

Corporate Parenting Panel

Tuesday, 16 May 2023 at 14:00

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary) | |
| 3 | Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 24 January 2023 | 3 - 10 |
| 4 | Foster Carers Liaison Group Update | |
| 5 | Children in Care Council Update | |
| 6 | Member Visits to Children's Residential Homes | |
| 7 | Update on Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes | 11 - 18 |
| 8 | Inspection Gradings of 'Exclusive Use' Children's Residential Homes | 19 - 24 |
| 9 | Update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care | |
| 10 | Care Leavers Annual Report | 25 - 40 |
| 11 | Destinations of Year 12-13 Looked After Young People Cohort 2022-23 | 41 - 48 |

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 Adrian Mann (Tel. 0115 804 4609) 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 Panel

Date: Tuesday 24 January 2023 (commencing at 2:00pm)

Membership:

Persons absent are marked with an 'Ap' (apologies given) or 'Ab' (where apologies have not been sent). Substitute members are marked with a 'S'.

County Councillors

Sinead Anderson (Chair)
Anne Callaghan BEM
Francis Purdue-Horan
Ap Sam Smith
S Tracey Taylor

County Council Officers

Amanda Collinson	-	Service Director for Care, Help and Protection
Laurence Jones	-	Service Director for Commissioning and Resources
Ap Devon Allen	-	Group Manager for Regulated Services
Sophie Eadsforth	-	Group Manager for Looked After Children
Claire Sampson	-	Group Manager for Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement
Jon Hawketts	-	Group Manager for Commissioning
Charles Savage	-	Head of the Virtual School

Substitute Members

Tracey Taylor for Sam Smith

Officers and colleagues in attendance:

Beverley Cordon	-	Senior HR Business Partner
Adrian Mann	-	Democratic Services Officer
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Administrator

1. Changes to Membership

The Panel noted that Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan has been appointed to the Panel in place of Councillor Debbie Darby.

2. Apologies for Absence

Devon Allen
Sam Smith

3. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interests were made.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 October 2022, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5. Foster Carers Liaison Group Update

Sophie Eadsforth, Group Manager for Looked After Children, provided an update on the Foster Carers Liaison Group (FLAG). The following points were discussed:

- a) The FLAG meets on a quarterly basis to enable foster carers to engage with Council officers and members, ask questions, consider specific topics in depth and share good news stories. The most recent meeting was positive, following the Council's increase of the foster carer's allowance to bring its offer in line with that of Derby City Council. Ultimately, it is intended to achieve alignment of the allowance across the whole D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership area, to seek to reduce inter-competition for foster carers between the East Midlands local authorities.
- b) Discussions will be held with the FLAG on the nomination of one of its members to attend the future meetings of the Panel on a regular basis, to provide a direct update from foster carers.

Resolved (2023/001):

- 1) To note the update on the Foster Carers Liaison Group and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to the points raised.

6. Children in Care Council Update

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, provided an update on the Children in Care Council (CiCC). The following points were discussed:

- a) It is vital that as many routes as possible are open to children in care so that their voice can be heard strongly by the Council. To help support this engagement, the Chair of the CiCC has been asked if they would like to attend future meetings of the Panel on a regular basis, to provide a direct update from children in care.

Resolved (2023/002):

- 1) To note the update on the Children in Care Council and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to the points raised.

7. The Experiences and Progress of Children in Care and Care Leavers

Amanda Collinson, Service Director for Care, Help and Protection, presented a report on the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers. The following points were discussed:

- a) A self-evaluation process has been completed to set out the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers, and to identify the areas of challenge and where improvement is required.
- b) There were 950 children in care in Nottinghamshire as of November 2022, which is lower than the national average. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of children aged over 16 entering the Council's care, which is more than double the rate seen in 2017/18 and 2018/19. The number of unaccompanied children seeking asylum has also risen.
- c) An increased proportion of children have been placed 'out of County' in directly neighbouring local authority areas, or 'at a distance', meaning that they could be a long way from Nottinghamshire. Around 290 of 1,000 children are placed outside of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership area currently, but every effort is made to ensure that this is only done either to meet a specific need that can only be met outside the area, or to ensure safety. Work is carried out with the other local authorities within the D2N2 area to ensure that most care needs can be met locally.
- d) A multi-disciplinary approach for children in supported accommodation is in place to respond effectively to growing complex care needs. A Sufficiency Strategy is also being produced to ensure that needs are met locally with good quality placements close to home, wherever possible. The development of the Strategy is ongoing and will involve input from members through the Scrutiny process.
- e) The proportion of children in care achieving a 9-4 passing grade in English and Maths is 23.4%, which is below the regional average. All children in care have a personal education plan in place that includes learning support to help achieve the right destinations for Years 12 and 13, and children have access to support structures for developing the key skills and abilities that they need to help them manage in independent living.
- f) The primary challenge for ensuring sufficient fostering places is being able to recruit and retain the required number of local foster carers, especially during the current cost of living crisis. The foster carer's allowance has been increased and the Council is exploring additional collaborative ways of recruiting foster carers across the D2N2 area. Scoping work is also underway to establish what support foster carers need to be able to provide the best care.

- g) A dedicated kinship support service has been implemented and work is taking place to ensure that kinship carers have robust support plans that are reviewed regularly, so that support can always be accessed regardless of the child's legal status. Consideration is also being given to ensuring that kinship carers have access to a sufficient allowance.
- h) In terms of growing adoption numbers, work is being carried out to achieve a changing culture, embed best practice and ensure that transitions are managed well, and measures are in place to recruit and retain staff in the Permanence teams to deliver this work effectively. The number of adoptions decreased during the Coronavirus pandemic, so a great deal of partnership work has been done across the D2N2 area to support and develop adoption services going forward.
- i) There were 318 care leavers in Nottinghamshire at the end of November 2022, representing an increase of 86 from same period in the previous year. Nottinghamshire has a higher than average proportion of care leavers in semi-independent transitional accommodation and in 'staying put' arrangements, and the cost of living crisis has increased the challenges for care leavers moving into fully independent living. Dedicated mental health support for transitioning children with complex needs is in place, in addition to support for young people to sustain healthy relationships and stay in touch with key contacts after they have left residential accommodation.

Resolved (2023/003):

- 1) To note the report on the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to its contents.

8. Staffing in Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, presented a report on the staffing position in the Council's children's residential homes. The following points were discussed:

- a) Measures are in place to ensure that there are enough staff in the sector to meet the needs of the Council's children in care in residential homes. The overall position is challenging and there can be a requirement for provision to be met through current staff carrying out extra shifts, or through the use of agency staff – while at the same time trying to ensure that children are able to have a consistent relationship with their carers. However, there is no immediate risk of any home needing to close due to a shortage of staff.
- b) A good employment package is in place for staff working in residential homes, with clear opportunities for career progression. This has given staff a good level of job satisfaction and it is intended to publicise this offer further as part of driving recruitment, to ensure that the right staff are in place and that they are able to develop effectively.

- c) New legislative requirements for staff to engage in professional development, with an increased focus on regulation and care standards, and achieve a vocational qualification has been challenging for some long-term members of staff. Most of these staff are able to engage with the practical training elements successfully, but many of the long-term workers started in the sector with very few formal qualifications – and certain basic qualifications are required before members of staff can complete their vocational diplomas. As a consequence, there are some experienced staff who feel unable or unwilling to achieve the required vocational diploma, so discussions are underway with Ofsted to ensure that these people do not leave the workforce unnecessarily.

Resolved (2023/004):

- 1) To note the report on the staffing position in the Council's children's residential homes and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to its contents.

9. Ofsted and Independent Visitor Findings in Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, presented a report summarising the latest Ofsted inspection activity and the key findings of the independent Regulation 44 visits to the children's residential homes operated by the Council. The following points were discussed:

- a) The Ofsted inspection reports are published, but do not publicly identify the home or its location, for the purposes of privacy and safeguarding. The Regulation 44 reports are not published as they identify specific children and their needs, and the names and locations of homes. As such, the report represents a summary of the latest inspection findings, any general issues arising and the work being actioned to address any recommendations.
- b) The current report concerns the residential homes either operated by the Council or by an external provider for the Council's sole use. A performance dashboard for the other homes operated by external providers is being produced. Externally commissioned placements can be used in an emergency or when no other appropriate options are available. Work is carried out to ensure that block contracts with external providers are in place as part of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership's framework for collaborative commissioning.
- c) All children in care have a personal Care Plan irrespective of whether they are in an internal or an external placement, and there is close engagement carried out with the external providers to ensure that the needs identified in the Plan are met. Currently, the Council is working with a growing number of providers spread across a wider geographical area. Children are only placed externally in homes rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. However, sourcing these placements can be challenging in the current context in the sector, so additional scrutiny is applied to external homes when required.

- d) The Panel observed that the elected members are the corporate parents for all children in the Council's care and have a collective responsibility for their care and wellbeing, wherever they might be placed. Members considered that, as such, the Panel must be provided with the relevant information to ensure that it can carry out proper oversight and assurance for all children in the Council's care, within the public domain.
- e) The Panel noted that the short breaks homes in particular have some very good facilities that could, if appropriate and achievable within the regulatory requirements, be used to support other children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities during the school day.

Resolved (2023/005):

- 1) To note the report on the latest Ofsted inspection activity and the key findings of the independent Regulation 44 visits to the children's residential homes operated by the Council.
- 2) To request that the Panel also receives the equivalent performance information for all homes where children in the Council's care are resident, as part of the regular reporting and assurance process.

10. Elected Member Visits to Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, presented a report on the framework for members to plan visits to both the Council-run children's residential homes and those homes run by external providers for the sole use of the Council. The following points were discussed:

- a) A proposed regular schedule of visits by Councillors to the Council's children's residential homes has been produced, so that dates can be set. Each Service Director has a personal link to a given home, and visits will be accompanied by appropriate officers.
- b) The visits will be announced and will take place when the children are home. The latest Ofsted and Regulation 44 reports will be provided ahead of the visit taking place. Councillors will have access to the appropriate training before carrying out visits, including on how to complete the associated visit pro-forma and how to engage effectively with non-verbal children. Initially, the visits will be carried out by Councillors who are members of the Panel, but it is hoped that, as all Councillors are corporate parents, other members may wish to be involved in visits in the future.
- c) The Panel considered that it is important that all Councillors are made aware of the work being carried out by the Panel, given that all members have a role as corporate parents. Members noted that the Panel met in public and, as such, its business and the minutes of its meetings are published and forwarded to all Councillors. However, the Panel requested that specific briefings are made available to all Councillors on their corporate parenting responsibilities, and that at least one session is carried out in the first half of 2023.

Resolved (2023/006):

- 1) To agree that a programme of visits by members is scheduled for the coming 12 months to both the Council-run children's residential homes and those homes run by external providers for the sole use of the Council, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2) To request that specific briefings are made available to all Councillors on their corporate parenting responsibilities, and that at least one session is carried out in the first half of 2023.

11. Government Response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care

Amanda Collinson, Service Director for Care, Help and Protection, provided an update on the Government's response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (IRCSS). The following points were discussed:

- a) The Government's formal response to the findings of the IRCSS is expected shortly. Once the response has been published, a report will be brought to the Panel to set out any implications arising for the Council in its role as a Corporate Parent and to establish any resulting, ongoing regular reporting and monitoring requirements.

Resolved (2023/007):

- 1) To agree that, following the publication of the Government's response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, a report will be brought to the Panel to set out any implications arising for the Council in its role as a Corporate Parent and to establish any resulting, ongoing regular reporting and monitoring requirements.

12. Work Programme

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, presented the Panel's current Work Programme. The following points were discussed:

- a) The Local Government Association has a published guidance document on '[10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children](#)', and it is intended to ensure that the Panel's overall programme of work will enable the review and discussion of each of these ten themes.
- b) Once the Government's formal response to the findings of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care has been published, a report will be brought to the Panel to set out any implications arising for the Council in its role as a Corporate Parent and any resulting, ongoing regular reporting and monitoring requirements will be added to the Work Programme.

Resolved (2023/008):

- 1) To note the Work Programme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 3:07pm.

Chair:

16 May 2023**Agenda Item 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****UPDATE ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update on Nottinghamshire children's residential homes.

Information

2. There are seven internal children's residential homes in Nottinghamshire comprising three providing for children with disability, three mainstream homes and one secure home.
3. The current children's disability homes are Caudwell House and The Big House, although there are plans agreed to convert West View to become a specialist disability home in the future.
 - **Caudwell House (Southwell)** is a 12 bedded home, with either 4 resident beds and 8 short break beds or 5 resident and 7 short break beds dependent on demand at the time of need. It provides residential care for children with physical disabilities and associated learning difficulties and health care needs, and children with learning difficulties and on the autistic spectrum. The home may provide care and accommodation for no more than 12 children from the age of 10 to 18 years.

Caudwell House was inspected by Ofsted in October 2022 and was awarded Outstanding again. The Regulation 44 reports are always very positive, highlighting the excellent service the Council provides for children and young people.

Two of the resident children have moved on to adult placements after a planned and supported transition. This left only 2 residents for a while which impacted on occupancy levels. However, these have now been filled with 2 out of county children from Derby being accommodated at the end of March and a child from Rutland due in mid-April. The home has a resident on a leukaemia treatment plan and is responding well to this - he won the local award for a child of courage and will be attending the presentation.

Currently the home can facilitate 5 children on short breaks, not 8, otherwise the children would not have 1 to 1 staffing which is required for children with their physical disabilities and health needs. This is also currently being further impacted with the

challenges of recruitment and selection and not being able to fill posts. The home has extensive grounds that require a high level of maintenance. The sensory walkway and garden have been condemned due to being unsafe. However, land which was previously on loan to Minster View has been reclaimed and it is currently in the process of being turned into a sensory garden which will require wheelchair friendly walkways to enable the children to fully access it.

The children continue to access lots of activities both inside and outside of Caudwell House including 'The Deep', youth clubs, discos, horse riding, hydro, darts matches, ice hockey and sports events, pantomimes, theatres and cinemas. They have contributed to ideas on how to improve the process of obtaining children's wishes and views.

The staff are very child-focused, flexible and committed to Caudwell House and are the home's biggest asset in ensuring the home continues to be Outstanding. This is always commented on in the Regulation 44 reports.

- **The Big House** is a short break home in the village of Edwinstowe. At present the home provides overnight breaks for 27 children. Each child has a bespoke package of care ranging from 24 nights a year to 156 nights a year. Allocation is dependent on need and is subject to change, dependent on the changing needs of the children. Any child attending The Big House will have a severe intellectual disability, combined with manifestations of challenging and complex behaviour. Children must be of school age, attend their own school and can be up to 18 years of age. The child is expected to be mobile, but provision will be made for those who have some degree of difficulty with mobility.

There were no Ofsted inspections for a while due to the pandemic. The home had an inspection in November 2021 and was downgraded from Good to Requires Improvement. An interim inspection in March 2022 saw the home as improved in effectiveness. It then had a full inspection in October 2022 when it was taken back to Good. The staff team is thrilled that all the hard work they put in was recognised.

The Regulation 44 reports have shown improvement in the home with some very positive feedback. The visitor acknowledged the work that the staff team do and the positive way they look after the children, providing them with lovely experiences. The visitor commented on how the building looks significantly better from the entrance shelter all the way through to the bedrooms, with the atmosphere being noticeably warm and caring. The visitor loved speaking to staff who were experienced, knowledgeable and confident, as well as inexperienced but obviously caring and passionate and keen to do a good job. Risk assessments had improved significantly. Although there were no physical interventions, the visitor commented on the recording of incidents stating that the incident reports have comprehensive oversight and actions recorded, the detail of which demonstrates that managers have clear understanding of the lead up and responses in the scenario. Overall, it was a very positive report with four recommendations none of which were of a safeguarding nature.

The staffing situation has improved in the home, with recruitment to all their vacancies despite staff leaving over the past year. Although the home is fully staffed there are

staff who are looking at moving on which will then present further recruitment challenges.

Mainstream homes

4. **Lyndene** is currently at full capacity, accommodating three children. All three currently attend full-time education and one of the children is on target to achieve 8 GCSE level 8/9 grades and is planning to attend college then university to become a primary school teacher. Supporting children to remain in education remains a challenge, with staff working closely with education providers, including providing strategies for managing difficult behaviour.
5. All children have weekly activity charts and have a daily routine to follow. It is the norm for the home to have a variety of activities planned such as days at The Mill, bowling, walking in the Peak district, Alton Towers, Skegness trip, bike rides, attending local parks, family time, clothes shopping and visiting skate parks. Animals are important to children; staff bring their dogs to the home and go on walks with the children on a regular basis.
6. The home had a full Ofsted inspection in November 2022 and was judged to be Good in all areas, which was a disappointment for the staff and children as in the previous inspection they were judged to be Outstanding. There was a requirement under Regulation 35, which particularly referred to ensuring debriefs were carried out with a child who is the subject of a restraint. Three recommendations were made which related to: staff offering more of a challenge to those who do not provide the input and services needed to meet a child's needs; that the registered person should maintain good employment practice (this was regarding the verification of a person's reference not being evidenced); and children having access to the home's children guide, and the home's complaints procedure, when they are placed in the home.
7. The Regulation 44 report continues to be positive, the April visit concluding that children are effectively safeguarded, and that the home is well managed, adequately staffed and well led by the management team. There was one recommendation for a child risk assessment to be updated to reflect the change in social worker. There have been no incidents, no missing children and no physical interventions in March. When incidents occur, these are reported, the response of the child is recorded, and a management analysis is completed for each incident. Key work sessions are provided after incidents. Risk assessments are updated, and incident reports are reviewed by the manager. Currently there are two Residential Social Care Worker vacancies and a local recruitment drive has resulted in interest from the community.
8. **Oakhurst** received its Ofsted inspection in July 2022, rating it as Good. Whilst the home has had two reportable incidents of safeguarding in November, measures have been implemented to prevent future incidents and staff have accessed up to date training.
9. The Registered Manager and the Assistant Care Manager continue to drive progress in the home to ensure the focus is on the experiences and progress of children, granting staff the time and resources to support children in the home.

10. A deep dive audit was carried out that highlighted improvements being made and where improvements were required. The home continues to receive its monthly visit from the Regulation 44 visitor.
11. The visitor recognises that the home is going through transformation with the staff team, including the appointment of a new Manager in January 2023. There has not been any physical intervention or missing episodes, and only one incident had been logged.
12. **West View** is one of the Specialist Group Homes, a four-bed home which is currently closed due to a flood. The plan is to replace it with two new 2-bed homes and for the site to be converted to make it suitable for Nottinghamshire children with learning disabilities. The staff and children have been moved to Lyndene and Oakhurst which has helped to cover vacancies in those homes. West View was inspected by Ofsted on 7 June 2022 and the overall progress of children was judged to be Good, but Required Improvement in the effectiveness of leaders and management. This was an improvement on the previous year when the home was judged to Require Improvement. Plans are well underway to develop the two 2-bed home to replace West View.

Clayfields Secure Children's Home

13. Clayfields Secure Children's Home is a national resource providing Secure Care for up to 20 vulnerable young people between 10 and 18 years of age. Within the centre, a total of 20 places are available for purchase by the Ministry of Justice for children on remand or sentenced to custody, and for local authorities under Section 25 of the Children Act, for example, where children frequently abscond from care, are at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation or are involved in gang activity.
14. On 19 - 21 July, Ofsted inspected Clayfields House, and the feedback was extremely positive. The inspectors spoke about *"young people being safe"*, *"strong multi agency approach"*, *"staff know the children well"*, *"staff are warm and have a clear understanding of young people's needs"* and *"leaders and managers know the service well"*.
15. The judgement was Good in all areas – Overall Experiences; Health and Protection; Health; Leadership and Management; and Education. The overall judgement was a strong Good, with many of the areas on the edge of being Outstanding.
16. Ofsted identified one Statutory Requirement that related to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that action is taken in a timely manner in requesting and submitting EHCPs for young people. There were five additional recommendations to improve practice overall that are reflected within the service development plan.
17. This year, Clayfields had an Ofsted Assurance Visit on 28 February. Whilst the inspection team did not consider Education and Health Care arrangements, it did consider the Education recommendations in relation to the statutory requirements around EHCPs and they were satisfied with the improvements made in this area. This represented a positive inspection feedback on the work so far, and the service remains Good with 'no serious or widespread safeguarding concerns'.
18. In terms of Regulation 44 visits, these are undertaken monthly and provide a healthy challenge to the service. The report identifies the significant challenges that have taken

place around the investigation into the conduct of two members of staff. The service development action plan is reviewed by the regulatory visitor and is monitored to ensure the service continues its journey to become an 'outstanding service'. The visitor has been very complimentary of the work being undertaken by staff and senior managers.

19. The visitor summarised her visit in February 2023:

'CFS may not be as homely as other children's homes but the atmosphere and intended approach provided by all staff is from a place of care and ambition that change is possible. Children seeing their potential to learn, taking better care of themselves, having time to reflect and talk about their lived experiences is what is happening in this place. Children are safe and some are making changes to the way they think and feel about themselves which is helping them make plans for their future in a more positive way because of living at CFS'.

20. Whilst Clayfields has regulatory visitors, such as Ofsted and the Regulation 44 visitor, it also has focused quality assurance visits that are facilitated by the Youth Custody Service Contract Performance Manager on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, which has 60% of the current licensed beds. From these visits the service is assessed at the highest performance level, which is a 'green' rating, and which demonstrates the positive work staff and senior managers are doing with the young people to safeguard them but also to evidence that progress is being made with each young person throughout their journey at Clayfields and hopefully beyond.
21. Whilst the home still has vacancies, there have recently been some successful recruitment drives through two recruitment open evenings in January, which over 35 people attended. From these, over 12 staff have been recruited successfully and all are due to start on or before 17 April, which is the start of the service's two-week induction programme. As of 31 March 2023, Clayfields has been operating on 97.33% occupancy level, with an overall bed night loss of 68 nights, which is a positive position.
22. Whilst the vacancy figures are low relating to Youth Custody Service beds, the welfare bed referrals have been constant and consistent which is reflective of the low loss of bed nights overall. It appears that whilst the adult estate numbers are significantly increasing, youth custody figures remain low across the youth estate due to more community disposal orders, where young people are serving their sentences on license in the community.
23. The service has done well in securing Department for Education (DfE) capital funding programmes that were bid for and agreed, the main programme being the £2.85 million capital refurbishment of Loxley and Sherwood house units, including their external leisure activities yard. Once the DfE building programme commences on Loxley and Sherwood house units in July 2023 for 42 weeks, the occupancy figures will reduce by around 30% but the building programme will provide an additional welfare bed. This will be very much welcomed nationally as it will reduce the number of welfare young people awaiting a bed and will take Clayfields' total capacity to 21 beds, increasing revenue in the long term.
24. Two other successful bids will enable the upgrade of the personal protection system and a successful bid of £26,000 has enabled the refurbishment of the main yard which has vastly improved the area for the young people.

Developments

25. Plans are progressing to open two new 2-bed homes in the County for Nottinghamshire children in the care of the Council. One of these has already been identified and the search for a second property is about to begin. Requirements for refurbishment of the first are being discussed with the Council's property partner.
26. Work is also progressing on existing homes. One is to undergo a significant refurbishment to improve the lives of the children whose home it is and to make it easier for the dedicated staff team to provide the standard of care they strive towards. Another will be converted to make it suitable for Nottinghamshire children with learning disabilities, which has seen extensive architectural design work undertaken with the service over the last few months.
27. As the designs for each scheme are finalised it will become possible to formulate outline timescales. Where these plans affect children and staff they will be involved in discussions and enabled to participate.
28. At the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel, the staff vacancy position within the homes was noted and whilst the challenges remain, progress is being made. Managers have been working closely with the communications and recruitment colleagues, reviewing all recruitment documentation and exploring new avenues to advertise vacant posts. In addition, managers spent a day in Mansfield shopping centre promoting the service. There have been a number of interests in the vacancies which are being followed up. Similar events are being considered for the Sutton and Nottingham shopping centres.
29. Although staffing will continue to be a challenge in the short and medium term, the staff in the homes are committed to the children and are working hard to ensure children are safe and receiving a high level of care.

Other Options Considered

30. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

31. The report provides an opportunity for the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

32. 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.

Financial Implications

33. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Devon Allen
Group Manager, Residential and Contact Service
T: 0115 98546408
E: devon.allen@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CD 17/04/23)

34. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 12/04/23)

35. 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.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CF0065

16 May 2023**Agenda Item 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****INSPECTION GRADINGS OF 'EXCLUSIVE USE' CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL
HOMES – APRIL 2023****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with an update on the current performance of homes that are operated by Homes2Inspire for the exclusive use of Nottinghamshire children in care.

Information

2. The vast majority of children's residential home placements are commissioned from the external market, i.e. in homes operated and managed by companies from the private and voluntary sector. Most providers are privately owned companies though there are some providers that are linked to the voluntary sector in some way. The largest of these voluntary sector providers is Homes2Inspire (H2I) which is part of the national charity Shaw Trust and whose Chief Executive Officer is a former child in care.
3. The Council has a long and well-established partnership with H2I that is underpinned by a Block Contract which commenced in 2015 and took the form of the Council 'block booking' and agreeing to pay for 12 beds across the H2I residential home estate. This worked very successfully for both parties and a more expansive partnership-based arrangement has evolved over the past eight years, always underpinned by the provisions within the Block Contract for the care of Nottinghamshire children who live at homes operated and managed by H2I.
4. As well as increasing the number of young people living in homes operated by H2I, there have been two significant expansions in the scope of the partnership during the past eight years. The first was the development of 'exclusive use' homes, i.e. locally-based homes owned and operated by H2I for the exclusive use of Nottinghamshire children in care. The second followed on from the Council's decision in 2020 to expand its own children's residential home estate and led to the development of 'hybrid homes' whereby the property is owned by the Council but the home is operated by H2I via the same Block Contract for the care provision, together with an appropriate lease that allows it to set up, operate, manage and maintain the building as a children's residential home on behalf of the Council. The Council has latterly opened two new 'hybrid homes' in conjunction with H2I and has acquired a third property that is currently being prepared for use as a children's home.

5. As a consequence of the above developments, H2I currently owns and/or operates more children's homes in the local area, and accommodates more children in care, than the Council itself does at the homes that it wholly owns and operates. The Council/H2I partnership encompasses 11 homes of varying size, location and capacity that can collectively accommodate up to 33 Nottinghamshire children in care.
6. It is this set of homes and their current level of performance, as judged by their most recent Ofsted inspection outcome, that is the focus of this report. The table below provides a list of these homes, identifying which party owns which property and the potential capacity of each, i.e. the maximum number of children for which each home is registered with Ofsted.

Name	Location	Max beds
Meadow View House	Worksop	5
Layton House	Mansfield	5
Holly House	Chesterfield	5
Evans House	West Bridgford	3
Braidley House	Derby	3
Stirling House	Newark	2
Newbury House	Newark	2
Farrimond House	Worksop	2
Sudbury House *	Huthwaite	2
School House *	Sutton-in-Ashfield	2
<i>Virtual beds</i>	Nottingham / various	2
TOTAL		33

* = property owned by the Council

7. The table below provides the outcome and a very brief summary from Ofsted's most recent inspection visit to each of the homes.

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
Meadow View House	Good	Children make good progress in crucial areas of their lives. Staff understand children's needs from when they first move to the home. Managers and staff celebrate the children's progress and achievements, no matter what these may be. Memories are captured through memory books that children take with them when they leave the home. This supports them to feel cared for and loved.
Layton House	Good	There have been significant and positive developments since the last inspection and monitoring visit. Staff support children to see their families. The manager and staff ensure regular communication between them and children's families in order to update them regularly about their child's progress. Children are provided with continued support from staff, even when they leave the home in an unplanned way. A 'staying close' package is provided, and staff ensure that children experience a positive goodbye from staff, including a farewell gift and a meal out. This helps children feel cared for.

Holly House	Requires Improvement	This home is not yet good because the progress and experiences of children are variable. Some children have had positive experiences; others have experienced difficult relationships with their fellow residents, which has resulted in them being placed at risk of harm. In response to the challenges, the acting manager took decisive action. Some children have very recently moved on from the home, due to the risk children were posing to each other. Since that time, the children who continue to live in the home have reported positively about enjoyable activities and trips they have been on. Additionally, they report improved relationships with staff.
Evans House	Outstanding	Very recent inspection: report not yet published.
Braidley House	Requires Improvement	Children are generally happy and have positive relationships with staff. The atmosphere in the home is relaxed, warm and friendly. One child said, 'The staff are lovely. They are always there if I need to speak to them.' Children make small but significant steps towards progress in the 12 weeks they are at the home. However, their progress can sometimes fluctuate. Staff persevere in building very positive relationships and providing support to children.
Stirling House	Outstanding	The quality of individualised care and support provided to the children by the manager and staff is outstanding. Children live in a warm, loving home, with a strong family feel. Children feel safe and secure in expressing their views, fears and anxieties. With the support and guidance of staff, children have a solid foundation from which they begin to manage their behaviours and can explore their sense of identity. Children in this home develop emotionally and go on to make excellent progress because of the care they receive.
Newbury House	Good	The manager and the staff team's commitment and dedication to children mean that children experience stability and security. For some, this is the first time they have experienced these in their lives. Because of the high levels of encouragement and support provided by the staff team, children engage in a range of enriching and enjoyable activities. Praise and celebration of achievements help children to feel good about themselves. This is resulting in improved levels of confidence and self-esteem.
Farrimond House	Outstanding	Very recent inspection: report not yet published.
Sudbury House	Good	There was one child in the home at the time of this inspection. Staff have clear and shared objectives to support the child to achieve her full potential. They know the child very well, have established positive relationships with her, and have a genuine sense of commitment and loyalty towards her. She is encouraged to develop her independence skills and has learned and developed new skills which have enhanced her confidence

		and self-esteem. The environment is that of a family home. This supports the progress and experience of the child.
School House	Good	Very recent inspection: report not yet published.

Other Options Considered

8. To not update the Panel on the current inspection activity in relation to the portfolio of children's homes: this option is rejected as knowledge of inspection activity forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The report provides an opportunity for the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Panel notes the content of this report regarding the current performance of homes that are operated by Homes2Inspire for the exclusive use of Nottinghamshire children in care and considers whether there are any further actions it requires.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jon Hawketts
Group Manager, Commissioning & Placements
T: 0115 9773696
E: jon.hawketts@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LPW 12/04/23)

12. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 11/04/23)

13. 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.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CF0064

16 May 2023**Agenda Item 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, HELP, PROTECTION AND CARE****CARE LEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an annual update to the Corporate Parenting Panel in relation to Nottinghamshire young people identified as care leavers.

Information

2. The Council operates a joint Looked After and Leaving Care Service overseen by one Group Manager and two Service Managers.
3. The Leaving Care Service has 4 full-time equivalent (FTE) Team Managers split into geographical areas of support identified as North (Newark & Sherwood/Bassetlaw), Central (Mansfield/Ashfield), South (Broxtowe/Gedling/Rushcliffe) and Countywide (incorporating the Transitional Personal Advisor Service, Achievement Service and 21Plus Service). Also incorporated within the Leaving Care Service is the specialist Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) Team which is overseen by one Team Manager and is multi-disciplinary made up of both social workers and personal advisors.
4. The last standard inspection of Nottinghamshire's Children's Service was in October 2019, which resulted in a Good 'overall effectiveness' judgement and a Good judgement for 'the experience and progress of children in care and care leavers'. Ofsted's [Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services \(ILACS\) framework](#) was updated in December 2022 so that from January 2023 there is a separate judgement for the 'experiences and progress of children in care' and 'the experiences and progress of care leavers'.
5. In 2018, Nottinghamshire's Leaving Care Service launched a [Local Offer for Care Leavers](#) as required under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. This co-production partnership offer involves the seven district/borough councils as well as partners within health, education, police, youth justice, probation, voluntary sectors, and regional/national business partners. Nottinghamshire's Local Offer for Care Leavers continues to be one of the national leading offers with the early introduction of Council Tax exemption for care leavers until their 25th birthday, priority social housing, local connection restrictions being removed, and free access to leisure centres. In addition, the Leaving Care Service expanded its offer to care leavers around employment, education, and training by re-launching an updated Achievement Service and [Achievement Offer](#).

6. The three-year [Looked After and Leaving Care Service Partnership Strategy](#) was launched in 2022, identifying the Council's partnership working and commitment to their responsibilities as corporate parents and the corporate parenting principles.
7. As of 31 March 2023, the Leaving Care Services supports 913 former relevant care leavers and 298 looked after/relevant 16/17-year-olds. There are also 99 qualifying care leavers aged 18-20 years who are not entitled to a named personal advisor but who can access general support, advice, and guidance from the Leaving Care Service in accordance with the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Age	Numbers of Care Leavers
16 - 17 years*	298 (of which 61 are UASC**)
18 - 20 years	524 (of which 43 are former UASC)
21 - 24 years	389 (of which 76 are former UASC)

*Legally identified as being a looked after child but also allocated to a Leaving Care Personal Advisor

** Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

8. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 also placed a requirement to extend personal advisor support to those care leavers aged 21 - 24 years old. The Council used the additional burdens grant from the Department for Education to develop its own bespoke 21Plus Service and Nottinghamshire is one of the only local authorities within England and Wales to have a dedicated team for those care leavers aged 21 plus. The Council proactively contacts young people over 12 times per year (the legal requirement is once per year), with offers around employment, education, and training, tips around cost of living, birthday cards, and [interactive newsletters](#). The Council has been approached by other local authorities in respect of the 21Plus Service and how they can replicate it within their area, as well as currently developing its own 21Plus Local Offer for Care Leavers.
9. Within the County-wide service there are 1.5 FTE Homelessness Prevention Personal Advisors funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The aim of this role is to proactively address the higher numbers of care leavers presenting as homeless or with a risk of homelessness. The Council has identified care leaver champions within each of the district/borough councils housing and homelessness teams and regularly participates in the regional homelessness forums. Through grant funding a Care Leaver Emergency Accommodation flat has been commissioned with the Council's partners within the Nottingham Community Housing Association, which allows young people who are homeless and who have ongoing issues around maintaining tenancies to have intense wrap-around support for 12 weeks to break the cycle of homelessness before being issued with a new social housing tenancy and continuing floating support. This has prevented care leavers from being street homeless in Nottinghamshire or having to use bed and breakfast accommodation via homelessness presentations to their local council. This has been recommissioned for a further 12 months from April 2023.
10. Recommissioning of Supported Accommodation Providers within the County took place in the last 18 months by the Placements and Commissioning team. This was to help improve the quality of provision and increase the availability of suitable, supported accommodation for care leavers in Nottinghamshire. This has also linked with the Government's new Staying Closer Staying Connected agenda and will see multi-disciplinary teams/support within Supported Accommodation Providers, including dedicated mental health practitioners and substance misuse workers.

11. At the end of Quarter 3 (2022-2023 period) the Council has:

Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (19-21)			
Current Period	Current value	Target	Current RAG
Q3 22/23	86.6%	83%	GREEN

12. Within the last 12 months, the Council has built upon its relationships with the Youth Justice Service and Probation/Prison Services in a co-production review of Nottinghamshire Policies, Procedures and Guidance for care leavers involved within the criminal justice system. This has explored improving links within the transition from Youth Justice Service and Probation for care leavers, as well as identifying the Council's Local Offer for Care Leavers who are in or leaving custody around resettlement in the community and reducing re-offending. A specific Local Offer for Care Leavers involved with the Criminal Justice System is being co-produced to ensure that young people are given the best opportunities to break the cycle and access positive opportunities when in or leaving custody. This builds upon the Council's work in preventing the criminalisation of children in care and the work undertaken by the Nottinghamshire Children in Care Police Officer.
13. The Transitional Personal Advisor Service operates countywide and focuses on intense short-term transitional support to looked after 16/17-year-olds when moving from high-support residential or privately commissioned accommodation to the supported accommodation model. This is a proactive and radical approach to ensuring young people with some of the most complex needs avoid the cycle of homelessness when transitioning from looked after to being a care leaver and some increased levels of independence. This promotes better outcomes for young people after they have left care in relation to the accommodation journey, as well as acting as a significant cost reduction to the Council. This has attracted national interest from having featured as good practice within the 'Children and Young People Now' journal (**Appendix 1**).
14. The Council is currently participating in a study commissioned by the Integrated Care Board and being led by the University of Bristol as part of improving health outcomes for care leavers. This was originally going to take place in 2020 but was put on hold due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Two selected teams within Leaving Care (South and North) have completed six on-line training modules around general health (including mental health and emotional health and wellbeing) and how to better support care leavers around this. Working alongside health partners and the Children in Care Lead Paediatrician, the study groups have engaged with some face-to-face learning around tools in which to discuss health and avenues to access ongoing support for care leavers. In the next 9-12 months, care leavers will be asked to participate and feedback on their health to measure any increase in their health outcomes and support from their Personal Advisors around this. Once this study is completed, the whole of the Leaving Care Service will be able to access the training briefings if this has been identified as improving outcomes for care leavers.
15. The Council has continued to promote engagement and feedback from care leavers around the support and services provided. There is regular attendance at the Children in Care Council, as well as embracing new ways for young people to keep in touch and communicate with the service. This has seen the introduction of the Mind of My Own app

for care leavers, the Notts Next Steps App and other social media applications such as WhatsApp being accepted as a form of communication and keeping in touch. The Council has accessed the Holiday Activity Fund to be able to provide activities and nutrition to care leavers during school holidays by arranging activities such as go-karting, spa day, Christmas Market, and attending various pantomimes, summer concerts (Splendour festival) and ice hockey. The current plans for 'Springfest' consists of a supervised axe-throwing activity and virtual reality gameplay. There is active encouragement and participation with other Council events such as the annual Virtual School's celebration achievement event in June with dedicated Leaving Care awards being issued. The Council continues to co-fund alongside health the You Know Your Mind fund to facilitate a different conversation with care leavers about mental health and emotional health and wellbeing. This continues to have a practical and immediate impact on young people in reducing isolation, improving stability in accommodation and support, as well as enabling young people to self-identify what helps them feel better when it comes to their own wellbeing.

16. Since the re-launch of the Council's Achievement Service, there has been an increase in opportunities for young people both within education and in the world of work. Over 50 young people have applied and engaged with Higher Education since September 2022 and young people's successes are actively marked and celebrated.
17. At the end of Quarter 3 (2022-2023 period) the Council has:

Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training (19-21)			
Current Period	Current value	Target	Current RAG
Q3 22/23	57.3%	49%	GREEN

18. Positive stories about care leavers (especially around employment, education and training) are regularly shared with partners within the Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategic Partnership Board. There is a dedicated Business Engagement Achievement Adviser whose aim is to close the gap between young people and opportunities within the world of work. By co-producing Employability Briefings with regional and national business, such as Amazon, John Lewis, Boots, Keepmoat Homes, Center Parcs, East Midlands Airport, Nottinghamshire Police (**Appendix 2**), Nottingham Forest Football Club (**Appendix 3**), Toyota, and Sainsburys, employment and career opportunities to young people who previously were not able to visualise these have been demonstrated. This has also led to young people obtaining work experience and employment with these organisations as a result. The Council has continued to promote and support care leaver apprenticeships within the Council and within other organisations. The Council financially supports young people in apprenticeships by committing to topping up their apprenticeship salary to the national minimum wage for 21 years olds (irrespective of whether they are a younger care leaver). The Council's Care2Work programme has also been recommissioned from grant funding, encouraging those young people who are not in employment, education, and training to attend briefings about entering the world of work, careers advice and work experience opportunities.
19. The demands from the mandated National Transfer Scheme via the Home Office has seen a vast increase in the numbers of looked after children who identify as being unaccompanied asylum seekers. As such, this has caused an increase in pressure on the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Team launched in January 2022 and the

numbers of former Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children care leavers. The Council has responded accordingly to these pressures by working with partners within Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands region to see where shared response, shared learning and making better use of alternatively qualified professionals. This has seen the team increase the number of Personal Advisors from 3.5 FTE to 6.5 FTE within the next few months, as well as identifying a specialist Achievement Adviser to ensure that employment, education, and training opportunities are available to these looked after children and care leavers. This expansion has been funded via the Home Office grant at no cost to the Council. There has been a recent meeting with Ofsted regarding the Council's Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Team at which there was positive feedback in relation to this with Ofsted identifying that they '*really enjoyed*' their visit and had an '*interesting and extremely useful discussion*' with the UASC team.

20. The Council is proactive in recognising positives, being strengths-based, and celebrating the success of children and young people. Some examples of positive stories shared recently are:

A young person messaged their Personal Advisor to say "*thank you, you have been a massive help to me, so I just wanted to say thank you*"

A young person successfully secured full time employment at a local prison after getting support from their Personal Advisor and Achievement Adviser. The support was around the application, interview skills and even going out shopping with them to purchase their interview suit.

Future Service Developments

21. The Council is currently reflecting on its services against the new Ofsted Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework to identify what the Council is proud of, how it can evidence its activities and to assess whether the services that are provided to young people are in line with the revised Ofsted expectation, which started with a Leaving Care Service Team reflection event in March 2023.
22. The Council has received a funding commitment from health partners to continue with the You Know Your Mind fund, as well as commission a mental health practitioner for Care Leavers within Nottinghamshire. It is expected that this service to be operational within the next 3-6 months.
23. The Local Offer for Care Leavers is being reviewed with consultation from young people in relation to what they think has the most value and impact on them. There will also be some more specific Local Offers targeted towards Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, 21Plus, Care Leavers in/leaving custody, care leavers who are parents and the Achievement Offer to ensure that the Council is offering the best support to young people and meeting the requirements within the new ILACS framework.
24. The Council is waiting on the outcome of a funding request in relation to Staying Closer Staying Connected and if successful this will build upon plans around multi-disciplinary teams/support within Supported Accommodation Provision, including dedicated mental health practitioners and substance misuse workers to help offer immediate and bespoke support to care leavers experiencing their transition to adulthood and independence.

25. Better links have been made with Adult Social Care and the transition experience for care leavers from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care is currently being explored as well as where the Council can close the gap for care leavers who need additional intense support but do not appear to meet the threshold for Adult Social Care interventions.

Other Options Considered

26. The Council has a statutory duty within the Children Act 1989, Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and Children and Social Work Act 2017 to provide the services and support to care leavers until their 25th birthday and to produce an associated annual report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

27. The Council has a responsibility to provide support, advice and guidance to care experienced young people in Nottinghamshire under current legislation as well as recognising corporate parenting responsibilities to children and young people in achieving better outcomes and supporting their aspirations.

Statutory and Policy Implications

28. 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.

Financial Implications

29. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Corporate Parenting Panel considers the annual report on Leaving Care and advises of any further assurance or activities required.

Amanda Collinson

Service Director, Help, Protection and Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sophie Eadsforth

Group Manager, Looked After Children, Leaving Care, Children with Disabilities & Fostering

T: 0115 804 1211

E: sophie.eadsforth@nottscc.gov.uk

Rachel Stimson
Service Manager, Looked After and Leaving Care Service
T: 0115 8043004
E: rachel.stimson1@nottsccl.gov.uk

Matt Wesson
Service Manager, Looked After and Leaving Care Service
T: 0115 8041514
E: matt.wesson@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (GMG 12/04/23)

30. This report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel under Section 7, Part 2, paragraph 36 of the Council's Constitution (see p.123).

Financial Comments (VC 02/05/23)

31. There are no additional financial implications arising as a result of 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.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CF0062

ADVISER SUPPORT HELPS A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION FROM CARE

Nina Jacobs

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Personal advisers help children in residential care transition to independent living.



Personal advisers help young people get the accommodation that is right for them. Picture: JJ'Studio/Adobe Stock

- **Levels of support are tailored to the specific needs of individuals particularly those with complex problems**
- **The initiative has reduced spending on residential care and cut levels of homelessness among care leavers**

ACTION

A bespoke support service in Nottinghamshire is helping young people with complex needs successfully transition to supported accommodation from residential care.

Initially launched as a pilot three years ago, the county council's Transitional Personal Adviser (TPA) service was introduced to ensure its provision supported all young people regardless of their level of need.

This new model of commissioning supported accommodation has allowed the council to specifically target those leaving care before 18 that might have complex needs or with an offending background.

Following a year-long trial, the implementation of the service was approved by the authority in 2018, creating three personal adviser posts on a permanent basis.

Cases for TPA support are selected by a panel that includes leaving care managers and those from the council's looked-after children and placements teams.

Nominations are made using a request form submitted by professionals such as social workers or independent reviewing officers.

With a cap on caseloads of up to eight young people per personal adviser, the service allows the most vulnerable young people to receive intensive support, explains Matt Wesson, a manager for the council's leaving care team.

"They've still got their personal adviser from the leaving care team and their social worker – all of the people that are involved in their life – but as the TPA service we are able to identify any issues they might have when they move on," he says.

Wesson believes the service fills a critical gap in support for young people with complex needs compounded by high social worker caseloads and a large care leaver population across the county.

Despite developing a closer working relationship with supported accommodation providers to improve the type of provision available, he believes there was still a need to address varying levels of support for these care leavers.

"We realised we didn't have those facilities post-18 so we asked our accommodation providers for properties that were more suitable for our care leaver population.

"We also thought about what we could do to make that an easier transition and support our providers to maintain that accommodation.

"But we saw that even though we had done this there was a gap between those young people leaving residential care and being ready for independence. We were also not intervening enough especially for our more complex cases.

"The idea behind the TPA service is that we can work with these young people to make sure transition happens as successfully as possible so we are not setting young people up to fail," says Wesson.

With around 227 units for its main 16+ provision, the county council offers housing options that are either "core" or "cluster" accommodation.

The core services are staffed 24 hours a day while cluster units may be self-contained or shared houses where staff provide visiting support.

The TPA service helps to assess whether young people with higher needs would cope with being placed in a core or cluster property with the option to change their accommodation if needed.

Weekly meetings are held between the council and accommodation providers to discuss any difficulties arising from placements as well as identify current capacity issues.

Wesson says personal advisers might visit young people as much as twice a day as part of a "bespoke support package" with a view to stepping down contact to more infrequent intervals such as once a week or every two weeks.

He cites the example of one care leaver that was persuaded to move into supported accommodation by their personal adviser.

“He was very keen to get his own place but we asked him to stay in supported accommodation so if he needed it, the support was on hand,” explains Wesson.

He says one of the authority’s housing providers found the young person a cluster property and his personal adviser agreed to stay on for a further three months while he transitioned into supported accommodation.

“It was a challenging case but we said to this young person, have that support on hand at first and prove to us that you can do it,” adds Wesson.

Another factor that underpins the success behind TPA support is encouraging young people to take “ownership” of the supported accommodation services provided to them.

“We let them choose things like their own furniture. It saves so many problems and cost in the future giving them a sense of pride in where they live. It also makes them more responsible for who they let into the accommodation,” says Wesson.

He says greater partnership working with the county’s seven district councils has helped overcome previous challenges preventing young people moving more freely around the county.

“Our care leavers can now identify whichever area they want to live in Nottinghamshire which is also freeing up the availability of supported accommodation.

“So a young person might eventually want to live in the Newark area but recognises the best accommodation for them might be in Ashfield for six or 12 months while they are learning their independence. That’s no longer a barrier for us,” explains Wesson.

He says not only has the TPA service enabled young people to be placed in accommodation appropriate for their level of need, but has also highlighted efficiencies to be made from providing lower levels of support.

“The purpose [of TPA] wasn’t to necessarily save money and get young people out of residential care but to make their journey a better transition.

“So when we looked at whether their needs were actually being met and the high support costs we were paying and how they weren’t needed for that person, it was evident how much we had saved as a local authority by putting that investment into the service in the first place,” explains Wesson.

IMPACT

A county council report into the TPA pilot which ran from September 2017 to May 2018 showed personal advisers supported 22 young people, of which 10 had transitioned from higher cost provision including residential placements.

As a result of the transitions from residential care, the council achieved a net saving of £140,769 in 2017/18, exceeding the original savings forecast.

The report states in May 2018 a cost avoidance of more than £300,000 was projected should those young people participating in the pilot continue to stay in the placement they had transitioned into.

Such a calculation assumes these young people would have stayed in residential care until they were 17 and a half.

Feedback from those involved in the pilot indicated there was evidence of improved outcomes for young people, with Ofsted positively referencing the initiative following a focused visit in January 2018.

Wesson says in addition to these financial savings, the council has seen a “dramatic” reduction in its homelessness presentations among its care leaver population.

He believes this has been helped in part by central government funding that allowed the council to employ a homelessness prevention personal adviser to focus on helping those in care and care leavers.

Care leaver champions were also established at each district council to help improve understanding of a care leaver’s personal journey, he adds.

“There’s not one simple solution for our young people but it’s about having an offer that we can tailor for young people but also to recognise other agencies have a responsibility and a role within that too,” he says.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST EMPLOYABILITY BRIEFING REVIEW



Session Leader:

Chris Simmonds

Lead Contact: **Chris Simmonds**

Head of Education, Training & Employment

14 young people along with 11 support staff from Nottinghamshire County Council, Leaving Care Service, WNC, Care2Work, QMC - Project Search, Landmarks College, Lincoln College

Young Person

I'm going to go away and do some research on these jobs

Young Person

You don't need school to teach you about common sense

Young Person

Can you email me please, so that I can learn more about all these jobs

Young Person

This was really relevant...



Young Person

I couldn't be a...d before I came here, now I want to know more about these jobs

Rebecca Dixon

Achievement Adviser Co-ordinator – Achievement Service

Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 0115 8546359 | 07740 845783 |

rebecca.dixon@nottsc.gov.uk achievement@nottsc.gov.uk

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE EMPLOYABILITY BRIEFING

DATE: **TUESDAY 28TH MARCH 2023** TIME: **11:00AM - 1:30PM**

HEADQUARTERS, SHERWOOD LODGE, Arnold, Nottinghamshire. NG5 8PP

Session Leaders:

**Nigel, Agnieszka, Romel, Emily &
Police Force Colleagues**

Lead Contact: **Nigel Best**



13 young people along with 15 support staff from Nottinghamshire County Council Leaving Care Service and our fellow support services



Overview of the Employability Briefing

Young Person; 'I want to know more about IT jobs for when I leave university'

- Meet & Greet - Signing in and collecting the visitors badges
- Nottinghamshire Police Force - Outreach and early Intervention (changing perception)
- Careers introduced by the young police officers themselves
- Overview of the Police Force, and the Career Pathways & opportunities it offers
- Inclusive Employment

Review of the Session

Young Person; 'I want to know about the jobs they do in forensic science'

- Romel and Emily's introduction of their own life journeys into the Police Force were powerful & inspiring
- 13 young people left the briefing knowing much more about the Police Force as an employer, the employment opportunities and how to access them, than they did when they arrived
- Learning about the many varied roles in the Police Force, and being able to talk to young people who were about to start out on their own careers, made the briefing relevant and engaging to both the young people who were present, and to their support workers, who will now be able to take this information back with them to help inspire more young people
- The opportunity to return for a phase 2 briefing that will focus on specific job roles was well received, and this generated further interest in the Police Force as a career option for the young people we talked to out in the car park afterwards
- The quiz was engaging, fun and informative - for everyone in the room...
- Overall; an inspiring introduction for young people to careers in the Nottinghamshire Police Force

Our small group of young people who were with you today, represent a much larger group of young people in desperate need of access to opportunity - **Today, Nottinghamshire Police Force met that challenge and offered much more**

Rebecca Dixon

Achievement Adviser Co-ordinator – Achievement Service, Leaving Care
Children, Families and Cultural Services | Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 0115 8546359 - 07740 845783

rebecca.dixon@nottsc.gov.uk - achievement@nottsc.gov.uk

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Healthy > Prosperous > Green

16 May 2023**Agenda Item 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
INCLUSION****DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 12-13 LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE COHORT
2022 – 2023****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the education destinations of Nottinghamshire looked after young people who left statutory education at the end of the academic year 2021-2022 and went into Year 12, and those in Year 13 of post-16 education for academic year 2022-23. The Panel is asked to consider whether there are any further actions it requires arising from this information.

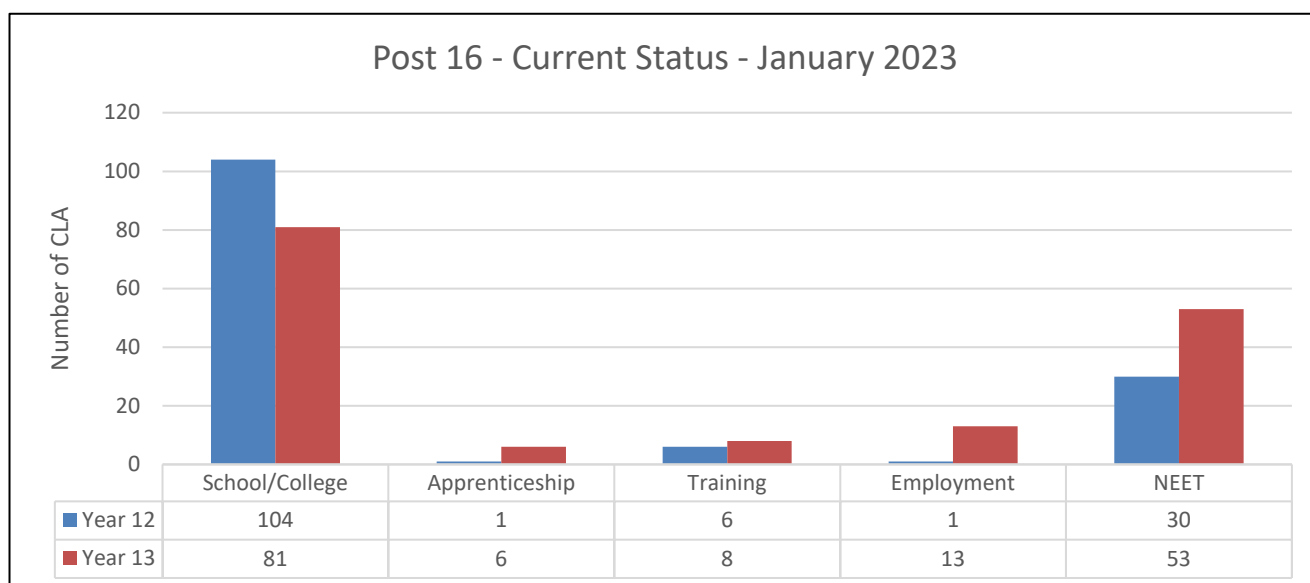
Information

2. Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel act as corporate parents to the children and young people looked after by the Council, referred to as 'our children and young people', and therefore receives regular reports on the academic successes of our children and young people.
3. Despite changes to education legislation regarding the age of participation (Education Acts 2008/2011, introduced the raising of the participation age), statutory school age has not been changed; a child must start statutory schooling the term after they turn five years old and remain in education until their 16th birthday (finishing on the last Friday in June of that year). However, all pupils leaving statutory schooling are required to participate in education, employment or training until 18 years of age. Should a young person not secure GCSE grade 4 or above in English and/or mathematics at the end of statutory schooling, the young person is also required to continue studying these subjects until they are 18 years of age or until the required grade is obtained.
4. The law for post-16 education requires young people to undertake one of the following until they are 18 years old:
 - stay in full-time education, for example at a college
 - start an apprenticeship or traineeship
 - spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training.

5. All looked after pupils throughout their statutory schooling and post-16 education are supported at every stage through the Personal Education Planning process until they are 18 years old. Nottinghamshire Personal Education Plans are held on an online platform (ASSET) to enable data analysis for the whole cohort. Personal Education Plans are reviewed on a termly basis and it is a statutory part of the care planning for that young person. Social workers, designated teachers, other education staff, foster carers and the young person are all part of the meeting to review the Personal Education Plan. This meeting reviews the achievements to date and areas that will need extra support to ensure the young person reaches their full potential. As part of these meetings, preparation for adulthood is a key focus. In line with a strengths-based approach, this includes asking questions around skills and strengths of the young person and how these may be encouraged and built upon to meet the goals they may have for their future.
6. At these meetings, during the secondary phase, pupils are encouraged and supported to consider their post-16 education choices as soon as Year 7. Schools must provide careers information, advice and guidance to inform these decisions. Schools are also required to ensure pupils achieve the most appropriate qualifications for their post-16 studies.
7. There is a joint responsibility and established collaborative working relationship between the Achievement Service and the Virtual School to support the 16-18 year old cohort across all social care teams. The support to settings and young people includes termly meetings with the designated person for looked after students, termly network meetings for colleges, advice and guidance to individual students and attendance at Personal Education Plans where needed.

Breakdown of education destinations – correct as of January 2023

8. The graph below gives a breakdown of Year 12 and Year 13 looked after young people's current status with regards to education, employment and training (EET). It also indicates those not in education, employment or training (NEET).



9. 73% of Year 12/13 young people are in EET (220/303; this compares with 212/284 in January 2021). 84% of the young people in EET are currently attending further education colleges, school 6th forms or an education setting. 27% of our young people are NEET (83/303), which has increased by 2% when compared with January 2022. The cohort of looked after children and care leavers in this age group has also increased when compared with 2022. 25% of young people who have NEET status came into care during 2022.

English and mathematics Key Stage 4 grade 4 results for current Year 12, 2022

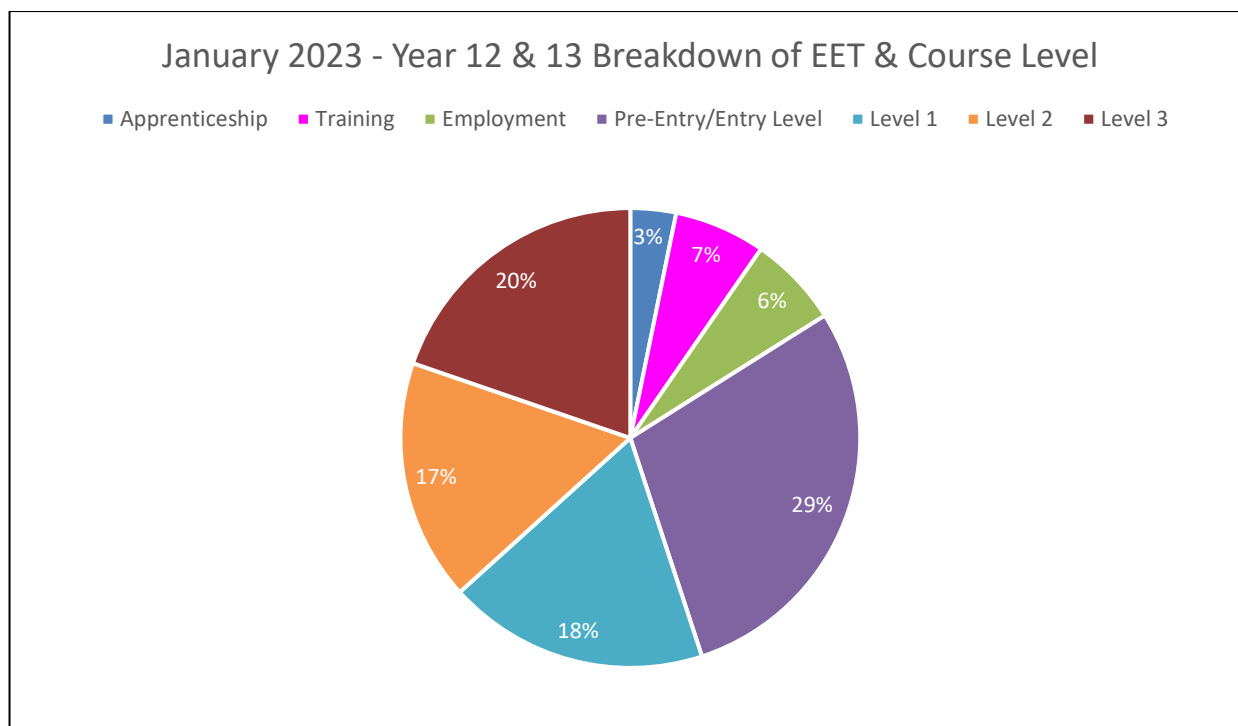
	English 4+	Maths 4+	English & Maths 4+
All	29%	24%	20%
903 Cohort	32%	28%	22%

	English 5+	Maths 5+	English & Maths 5+
All	19%	17%	12%
903 Cohort	20%	18%	12%

10. 29% (34/117) of the current Year 12 cohort achieved at least a grade 4 in GCSE English at the end of Year 11 and 24% (28/117) of the current Year 12 cohort achieved at least a grade 4 in GCSE mathematics at the end of Year 11. 20% of the cohort (23/117) achieved both English and mathematics.
11. All our young people who are in EET and have not achieved the required GCSE grade 4 mathematics and English qualification are following courses at the appropriate level (ranging from Entry Level 1 to GCSE retakes) to work towards the required standard.

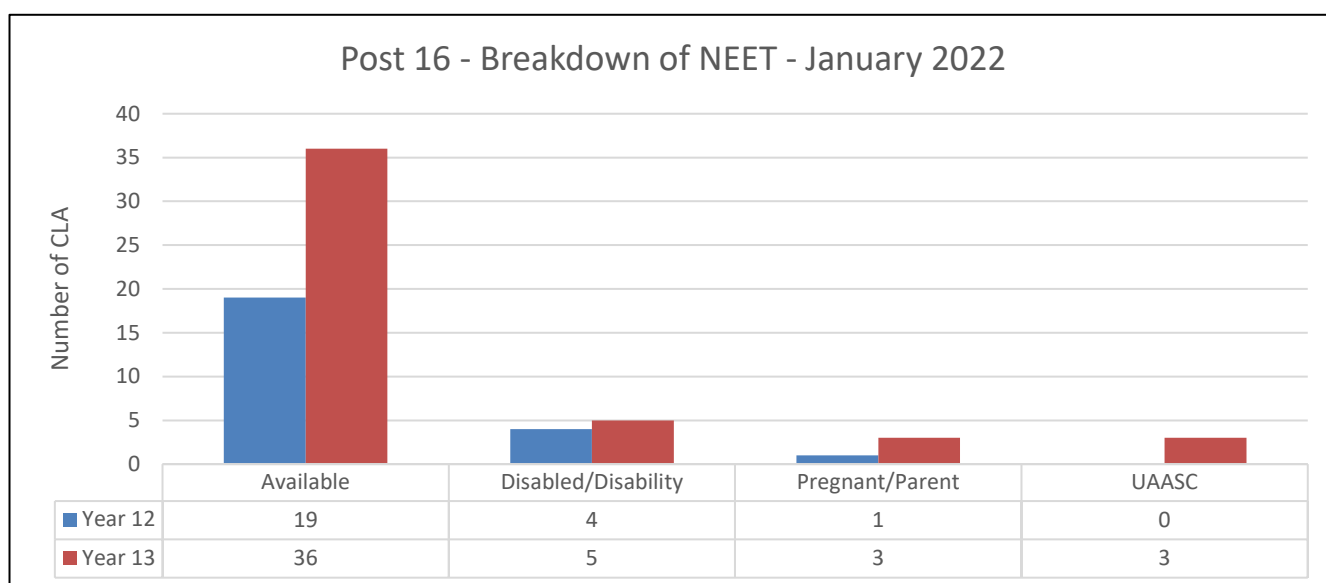
Breakdown of courses – correct as of January 2023

12. The chart below shows the level of course at which our young people are studying, or whether they are employed or in an apprenticeship. Level 1 qualifications are the equivalent of grade 1-3 at GCSE, Level 2 equates to GCSE grades 4-9 and Level 3 are A Level or equivalent qualifications.



Not in education, employment or training (NEET) – correct as of January 2023

13. The graph below indicates those young people who are NEET. 'Available' status indicates that the young person is able to seek EET but has not secured this at the point of producing this data.
14. Our young people who are NEET are allocated an Achievement Adviser from the Achievement Service or an Achievement Officer from the Virtual School who is able to offer support in securing EET status working alongside a range of other teams and services, including the social worker, personal adviser or transitional personal adviser.



University

15. 18 of our young people secured first year university places in September 2022 and three deferred places for September 2023. There are 22 young people continuing to undertake their undergraduate degrees this academic year and four post-graduate students. This academic year there are 11 more students at university when compared with last year.
16. It is recognised by a number of universities including Nottingham, Nottingham Trent and De Montford (Leicester) that the Council has one of the best packages to support young people accessing university. The Leaving Care Team remains involved with those young people who require any additional support throughout their studies. Students in Year 12 and 13 planning to go to university are allocated an Achievement Adviser to support them from their application process, student finance, moving in, and to support them during their studies.
17. To encourage aspiration to attend university, young people are offered visits either on an individual basis or as a group to any of the local universities; the Virtual School and Leaving Care team maintain close links with local universities. Opportunities are shared with Designated Teachers in schools and colleges regularly to promote visits to university for our young people. and questions in Personal Education Plans now include prompts from Year 7 about going to university. Should a young person wish to attend a university further afield then visits can be arranged with these establishments through the participation teams all universities are required to have.
18. Nottingham Trent University also offers student mentoring for pupils from Year 12 upwards which provides support with academic studies, aspiration of university and general support through Year 12 and Year 13. The Virtual School and Achievement Service have links with local universities who offer opportunities to visit and online sessions about going to university from Year 8 onwards.

Future actions to support the Post 16 cohort of looked after young people

19. In order to further develop the effectiveness of smooth transition for young people over the Year 11 to post-16 period, the Virtual School and Children's Social Care teams will work together to implement good practice. This will include:
 - Further development of transition processes with Further Education settings
 - Further development of post-16 pupil premium+ funded interventions
 - More effectively monitor progress, attainment and attendance of the post-16 cohort through the new Personal Education Plan platform.

Other Options Considered

20. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider whether there are any further actions it requires.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. 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.

Financial Implications

23. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there are any further actions it requires arising from the information contained in the report.

Peter McConnochie
Service Director, Education, Learning and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Steph McGill
Assistant Head of the Virtual School
T: 0115 8040644
E: stephanie.mcgill@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (GMG 12/04/23)

24. This report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel under Section 7, Part 2, paragraph 36 of the Council's Constitution (see p.123).

Financial Comments (MDN 12/04/23)

25. There are no direct financial implications arising 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.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CF0063

16 May 2023**Agenda Item 12****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE
AND EMPLOYEES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Corporate Parenting Panel's work programme, as set out in **Appendix 1** to the report.

Information

2. The maintenance of a work programme assists the Panel in the management of its agenda, the scheduling of its business, and its forward planning.
3. The work programme is developed using suggestions submitted by Panel members, the relevant Cabinet Member and senior officers. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda and Panel meeting, where any member of the Panel will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

Other Options Considered

4. To not maintain a work plan for the Panel: this option is discounted as it is important for the Panel to plan its work effectively in carrying out its remit to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. To assist the Panel in preparing its future work effectively, to carry out its responsibilities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of the 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, and sustainability and the environment. Where such implications are material, they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues, as required.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

- 1) Note the work programme, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director for Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report, please contact:

- Adrian Mann, Democratic Services Officer
adrian.mann@nottsc.gov.uk
- Phillippa Milbourne, Business Support Administrator
philippa.milbourne@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CEH)

8. The Panel has the authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its Terms of Reference.

Financial Comments (SES)

9. There are no specific 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.

- None.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All.

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

Title	Sponsor/ Report Author
Standing items for each meeting:	
Foster Care (FLAG) items	Amanda Collinson
Children in Care Council items	Laurence Jones
Visits schedule and observations from visits	Laurence Jones
Ofsted reports and dashboard - Council run homes and homes commissioned solely for Council use	Laurence Jones
Government response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care	Amanda Collinson
18 July 2023	
Performance of Adoption Services	Shelagh Mitchell
Independent Reviewing Officer annual report	Laurence Jones/ Izzy Martin
Health of Children in Care	Katharine Browne
Children in Care Council – activity and achievements	Laurence Jones/ Pom Bhogal
Reports from Districts on their corporate parenting responsibilities and how they are meeting them	Laurence Jones
17 October 2023	
Report of the Head of the Virtual School (termly plus annual reports)	Peter McConnochie/ Charles Savage
Sufficiency Strategy	Laurence Jones
Fostering Service annual report	Amanda Collinson/ Sophie Eadsforth
To be placed	
Harmful Sexual Behaviour by children – annual report	Laurence Jones/ Claire Sampson
Child Sexual Exploitation & Children Missing from Home & Care - annual report	Laurence Jones/ Hannah Johnson

