov.uk

# **Constitutional Comments**

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

# Financial Comments (TR 09/08/16)

26. As this report is for noting only, no Financial Comments are required.

# **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

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

All.

C0862



12 September 2016

Agenda Item: 7

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

# ADOPTION SERVICE UPDATE: MARCH TO AUGUST 2016

# **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide a six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from March to August 2016.

# **Information and Advice**

- 2. The Government continues to drive improvement of performance in the adoption sector, with a range of legal, policy and organisational changes.
- 3. The National Adoption Leadership Board, chaired by Andrew Christie with representatives from the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the voluntary sector and academics continues to monitor performance and drive change. There is a regional link to the national Board Janice Spencer, Assistant Director in Lincolnshire, is the link for the East Midlands and she in turn links to Anthony Douglas, from Cafcass (Children and Family Court Advisory & Support Service) who sits on the national Board.
- 4. The quarterly survey reports on all significant data for all children with an adoption plan, and from 2014, for all adults who have completed a Registration of Interest in adoption. Further reporting fields have been added in this quarter.
- 5. The data allows national and local analysis of numbers and the demographic of children waiting for adoption, and adopters available to take placements of children and informs the scorecard.
- 6. The Government continues to stimulate growth in the voluntary sector by making available adoption grant monies. The most recent budget ring fenced £30m up to October 2017 to all local authorities to apply to the Department for Education (DfE) for reimbursement of inter-agency fees for hard to place children. Nottinghamshire has claimed £552,000 in fees so far with an anticipated £129,000 in the first quarter of this financial year.
- 7. There continues to be a mis-match between the children waiting: siblings, older children, those with complex backgrounds, developmental delay and approved adopters. Nottinghamshire County Council has 12 adopters waiting at present. The adopters who continue to wait have a narrower matching profile than peers for example only wanting a girl or a very young child or having birth children.

8. Nottinghamshire performance is as follows:

	2013-14	2014-2015	2015-2016	April-Jun 2016
Adult approvals	58	55	31	8
New adoption plans	67	66	79	19
Children placed	91	84	73	14
Children adopted	88	96	74	8

To contextualise the above performance, numbers of LAC increased significantly in 2010-2012 and as the Council progressed plans for these children, the majority have now been adopted.

- 9. Of the matches made in 2015-2016, 29 children were placed with Nottinghamshire families, and 44 children placed with families from other agencies. It should be noted that the number of new plans is now steady, thus children placed and adopted in the coming years will fall correspondingly. In 2015-2016 five placements disrupted pre order (6.8 % of all placements) and we have a robust mechanism of learning from disruption. In this reporting period the Council has not seen any placement disruptions. Over the last 11 years Nottinghamshire's pre order disruption rate is 3.5% which is slightly higher than the national average of 3.2% and reflects the fact that the Council is ambitious in its plans for children and places more complex children.
- 10. The number of adopters that the Council has approved reduced to coincide with the fact that there are few children waiting - the Council has consistently matched children who have waited a substantial period of time and children whose first placement has disrupted. Whilst this is a good outcome for these children it does reflect negatively on the adoption data. As an example, child B was with adopters and his placement disrupted after two years; it then took another ten months for another adoptive family to be identified. Child B is now placed which is an excellent outcome for an older boy but this has taken 34 months as opposed to the expected four months. Those children now waiting have complexities which make them harder to place. There are currently seventeen children waiting - a baby with complex medical needs and several older sibling groups who have all experienced extreme neglect and physical abuse. The Council's current recruitment practice is to not recruit adopters who are only interested in the 0-2 years age range, adopters who have birth children aged five and under and adopters who already have a non-related adopted child aged seven and under. The recruitment strategy is constantly reviewed based on the needs of the service.
- 11. In addition, the Council is now able to place children from other local authorities with its adopters. Eight children were placed in the last financial year and two children during this reporting period. This practice impacts positively on national performance on numbers of children waiting. Nottinghamshire County Council are able to recoup £27,000 for a single placement, £43,000 for a sibling group of two children and £60,000 for a sibling group of three children.

- 12. Adoption support continues to be an area of development for the Government. Since 1 May 2015 the Council has been applying to the Adoption Support Fund on behalf of adopters in order to purchase support packages; all applications have been successful with circa £138,000 awarded to fund support packages. The fund will continue for the next four years. There is also a piece of research being undertaken to map existing services as the current choice and quality is variable. This is part of the challenge to ensure all adopters can access services.
- 13. The Council continues to utilise all home finding opportunities for children publicity, adoption activity days, adoption register events, local profile sharing events and this consistent activity across the range does produce matches for most children. There is no one activity proving more successful than another. Local media continues to be utilised to publicise the need for adopters and videos of adopters' stories have been added to the Council's web pages. Throughout the year there has been a sustained recruitment campaign for foster carers which also benefits the recruitment of adopters. Consistent partnership working with children's social care allows the Council to track children who may be in need of adoption and plan its recruitment strategy accordingly.
- 14. Changes to legislation in March 2014 allows children to be placed in a fostering placement which will become adoption. This is not the same as foster carers who may then choose to adopt (about 15% of all adoptions of children from care are by foster carers) but relates to approved adopters who are also temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child, to enable a child to be placed with them at an earlier point. This is then a foster placement until it becomes adoption.
- 15. There is an element of risk for the adopters in this type of placement, but the advantage is that the child is settled in a permanent placement at a much younger age, usually an adoption placement can only be made after a child is subject to a Placement Order, and the adoption panel has recommended a match which the agency decision maker approves. However, a foster to adopt placement can be made at any point in the time before the Placement Order.
- 16. Increasingly adopters are considering fostering for adoption. Nottinghamshire has seen one child placed at under three months of age and adopted at nine months of age. There are a further three placements in progress currently, and we have made fifteen foster for adoption placements in total.
- 17. The partnership with a local voluntary adoption agency, Adopt Together, continues to provide placements for Nottinghamshire children, 23 to date. In addition, joint provision of some adoption support services is being explored, such as groups for adopters or children and networks for adopters. Work is also being done together where capacity becomes an issue for either agency, directing potential adopters between the agencies as necessary.
- 18. In June 2015 the DfE set out proposals to move to regional adoption agencies. The belief is that regionalisation will speed up matching and markedly improve life chances alongside reducing costs. £4.3 million has been made available to stimulate initial changes in the sector. The East Midlands Adoption Consortium, which consists of Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City, Derbyshire, Derby City, Leicestershire, Leicester City, Lincolnshire, Peterborough Adopt Together, Faith in Families and Coram, has been awarded trailblazing

funding of £200,000 to progress regionalisation of these eight local authorities and three voluntary adoption agencies who placed a total of 390 children in the last financial year. By 2020 recruitment, assessment and support of adopters will be delivered by regional adoption agencies. Nottinghamshire is leading on the communications strategy for regionalisation and Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director, Children Families and Cultural Services chairs the strategic governance board.

- 19. Future plans for the service include:
  - consolidating learning and practice for fostering for adoption (ongoing)
  - consolidating learning from Adoption Support Fund and expanding claims for support packages(ongoing and evidenced in increase in packages funded)
  - exploring the possibility of specifically recruiting fostering for adoption carers, particularly for older children(ongoing and assessed on a monthly basis based on needs of children currently waiting)
  - reviewing the process to identify any delay in the Placement Order to match process and highlighting the longer timescales to place Nottinghamshire's difficult to place children (in progress with a named officer leading on this project)
  - building on the reputation of the Council when placing children to enable the Council's adopters to adopt children from other local authorities(ongoing)
  - working with partner agencies to continue to drive proposals to move to regional adoption agencies (ongoing to 2020)
  - moving staff from Chadburn House to the Council's accommodation (alternate accommodation and ways of working currently being assessed).

#### Other Options Considered

20. The report is for noting only.

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

21. The 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 six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from March to August 2016 be noted.

# Steve Edwards

# Service Director, Children's Social Care

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

Tracey Coull Service Manager, Adoption T: 0115 9774153 E: tracey.coull@nottscc.gov.uk

#### **Constitutional Comments**

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

#### Financial Comments (SAS 21/07/16)

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.

Adoption Service update: September 2015 to February 2016 – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 7 March 2016.

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

All.

C0856



12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Agenda Item: 8

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

# CLAYFIELDS HOUSE RE-BUILD

# **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the Clayfields House Rebuild Project.

# Information and Advice

2. The Scarlet Unit is the oldest part of the Clayfields site. Originally constructed around 1980, it is now suffering defects associated with movement / cracking to masonry. Since 2009, the site has been periodically monitored by Nottinghamshire County Council structural engineers. The findings of this monitoring is that the unit **is** subsiding and will not be fit for habitation in the next five years or so. To date, due to the subsidence, a drain has collapsed which has had to be replaced. In order for this work to occur, the floor had to be completely broken up, leaving the area out of bounds. On a regular basis, the maintenance team have to re-fit the internal bedroom and unit doors to ensure they are lockable and free from potential ligature points. Cracks and holes also appear in the walls which have to be filled and redecorated.

#### **Other Options Considered**

3. Remedial work would not significantly improve the build long term. The work could not be carried out whilst the unit is operational, which would also have serious financial implications, making remedial work not financially viable.

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

- 4. Scarlet Unit was not initially constructed in the 1980s for the complex young people that now reside in the establishment. The high level of mental health needs and violent behaviour exhibited by the young people also results in property damage.
- 5. Secure Children's Homes are built to specific standards which are detailed in the Secure Children's Home Design Guide 2009. The layout of the unit is not conducive to working with the conflict and tensions often experienced by young people in a secure setting.
- 6. The new Scarlet Unit rebuild will be robust enough to withstand such damage and will also have further facilities to assist in observations of young people e.g. those on suicide watch. In the design it will also have the facility to become a two bedded "Step Down" unit for those transitioning back into the community. This will serve as an extra service that will

be attractive nationally for local authorities looking for creative options for their young people.

# **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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

#### **Financial Implications**

- 8. The Clayfields Scarlet Block rebuild project has already received grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to bring the full project up to receipt of planning permission and enabling works to allow construction work to start onsite in the second quarter of 2016/17.
- 9. The inclusion of the DfE grant to build a new unit at Clayfields House was approved as part of the Management Accounts 2015/16 report to Full Council on 4 July 2016. Phase 1 will be the building of a replacement Scarlet Block, in order that residents can move into the new unit prior to demolition of the old unit, therefore not losing any generated income and

young people not having to move to another secure children's home. Phase 2 is the demolition of the existing Scarlet Unit and Phase 3 is the building of the vocational block on the footprint of the demolished Scarlet Unit.

#### **Human Resources Implications**

10. The rebuild will be completed by external contractors, whilst being over seen by the Council/Arc partnership and by the Senior Manager at Clayfields – Head of Facilities and Project Management.

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

11. Clayfields House does not have an area that can be used for young people who are experiencing a crisis in terms of either intense behavioural issues or mental health issues e.g. psychotic break. It is envisaged creating a separate nurture area which is high dependency and where a young person can be kept separately and safe in extreme circumstances.

#### Implications for Service Users

12. Clayfields House does not have specific rooms designated for talking therapy work. Currently young people use rooms that are also used for family visits and meetings; this is inappropriate from a therapeutic perspective. Increasingly young people are being admitted who are experiencing severe trauma reactions requiring therapy, there is an expert Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) team on site. It is envisaged creating bespoke therapy rooms within the rebuild.

- 13. Young people are taking increasing amounts of medications daily (including controlled drugs) due to their increasingly complex mental health needs. It is envisaged building a new and additional medical room, which is immediately accessible to Scarlet Unit, as part of the rebuild. This will improve safety by restricting movement around the centre and ensure any high risk young people on Scarlet Unit are within easy reach of the medical room both for their medication and for any urgent medical treatments required.
- 14. Clayfields House has recently opened self-funded vocational education and training buildings. These provide education and training in mechanics and construction for the residents and for high risk children in the local community; this also includes ex-residents who have resettled locally. The rebuild would also offer facilities for other vocational education and training in catering and, depending on space, hair and beauty in order to offer a broad range of opportunities.

# **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That the information on the Clayfields House Rebuild Project be noted.

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

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

Thirza Smith Centre Manager, Clayfields House Secure Unit 0115 9170010 thirza.smith@nottscc.gov.uk

#### **Constitutional Comments**

15. As this report is for noting only constitutional comments are not required.

#### Financial Comments (TR 09/08/16)

16. As this report is for noting only financial comments are not required.

#### **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.

Secure Children's Home Design Guide – 2009. Management Accounts 2015-16 – Report to Full Council on 4 July 2016.

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

All

C0861



12 September 2016

Agenda Item: 9

# **REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES**

# WORK PROGRAMME

# Purpose of the Report

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

# **Information and Advice**

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

#### **Other Options Considered**

5. None.

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

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

# **Statutory and Policy Implications**

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

# **RECOMMENDATION/S**

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

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

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

# Constitutional Comments (SLB)

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

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

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

#### **Background Papers**

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

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

All

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

Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	Lead Officer	Report Author
12 December 2016			
Performance reporting (Quarter 2 2016/17) – services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Autumn Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm
New accommodation provision for 16-21 year olds	Six-monthly update reports	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell/ Beth Cundy
Leaving Care Service update	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Michelle Lee
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
Children who run away or go missing from care	Moved from September	Steve Edwards	Thirza Smith
13 March 2017			
Performance reporting (Quarter 3 2016/17) – services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Spring Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm
New accommodation provision for 16-21 year olds	Six-monthly update reports	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell/ Beth Cundy
Provision, achievements and progress of the Children in Care Council and participation of children and young people looked after 2016/17	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Adoption Service update: September 2016 to February 2017	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Tracey Coull
Contact Service update	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Denise Martin
Advocacy Service for Looked After Children	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Ty Yousaf
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Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	Lead Officer	Report Author
12 June 2017			
Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2016/17) – services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Summer Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm
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
Improving health outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Local Authority	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Kathryn Higgins/ Shelagh Mitchell
Fostering Service annual report	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Naomi Sills
Leaving Care Service update	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Michelle Lee
County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption Team – service provision and developments 2016/17	Annual information report	Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles