



**9 January 2024**

**Agenda Item: 9**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CARE, HELP AND PROTECTION**

### **PROGRESS OF THE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS (2022 – 2025)**

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

1. The report provides an update, attached as **Appendix 1**, on the Partnership Strategy for Looked after Children and Care Leavers 2022 - 2025, including the progress and some of the key achievements by the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership to date.
2. The report includes information on the Council's Virtual School, Youth Service, the Youth Justice Board and Police in relation to Looked after Children and Care Leavers.
3. An update is included on The Care Leaver Offer and its impact to date on improving the wellbeing and wider outcomes for care leavers.

#### **Information**

4. The Council remains committed to delivering a genuine, multi-agency, child-centred strategy to achieve its shared ambition and delivery of commitments. As a Partnership, the collective commitment is to give every one of our children and young people the foundations and support to thrive in adulthood.
5. Over the last four years, services for children in the care system have improved and the offer for children leaving care has significantly increased by being the first two-tier area in England to publish a 'Joint Care Leaver Local Offer'. Nottinghamshire councils and partners have worked to embed into communities the importance of equipping, assisting and preparing care leavers for adulthood and independent living.
6. However, there are some areas where progress has not been as expected over the last three years, with the pandemic contributing to this. For example, there is more to do to ensure young people have responsive and effective mental health support (particularly if they are living out of Nottinghamshire), and that timely and good quality health assessments are provided when they come into care and that there are enough of the right kind of homes in Nottinghamshire for young people to live. There will be a continued focus on these areas through this delivery plan.

7. Over the next few years, there is a requirement for partners to work together in the wider community to create systemic change: a better, more cohesive way of thinking and with agencies and organisations working towards a common goal. This must include the early dignified help and support that families need and trust, to enable better relationships.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information which 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.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

9. The report provides an opportunity for the 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 financial implications arising from the report.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Corporate Parenting Panel:

- 1) considers whether there are any actions it requires to further strengthen the Leaving Care service.
- 2) considers how it wishes to further monitor the implementation of the Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire (2022-2025).
- 3) agrees to receive six monthly updates on the impact of the Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- 4) agrees to receive an annual report on the work of the Partnership Board and the impact of the Strategy on Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2022-2025).

**Amanda Collinson**  
**Service Director, Care, Help and Protection**

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**Constitutional Comments (SF 13/12/23)**

12. The recommendation in this report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel (Constitution Section 7 Part 2 Terms of Reference).

**Financial Comments (VC 19/12/23)**

13. 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.

DfE statutory guidance for local authorities Local Offer for care leavers:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-offer-guidance>

DfE statutory guidance for local authorities, Applying parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-corporate-parenting-principles-to-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers>

[A Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers \(2022-2025\)](#)

The Terms of Reference and Membership of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategic Partnership Board.

The Partnership Pledge – A Guide for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

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

All.

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