

Report



meeting	SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	28 th September 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE

AFTERCARE SERVICE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to propose that the aftercare services study be deleted from the programme of work.

2. Information and Advice

2.1 Current Services

- 2.1.1 Aftercare covers the services provided for young people following their discharge from care until they reach age 21. All young people who were looked after on their 16th birthday, and had been so for a significant period of time, are entitled to aftercare support to assist them moving towards adult independence. Aftercare support is provided via a small team of aftercare social workers working in partnership with National Children's Home Action for Children (NCH) and National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) who are contracted by the Authority to provide personal advisor and support services for young people.

2.2 Performance Measures

- 2.2.1 The Government's objectives for Children's Social Services includes the objective, 'To ensure that young people leaving care, as they enter adulthood, are not isolated and participate socially and economically as citizens.' This is measured via three Performance Indicators:

- (a) the percentage of young people at age 19 who were in education, training or employment, and were looked after in their 17th year

- (b) the percentage of these young people who were looked after on 1st April in their 17th year, who had regular contact with the Social Services Department until their 19th birthday
- (c) the percentage of young people who were looked after on 1st April in their 17th year, who were known to have suitable accommodation.

2.2.2 Targets for those performance indicators are incorporated in the Departmental Annual Business Plan. These were also agreed on stretch targets as part of the County Council's Public Service Agreement, the achievement of which will bring significant benefits for the Council. Aftercare services and performance therefore have a high organisational profile as well as being crucial for the young people in receipt of services who are often amongst the most disadvantaged of Nottinghamshire's young people.

2.2.3 Recent performance and future targets are detailed below:

Indicator	2002/03	2003/04	Target 2004/05	Target 2005/06
The % of young people at age 19 who were in education, training or employment, and were looked after in their 17 th year (aged 16).	26.5%	57.1%	68.0%	80.0%
The % of those young people who were looked after on 1 st April in their 17 th year (aged 16), who had regular contact with the Social Services Department until their 19 th birthday.	66.7%	90.0%	83.0%	90.0%
The proportion of children who were looked after on 1 st April in their 17 th year (aged 16+), who were known to have suitable accommodation.	60.6%	76.7%	82.0%	90.0%

2.2.4 Therefore, it is proposed not to study this area of service and it is recommended that this study be deleted from the Select Committee's programme of work.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Aftercare Service study be deleted from the Social Services Standing Select Committee's Programme of Work.

COUNCILLOR CHRIS BARON
Chair of the Social Services Standing Select Committee

(COMM-SELECT) ACSSGP / PW