

**17 March 2014**

**Agenda Item: 9**

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

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

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

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

#### **Information and Advice**

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

**Table 1**

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

Rutland	(external provision)	<b>1</b>
Sheffield	(external provision)	<b>2</b>
Barnsley	(external provision)	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>83</b>

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

### **Other Options Considered**

8. The report is for noting only.

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

9. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the information about the number of looked after children and young people placed in externally managed Residential Children's Homes be noted.

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

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (KLA 21/02/13)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

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

All.

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