

Corporate Parenting Panel

Tuesday, 16 April 2024 at 14:00

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

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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 James Lavender (Tel. 0115 854 6408) 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 9 January 2024 (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

Ap Sinead Anderson (Chair)
Anne Callaghan BEM
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Introna

County Council Officers

Ap	Amanda Collinson	-	Service Director for Care, Help and Protection
Ap	Laurence Jones	-	Service Director for Commissioning and Resources
	Sophie Eadsforth	-	Group Manager for Looked After Children
	Claire Sampson	-	Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review
	Jenny Whiston	-	Group Manager for Fostering, Residential and Secure Accommodation

Substitute Members

S Tracey Taylor (Chair)

Officers and colleagues in attendance:

Heather Bennett	-	Executive Officer for Children and Families
Katherine Browne	-	Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager
Theresa Hodgkinson	-	Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council
James Lavender	-	Democratic Services Officer
Davinia Lawton	-	Service Manager for Residential and Contact Services
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Administrator
Paul Thomas	-	Service Manager, Secure Accommodation
Jo Toomey	-	Advanced Democratic Services Officer

In the absence of the Panel's Chair, Councillor Tracey Taylor was the Chair for this meeting.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023, having been circulated previously, were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Sinead Anderson (illness/medical)

RESOLVED 2024/037

That Councillor Mike Introna has replaced Councillor Sam Smith as a Member of the Corporate Parenting Panel, be noted.

3. Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers

None.

4. Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council's approach to Corporate Parenting

Theresa Hodgkinson, Chief Executive of Ashfield District Council and the Representative for Children and Young People at the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives' Board, presented the report which outlined the approach to Corporate Parenting taken by the districts and boroughs of Nottinghamshire. The following was discussed:

- Members requested the total number of care leavers within Nottinghamshire. However, it was noted that the districts and boroughs could only record numbers of care leavers when they engaged with their services directly. The figures would also be skewed by the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- Increasing employment opportunities for care leavers in Nottinghamshire councils, including examples of successful appointments.
- A Member raised a case about a family who had taken some children from their extended family into care but were still awaiting suitable council accommodation. A report on the prioritising of council accommodation for carers can be presented to the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives' Board meeting.

RESOLVED 2024/001

- 1) To note the report.

- 2) To present a report to the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives' Board meeting on the prioritising of accommodation for carers who require it.
- 3) To request training for County/District/Borough Councillors on their corporate parenting responsibilities.

5. Foster Carers Liaison Group Update

Sophie Eadsforth, Group Manager for Looked After Children, Provided the Panel with a regular update on the recent meetings of the Foster Carers Liaison Group (FLAG). The following was discussed:

- Arrangements for financial assessment of prospective foster carers.
- Opportunities to get council foster carers onto higher rates, which were lower than those of independent providers.
- Officers would assess the financial process for kinship care support. The County Council had secured some funding for kinship carers. The Government had chosen half a dozen local authorities to undertake pilot schemes for a more formal structure of kinship funding.
- Members sought clarification on the employment status for the council's foster carers and officers confirmed that they were considered as self-employed.
- There was a national shortage of foster places. Historically, council foster carers would take children with complex needs and independent foster carer providers would take whatever children could not be placed internally. There were national foster carer agencies which are signed up to a foster carers framework. Whenever the County Council sought arrangements outside its own foster care, they would use the independent providers.

RESOLVED 2024/002

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To request that officers assess arrangements for the financial means testing for foster carers.
- 3) To request that officers provided a list of the local authorities selected for the funding pilot for kinship carers.

6. Children in Care Council Update

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, provided an update on the recent engagement with the Children in Care Council (CiCC). The following points were discussed:

- Two actions were outstanding from the last Panel meeting which involved CiCC. These were whether formal minutes of the CiCC were recorded and whether they could be shared with the Corporate Parenting Panel, to which the answer to both was yes.
- There would be a new Chair of the CiCC by February, so Members requested that the new Chair be invited to the next panel meeting.
- Further consideration was needed about how the Corporate Parenting Panel would engage with the CiCC.

RESOLVED 2024/003

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To discuss with the new Chair of the Children in Care Council engagement with the Corporate Parenting Panel and attendance at Panel meetings.

7. Elected Member visits to Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, presented the report on the visits of Councillors Sinead Anderson and Anne Callaghan to The Big House and Councillors Francis Purdue-Horan and Sam Smith to Caudwell House. The following points were discussed:

- Members reported that on their visits to both homes, they were impressed by the relaxed and informal atmosphere of the homes, the excellent care packages offered to the children, and the dedication of the staff.
- Members wished to see further recognition of the good service of the staff working in the children's residential services.

RESOLVED 2024/004

- 1) To note the report and consider any feedback from the Elected Member visits.
- 2) To provide feedback to the children's residential homes about the positive experiences of the Elected Member visits.
- 3) To investigate methods of recognition for staff who work in residential homes.

8. Update on Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes and Secure Accommodation Service

Jenny Whiston, Service Manager Commissioning and Placements Team, and Paul Thomas, Service Manager (Secure Accommodation), presented an update on the status of children's residential homes and secure accommodation within Nottinghamshire. It included details of refurbishment work at Oakhurst, potential renovations at West View, the construction of a new children's residential home, and the recruitment challenges at Clayfields. The following points were discussed:

- Members were assured that staff and managers were doing everything they could do manage the workload despite the vacancies at Clayfields.
- Members were assured that improvements could be made at Clayfields before the next OFSTED visit later in January.

RESOLVED 2024/005

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To meet with property colleagues regarding the development of the new children's residential home.

9. Progress of the partnership strategy for Nottinghamshire Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2022 - 2025)

Heather Bennett, Executive Officer for Children and Families, presented the report which provided an update on the progress and key achievements of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy, as well as further information on the Council's Virtual School, the Youth Justice Partnership Board, and Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) Partnership Board.

RESOLVED 2024/006

- 1) To note the report on the progress of the partnership strategy for Nottinghamshire Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2022 – 2025) and consider whether there are any actions the Panel required to further strengthen the Leaving Care service.
- 2) To consider how the Panel wished to further monitor the implementation of the Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire (2022-2025).
- 3) To receive six monthly updates on the impact of the Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- 4) 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).

10. Independent Review of Children's Social Care Update

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, introduced the report which provided the Government's response regarding the independent review of children's social care. The following points were discussed:

- Members felt that the key themes and principles of the Children's Social Care Independent Review were a step in the right direction. The service would produce a summary of the review and bring a report back to the next panel meeting about how the recommendations of the review will be implemented.

RESOLVED 2024/007

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To email the links to the core papers to the Panel.

11. Harmful Sexual Behaviour by Children - Annual Review 2023

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, presented the report on the progress and challenges of the work being undertaken by Nottinghamshire County Council and relevant partner organisations regarding sexually harmful behaviour by children from April 2022 to March 2023. The following points were discussed:

- The Council should aim to improve the influence of children and young people who experience the care system so they can voice their input into the work of the care service.

RESOLVED 2024/008

- 1) To note the report.

12. Annual report of the Strategic Safeguarding Service - April 2022 to March 2023

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, presented the report following high profile enquiries into child sexual exploitation and missing children in several local authorities. This report provided an update against the Council's 2022/23 priorities and analysis of the statistical data from April 2022 to March 2023. The following points were discussed:

- Whilst there was a slight increase in the number of missing children, this was a fluctuation in the figures, and did not suggest a rising number of missing children. If the numbers continued to rise, the Strategic Safeguarding Service would investigate.
- Members requested that for future reports, the figures should be broken down into different categories, such as children living with parents/family and children living in care, as well as geographical areas where children were going missing and which local authorities were responsible.

RESOLVED 2024/009

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To provide a further breakdown of the data based on living arrangements, geographical areas and local authority area for future reports to the Panel.

13. Annual report of the Managing Allegations Service April 2022 to March 2023

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, presented the report on the performance and activities of the Managing Allegations Service from April 2022 to March 2023. The following points were discussed:

- If any Members were interested in a visit to the service and meeting social workers, then the service was happy to arrange them.

RESOLVED 2024/010

- 1) To note the report.

14. Nottinghamshire Placement Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy 2023-25

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, and Jenny Whiston, Service Manager Commissioning and Placements Team, presented the report which highlighted the Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for 2023 to 2025. The following points were discussed:

- Members wished to reiterate that when the report referred to children being placed in unregulated placements, the term was used to distinguish from a placement which was registered with OFSTED.

RESOLVED 2024/011

- 1) To note the report.

15. Work Programme

Claire Sampson, Group Manager for Strategic Safeguarding and Independent Review, presented the Work Programme. The recommendations from this meeting would be fed into the Work Programme.

RESOLVED 2024/012

- 1) To note the Panel's Work Programme.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 4:00pm.

Chair:

16 April 2024**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, HELP, PROTECTION AND CARE****UPDATE ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND
SECURE ACCOMMODATION SERVICE****Purpose of the Report**

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

Information

2. There are five internal children's residential homes in Nottinghamshire comprising two providing for children with disability and three mainstream homes. Nottinghamshire also has a secure accommodation service, which houses 20 young people who are placed on remand, on welfare grounds across England and Wales.
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.

Children with Disability Homes**The Big House**

4. The Big House is a short break home in the village of Edwinstowe, which provides short breaks for children with severe intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, medical and sensory needs. This home provides a service to 26 children who are allocated 1,442 nights between them. Allocation is subject to need and can be subject to change dependent on the changing needs of individual children.
5. All children who come to The Big House have a significant intellectual disability. They may also display risk behaviours when distressed or have an unmet need. They may also have moderate physical disabilities and sensory and medical needs. Children must be of school age, attend their own school and can be up to 18 years of age. At present, short breaks are being provided for four children from out of the county. Staff spend individual, quality time creating a positive relationship, through meaningful interactions. This keeps children feeling safe and calm. Children are encouraged and supported to form friendships with each other. Friendship groups are arranged with children of similar ages, abilities and

interests. The home provides valuable respite care for the families and enables them to continue to care for their children living at home with them.

6. The last Ofsted inspection was November 2023, and the home received an overall Outstanding judgment. The Ofsted report is full of fabulous feedback. For example:

'The manager and staff have built positive relationships with the children's parents, providing practical and emotional support. As a result, feedback is unanimously positive, and parents feel supported.'

One parent said, 'They are fantastic. I couldn't wish for a better service.' Another referred to the home as a 'lifeline' and said that it has 'almost become a second family'. Parents and professionals consistently referred to the service as 'amazing'.

7. The monthly reports from the Regulation 44 visitor evidenced the improvements that have been made and continue to be made. The feedback in these regulatory reports acknowledges the commitment and dedication of the staff team to make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable children. The atmosphere around the home is one of warmth and care with a proactive staff team working to provide a high quality of care for the children.
8. The children enjoy a variety of activities and access to the community regularly, doing sports and activities such as trampolining, swimming, train journeys, cinema, disco, shopping, ice hockey, train museum, gymnastics to name a few. As well as a plethora of activities within the home there is a focus on independence skills, music, creative and sensory play. There is always something fun and exciting planned, which is why children love coming so much. For some children, they cannot always access these types of venues with their families and experience things for the first time, such as a child's first trip to the cinema, which was a fabulous experience for them. Staff waited patiently as the child did not want to leave until the entire film and all the credits had finished (when the room was quiet, the lights back on and it was quieter and calmer).
9. The home received a compliment from a father recently, who explained he had not been able to take his child out in the community himself for walks at local parks for a long time, as the child's anxiety and behaviours made it too difficult for him to manage. However, he has now managed a family day out at Clumber Park and thanked the home for supporting his child's progress, for developing their skills and building their confidence in the community. The Big House staff taking the child out so often and to a variety of places has had an impact on the child's home life as they can now cope with and manage to do this with their family regularly.
10. The Big House is in the process of a garden transformation and has a new set of play equipment and gym equipment being installed and staff are excited to introduce this to the children when it is fully installed. The staff team is committed to making sure the home is warm, comfortable and inviting for all.
11. A new Residential Care Worker has recently been appointed and due to start soon. Recruitment is still taking place as the home has a vacancy.

Caudwell House

12. Caudwell House is registered as a 12 bedded home for children with physical disabilities and associated learning difficulties and health care needs, with 4 residential beds and 8 short break beds. To provide the necessary and safe one to one care the children at Caudwell need, including moving and handling tasks, the current staff team can only provide a service for a maximum of 9 children at any one time.
13. There are currently 4 resident children, 2 of whom are from out of county. One of the residents has moved on to an adult placement after a very positive and supportive transition and another young person arrived at the end of November. This child had been in hospital for 7 months and settled well in their new home. Reintegration back into school, and a reduction in their medication has been achieved. A speech and language assessment is being arranged and they will be changing from being peg fed to eating orally. Physically progression has been achieved successfully as the child is spending time out of their chair on the floor mats and can now support themselves sitting up.
14. The grandmother of another child who was the main carer before the child became a resident has recently died. The home has been supporting the child through their grief and loss with social stories to enable them to understand what has happened. Staff took them for several visits to the hospital to see the grandmother and started preparatory work. Staff will be taking the child to part of the funeral to support their understanding and continue with further social stories on what is happening. A social story is a communication technique which works well with children on the autistic spectrum or with limited understanding and comprises very clear words backed up by pictures to explain certain situations and events.
15. Various training and developments are being undertaken within the home, for example, starting to introduce mindfulness sessions and quiet time particularly on the arrival from school which children can find difficult. The home has also negotiated with school for them to fund a sensory assessment for a child and have introduced specific approaches into the child's routine based on the report which has been positive for them.
16. Staff have undertaken personal and intimate care training. This enables staff to reflect on the need for dignity, care and respect when caring for children. To do this staff experience having their teeth brushed, being fed, having their faces washed and their hair done by another person. Continual staff training and development is vital in ensuring they are confident and competent in their role, know what is expected and deliver care to the highest standard. Staff have undergone sensory training, enabling the voice of the child who do not have verbal communication to be gained, and have been using pictures of what children with limited communication and cognitive ability enjoy and how their sensory needs can be tapped into. The Lundy model of communication and participation ensure children are given the space to have a 'voice' to people they trust and their wishes and feelings influence an outcome for them.
17. The short breaks service offers accommodation for a maximum of 4 or 5 children (depending on need), which allows the home to provide the one-to-one support needed to care for the children safely, considering the support they need with moving and handling and medical needs. All staff undertake moving and handling and health training to support the children's needs which includes peg feeding (feeding a child through a tube into the

stomach), 'Yankur suctioning' (a suction tube inserted into the child's mouth to suck up excess secretions), anaphylaxis (training on serious and potentially fatal allergic reactions) and managing epilepsy. Staff are also trained in the use of 'Vagus Nerve Stimulation' (VNS). This is a surgical device which is inserted in the chest wall and has a wire to the brain to reduce seizures for a child. Staff use a magnet to swipe over the chest to connect with the device, giving the child oxygen. Deep suctioning training is also delivered to staff (this procedure requires staff to insert a suction device either down a child's throat or up their nose to clear secretions). Catheter care and giving injections to children is also training that staff receive. All staff must be assessed as competent with each procedure three times by health professionals before they are able to perform the tasks.

18. There are 4 new children accessing the short break service at Caudwell and 3 more waiting to start after their Occupational Therapy assessment and staff have completed relevant child specific training. All the children continue to enjoy an array of activities such as pantomimes, discos, theatre and cinema, bowling, historic buildings, zoos and farms, country parks, music events, hydro pool sessions, concerts and festivals and the residents will be going to Blackpool for 4 days in April.
19. The sensory paths have been installed but just need resurfacing again after the floods and the outside space is being developed making a fairy land area, a dinosaur area, lights and sounds area and rewilding of the garden. There is still some outstanding work that needs to be completed after the removal of the sensory walkway. The home is still in need of new kitchens for the residents and short break groups as both are over 25 years old. Funding to transform them into spaces that can be utilised by children in wheelchairs and which are more modern and up to date has been requested.
20. 2 new staff have just completed their 8-week induction and had their 2-monthly probation meeting. Both are enjoying the role and have fitted in well. Another member of staff has successfully completed her 6-month probation and has been enrolled on the diploma. There is still a Residential Care Worker vacancy which has been readvertised, however the home has now taken on an agency part-time Occupational Therapist after several unsuccessful attempts to recruit to a permanent post. She is currently undertaking her induction and will begin after this has been completed.
21. On 19/20 March 2024 the home received another Outstanding Ofsted judgement which totals a 13-year span and the team is very proud of this. Caudwell continues to have extremely positive Regulation 44 visits and reports.

Mainstream Homes

Lyndene

22. The home is at full capacity accommodating 3 young people, 2 males and a female. The staff team remain committed to the home. There is currently one vacancy in the home for a Residential Social Care Worker. Several staff from Lyndene are currently supporting Oakhurst due to staffing shortages. Managers are supporting managers at Oakhurst to identified bespoke training to new staff and to experienced staff to develop practice and work therapeutically with children. Both homes are very proactive in supporting each other to ensure that all shifts are fully covered and all children receive a good standard of care.

23. Education plans are in place for each child. All children are in full-time education. Two children go to mainstream school. One child who has learning needs is now accessing mainstream lessons with their peers and working on GCSE work. The child has been provided with revision for the first time and staff are working closely with them to understand that school and Lyndene work together for them to complete revision and achieve at school. The child has completed all the revision tasks and has taken their first history exam. The child has started to use the school bus independently and is growing in confidence. They have been able to build up friendships at school and had a friend home. One child attends a mainstream school and alternative provision, is working on their mock exams, completing revision and has achieved best in lesson more often. They are looking forward to the prom and purchased an end of year sweatshirt. The child has a place at a college in September to do motor mechanics. Another child is completing childcare level 3 and has a placement at a nursery on Mondays and Fridays, which is going extremely well, and sat exams, achieving grade B. The child was picked from their college group to speak on local radio about T levels, is spoken of very highly by their tutor and is planning to go to university. The staff team link incentives to education and celebrate all achievements no matter how big or small. Staff work with children to complete homework and attend Personal Education Plan meetings. All staff support children in school to manage behaviours and emotional issues when they arise.
24. Two children are working on independence tasks; this consists of a weekly budget of £15 to plan their menu for 5 days, shop and cook nutritious meals from scratch. Getting children ready for post 18 involves using public transport and working through their independence file and assisting them with problem solving. Supporting children to use mobile phones and keep themselves safe is ongoing work especially with a 16 year-old who has more free time and struggles to make positive choices. Whilst on free time the child chose not to return home but through tracking their location on their mobile phone was returned home and completed work around positive choices, keeping safe and away from substances. One child has met their personal adviser from the Leaving Care team and the form to request semi-independent accommodation has been completed. This has made the child anxious as the reality of transitioning to adulthood is challenging, and therefore needs a lot of support around preparation with the changes ahead.
25. All children are kept busy and stimulated. The children go to the gym, swimming, ice skating, walks, local parks, cinema, clip and climb, scooter parks and trampolining. One child is part of a disability football team, attending games and training weekly, achieving man of the match and receiving trophies. The children all enjoyed the half term; they went to water world swimming for the day, a gaming event in Sheffield, the gym, played football, and spent time with their boyfriends and girlfriends. They also enjoyed family time and free time with their friends and girlfriends/boyfriend. One child goes to the local youth club two nights a week.
26. Children have weekly activity planners which provides structure and guidance for each child to know what activities they are doing daily. Providing nurture and reassurance for children is extremely important and this is embedded in all children's plans to support them to feel valued, safe and to build positive relationships which supports staff to manage behaviours. The children have been involved in planning holidays for this year. One child chose to go to Blackpool as this will be their last holiday with Lyndene. The children choose if they would like to go with another child or have quality time on their own with staff. Staff arrange to swap over every 2 days to ensure the children build positive relationships with

all the team and have fun, managers go to visit the children and have a fun day out as this supports children to feedback how their experience is going and discuss any concerns or worries.

27. In February one child celebrated their 15th birthday with lots of presents and a driving experience day and visited their mum and siblings on their birthday, taking a chocolate cake with them. A party also took place at Lyndene with staff baking a Liverpool FC cake and preparing a buffet with lots of decorations around the home and at the end of that week also celebrated their 3rd year anniversary living at Lyndene with a buffet and cake. Staff put photos around the home from when the child first came to live at Lyndene, looking at their journey. Another child had their first anniversary with photos up to look back at their journey and Taylor Swift cake made by the wake night worker and with lots of lovely treats.
28. The home has had 4 missing episodes in January and one in February with the same child. Supporting children to make good decisions and not get involved with peers is work the home does daily with this child, who struggles to listen to staff when with their peers, gets this wrong and regrets it. The staff team provides nurture and food when they return home with the child and work daily with them to reflect and understand the risks the child puts themselves at. The child understands consequences, such as losing their mobile phone and not having free time, and is given lots of incentives too. Staff work closely with them to build up trust to ensure the child is safe when out in the community and returns home when they should. Staff and managers work closely with children to support them to understand risk and encourage positive choices. Staff complete keywork sessions with children daily. Monthly catch-up meetings are planned. Taking children outside the home and listening to their wishes and feelings is also key to ensuring that children feel valued and respected. Managers work with school and the Looked After Children police officer to gather intelligence to update the child's risk assessment and have clear guidance for when they are out in the community.
29. Multi-agency working is a strength of the home and working monthly with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) is essential to discuss any issues / concerns relating to any of the children and supports staff to understand trauma and attachment. Managers continue to work a variety of shifts, having oversight of the team and children and they continue to complete spot checks in the early hours of the mornings and support night staff with extra supervision. Managers are completing in-house training with staff around the Children's Regulations and how this is embedded into their roles and practise. The home had a recent Ofsted inspection and the judgement was Good. The inspector was very pleased with the outcomes and experiences for children and could see the outstanding work being undertaken. The full report is awaited. The home continues to have extremely positive Regulation 44 visits and reports.

Oakhurst

30. Oakhurst is a four bedded home that is fully occupied with four children. The home continues to provide a range of care for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties with or without moderate learning disabilities.
31. The young people have resided at West View for just over 5 months, spending Christmas and New Year in the home, The team's motivation throughout the duration has been a strong empathy on ensuring that all the young people had felt settled throughout the move

and enjoyed the sparkle of Christmas. The staff team has worked tirelessly to ensure that all the children's Christmas experiences were positive despite the obvious emotional challenges and the fact that they have not been in care before meant that staff pulled together to set about ensuring that it was the best it could be. The Regulation 44 visitor commented:

'of all the residential provision that she had visited (10) she was most impressed with the attention to detail taken by the staff at Oakhurst, the children having personalised Christmas stockings, Christmas mugs, an abundance of decorations in the lounge and hall and a busy schedule of activities and family time'.

32. On 19 February staff and children returned to Oakhurst. There has been significant reconfiguration with both upstairs bedrooms, ensuites, staff sleeping area, office space and downstairs kitchen, offices and hallway including rewiring and installation of a new fire alarm system. The move back to Oakhurst and ensuring the young people maintained stability in the process had been the focus for the staff team. Issues with the lack of Wi-Fi, internet access for mobile phones and children's gaming stations has dampened the young people's spirits and impacted on their behaviour in what should have been an exciting and exhilarating experience.
33. Three children currently attend full-time education, two of the children are accessing additional support through school and the home to improve their predicted GCSE grades. The third child continues to attend Alternative Provision four days a week, accessing a learning schedule bespoke to their needs, including support from therapeutic and pastoral support workers. The fourth child who arrived at Oakhurst in October has made good progress back into education through an induction process. This young person had not been in education for over 12 months and has now been offered a place to attend school after the Easter holidays. Staff members continue to work closely with several schools through attendance at meetings at school, to ensure plans explore what could be done to improve the children's engagement and behaviour in the class. The home is keen to maximise the education opportunities and encourage them to be aspirational to achieve more, gain confidence, and enjoy their education experience. All the children have a positive attitude towards education, one child has done well in their mock GCSEs and has been supported by staff with the revision timetable. Another child however, continues to struggle to adjust to the boundaries and expectations in the classroom and the school head is working well with the home to ensure that the young person can remain calm and make better contributions in the classroom.
34. The home continues to encourage children to participate in hobbies and leisure activities that will help their physical and emotional wellbeing. The home has an emphasis on health and fitness activities and all the children attend weekly gym sessions with a staff member, for some of the children this is a new experience. Each of the young people are part of an individual incentive scheme where they can earn points for positive engagement in school and at home. Recently the home introduced the 30-Day Health Challenge where the children themselves lead a team of both staff, managers and young people to count steps through a smart watch for a month. The children received a certificate for their achievements. This initiative motivated the children and staff to stay fit and healthy. The children had chosen the team's name and image and were involved in coaching their team to be as active as possible. Menus reflect tasty and healthy meals that are now fully

embedded in the home and each child takes it in turn one night a week to prepare a meal for the home, under the supervision of a staff member.

35. The home encourages children to participate in hobbies and leisure activities that will help their physical and emotional wellbeing, all the children are in football clubs attending every weekend and swimming clubs as part of their weekly planner. The children have enjoyed varied and exciting Christmas and February half-term activities attendance at Xscape in Yorkshire, bike rides through Clumber Park, Sea World in Hull, Silverstone Museum, Christmas Market, Winter Wonderland in Derbyshire, Crazy Golf, Christmas Pantomime and Roller World.
36. There have been four breaches of safeguarding, three were allegations, and have been investigated and unsubstantiated. During the past few weeks the manager's drive has been focused in raising contextual safeguarding, specifically incident reports, timeline chronologies, management audits and analysis. There is one reported incident of the young person leaving the home. On each occasion staff have acted quickly to safeguard and ensure that the young person returned home safely. Oversight of such incidents has ensured robust challenge to practice has taken place when required. Ongoing team discussion, supervision and training ensure that lessons learned and reflective practice are constant to improve practice moving forward.
37. The home continues to be understaffed and use relief staff known to the children from Lyndene to drive improvements and good practice within the home. An intense induction programme has been devised jointly with Lyndene to support new practitioners entering the role as Residential Social Care Worker, this consists of mandatory training, case file discussion, shift planning, shadowing opportunities, role play, and feedback from employees and children as to each individual's progress and development.
38. The home has moved to 'reflect and repair' a restorative approach to practice. The home has introduced a new format titled 'Making it Right' that allows young people the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and repair relationships. The new therapeutic social worker will support further therapeutic practices within the home.
39. Ofsted inspected Oakhurst on 11 & 12 March 2024 and the judgement was Requires Improvements. Improvements are required around regulation 12 (Protection of Children Standard) and regulation 13 (Leadership and Management). An action plan will identify what is needed to progress to a judgment of Good. The inspectors commented on the positive outcomes and experiences for children and could see the outstanding work being undertaken.

West View

40. **Paragraph 3** of this report has already reflected agreed plans to convert West View to become a specialist disability home in the future. However, this is currently subject to refurbishment to ensure it is fit for purpose for children with disabilities.

Secure Accommodation

Clayfields Secure Children's Home

41. In the previous report to the Panel it was noted that that Ofsted had judged the home as inadequate for the second time. However, Clayfields had a further full Inspection on 23 & 24 January 2024 and the overall judgement is now 'Good' in all areas, this includes 'overall experiences and progress of children and young people', 'leadership and management', 'help and protection' and also includes a good rating for 'children's education and learning' and 'children's health, that were impacted by the negative judgement in the original full inspection in July 2023. There were 2 compliance notices that were also met – one under regulation 13 (leadership and management) and under regulation 20 (restraint and the deprivation of liberty). The comments made by Ofsted were again very positive as was the feedback from parents, carers and professionals. Training has continued in the centre with the staff group around the regulations cementing the learning and giving staff the confidence to manage behaviour confidently in a child-centred way, using restorative and strength-based practice. Below are a few comments which have been taken from the report:

Children said that they are happy and settled and they enjoy good relationships with their peers. Staff know the children well and are quick to form positive trusting relationships with them. The children also said they have adults they can go to if they have any concerns or worries.

Transition is good and their moves are well planned and implemented to give them positive endings and the confidence to leave the home. As a result children's moves are successful, whether they are returning to the community or going to other provisions in the secure estate.

Children told Inspectors that they feel safe. There have been no safeguarding referrals, and there have been no bullying incidents since the last inspection.

Good progress has been made in ensuring that Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI), single separations and managing away practices are appropriate.

Managers have improved systems enabling close oversight and scrutiny of staff practice. Managers continue to work to detect shortfalls in recording.

Individual risk assessments are detailed and set out their vulnerabilities, they are reviewed routinely to make sure they are kept up to date.

Good practice is acknowledged and reflected back to staff. Inspectors saw some examples of good staff practice where staff were sensitive, thoughtful and calm when supporting children in crisis.

The manager and senior leaders have built on their oversight and scrutiny of the service. The QA systems are now more detailed with clear evaluation.

42. The monthly Regulation 44 visits continues by an independent person and provides a healthy challenge to the service. The visitor summarised their visit in January 2024 as follows:

Partnership working is an area of strength within the home across professional disciplines as well as externally with solicitors, Youth Justice Board (YJB) families and social workers.

The morale of managers and staff seemed very buoyant. I observed high quality interactions with young people with care staff generally motivated and positive.

The home have some great examples of change and progress in systems, processes and environmental development. These appear to be beneficial to both staff and young people.

The integration of health professionals across the teams is excellent, the examples of consultation to make improvements for children is another tangible way to enable children to have a belief that their voice is being heard and that they can positively influence their own lived experience and future.

Whilst there has been some obvious challenges in regard managing risk behaviours which have spiked beyond the norm, I am satisfied that all steps are being taken to address the crisis that CHILD A in particular is going through.

Managers are providing a learning environment for staff to be their best selves and children's progress is indicative of hard graft of those staff. I am delighted to hear of the recognition of improved quality by Ofsted and look forward to hearing how the new developments this month have unfolded by my next visit.

43. The senior leadership team's commitment continues with a real focus on working together to provide the best service possible for the children and young people in their care. Now the Ofsted compliance notices have been met and the current judgement has been upgraded to Good, the drive for the team now is to maintain the judgement at the next full inspection, which will be in July 2024. The positive culture and morale of staff is still on a journey of improvement but the commitment from the senior leadership team is around staff welfare and supporting the Focus Group with their plans for the year, including coffee mornings for staff and rewards for staff. The young people continue to have a positive input into their life at Clayfields and their views, wishes and feelings are taken into account whenever possible and in particular through Clayfields Council and through routine young people's meetings.
44. Behind the scenes the independent investigations have all now been concluded, which has included several staff, but the home is pleased that the service can move forward with their service development plans, which remain under constant scrutiny from the governance board arrangements, and this also includes wider scrutiny through the Ministry of Justice contractual monitoring processes.
45. Recruitment is a high priority for the senior leadership team and there have been some positive steps taken to try and resolve the shortfalls, particularly in care. The centre has held two Open Evenings, which have had some results but not enough impact to recruit to the shortfalls. The service has set up a Workforce Development Board, which meets to address issues and discuss solutions, this includes support from colleagues across the

County with specialism in human resources and communication to enable the home to address the recruitment challenges. There are a number of senior and middle leadership positions currently being advertised, the deputy service manager and a team manager's position. The service manager continues to explore all possible avenues to recruit and retain staff including work with HR colleagues to revise job descriptions but also to consider an interim market factor supplement payments, with the view to revisiting the secure unit allowance, which is a trend which has been undertaken nationally by other local authorities where they have a secure children's home.

46. As of 29 February 2024, Clayfields has been operating on 68.01% occupancy level, with an overall bed night loss of 934 nights. This is a decrease due to operating two house units and prioritising the Ministry of Justice contract. However, with the Department for Education (DfE) Capital Building Programme, this will continue throughout the programme, which is currently estimated as a 46-week building programme and is currently expected to be complete by 31 March 2025.
47. The centre is now operating two house units due to the refurbishment starting at the beginning of April and have already reduced the number of welfare young people. Operating two house units has given the staff more confidence in keeping the young people safe, reducing incident numbers and ensuring that staff can undertake the training prioritised for the service. The Ministry of Justice contract remains a high priority and current bed availability across the secure children's homes is low, currently there are less than 10 beds available nationally across England and Wales, whilst the welfare referral demands for beds is currently around 35.

Developments

48. A property bought last year has been leased to the Council's largest provider of children's homes. Following refurbishment, it will seek Ofsted registration with a target to open as a two-bed home once planning has been approved. This will provide much needed capacity to provide more Nottinghamshire children with a good quality home environment in the County, enabling them to maintain links with their communities and support networks. Plans are also advancing for the refurbishment of some of the Council's existing children's homes.
49. They will be supported in their aim to provide homes for some of the children with the most complex needs by the newly appointed Specialist Social Worker. The postholder will offer direct help to children who have experienced trauma and ensure staff providing care are trained to help those children thrive.
50. Clayfields outlined in the previous report to the Corporate Parenting Panel that they had been given permission by the Department for Education to undertake an initial feasibility study, which is part of the 'Secure Children's Homes Estate Review – December 2022' and has been led by Atkins (Department for Education Architects). The Council's property commissioning team, alongside Arc Partnership, have put in a bid of £17,000, which will increase the administration block, especially with the increased staffing and facilities required for the future. Whilst this has not been given the full agreement, at least considerations are being made looking ahead and future proofing the environment. This will be undertaken with the support of colleagues in the Council's Property Commissioning team and Arc Partnership.

Other Options Considered

51. 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

52. 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

53. 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

54. There are no financial implications directly 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.

Amanda Collinson
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Constitutional Comments (SSR 02/04/24)

55. The recommendations fall within the scope of matter which may be determined by the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Financial Comments (CDS 27/03/24)

56. There are no financial implications directly 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.

[Update on Nottinghamshire children's residential homes and secure accommodation service – report to Corporate Parenting Panel on 9 January 2024](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CF0162

16 April 2024**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES****INSPECTION GRADINGS OF 'EXCLUSIVE USE' CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL
HOMES – MARCH 2024****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 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 Homes2Inspire 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 Homes2Inspire 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 Homes2Inspire.
4. As well as increasing the number of young people living in homes operated by Homes2Inspire, 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 Homes2Inspire 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 Homes2Inspire 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 three

new 'hybrid homes' in conjunction with Homes2Inspire and is currently searching for a further home to purchase.

5. As a consequence of the above developments, Homes2Inspire 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/ Homes2Inspire partnership encompasses 11 homes of varying size, location and capacity that can collectively accommodate up to 35 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
Lantern House*	Sutton-in-Ashfield	2
<i>Virtual beds</i>	Nottingham / various	2
TOTAL		35

* = 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 December 2022 Latest inspection February 2024 awaiting report to be published	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 January 2024	The overall experience and progress of children and young people is good, with outstanding effectiveness of leaders and managers. The manager and staff team have worked tirelessly to significantly improve the home since the last full inspection. All children have positive relationships with staff and say they are happy. All children are attending school and

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
		show a positive attitude towards learning. There has been a positive shift in children's behaviours and they are engaging in fewer risky activities. Children say that they feel safe and there has been a significant reduction in missing-from-home episodes. The manager has a strong commitment to maintaining an excellent standard of care, she leads by example and believes that the children cared for at the home deserve the very best.
Holly House	Good November 2023	This home has moved from Requires Improvement (August 2022) to Good at the latest inspection. Children are welcomed in a planned and sensitive way and are equally well supported when moving out. When possible, the manager and staff continue to offer emotional support and care after children have moved. The staff team shows a genuine commitment towards supporting children and the children have positive relationships with staff. Children attend education daily and there is a positive environment which encourages children to achieve and make academic progress. The environment is homely and welcoming, and staff ensure that children develop a sense of belonging and stability.
Evans House	Outstanding December 2023	Children make exceptional progress in all areas of their development. Staff provide children with care that creates positive memories and experiences. The manager and deputy manager inspire a nurturing team of staff who keep children at the centre of everything they do. Children form trusted relationships with staff and benefit from high-quality care and support. Children's risks are identified and well understood by staff, and they manage significant incidents very well. Staff use distraction techniques and emotional reassurance to support children who are struggling to manage their feelings and emotions. The manager and staff are completely invested in children meeting their full potential and speak proudly of their achievements.
Braidley House	Requires Improvement Latest inspection March 2024 – awaiting report to be published	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	Good November 2023	Children benefit from good day-to-day care, they have good, structured routines. Staff show children lots of nurture and care. Both children have made educational progress and staff

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
		are proud of children's achievements. Health needs are met well by staff. Staff have a good understanding of children's self-harming behaviours and are able to recognise changes in mood and when they may be struggling.
Newbury House	Good August 2022 Latest inspection March 2024 – awaiting report to be published	The previous report highlighted that 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 March 2023	The quality of 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. Staff make every effort to ensure that each child feels comfortable, showing great warmth and affection toward the children. Children build trusting and secure relationships with staff and have developed a sense of permanence and belonging. Staff support children to work to their goals, developing their independence and engaging in new experiences. Children are supported to feel and be safe. Multi-agency working is excellent which ensures that strategies to reduce risk are highly effective.
Sudbury House	Good August 2022	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 their full potential. They know the child very well, have established positive relationships with them, and have a genuine sense of commitment and loyalty towards them. The child is encouraged to develop their independence skills and has learned and developed new skills which have enhanced their confidence and self-esteem. The environment is that of a family home. This supports the progress and experience of the child.
School House	Good March 2023	There was one child in this home at the time of this inspection, who is making very good progress from their starting point, sees the house as their home and has developed a sense of belonging. The child has some very good relationships with staff and the home is a happy place. There is a comprehensive risk management plan in place which includes behaviour management strategies. The child feels safe in this home.

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
Lantern House	Ungraded	This is a new home that has two young people placed in it, Ofsted had planned to visit to complete the registration on 9 February 2024, but unfortunately the visit was cancelled by Ofsted. The home is awaiting registration.

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.

Rachel Miller
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Constitutional Comments (KK 28/03/24)

12. The Corporate Parenting Panel is a panel to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties to ensure the Council and partner agencies act as effective corporate parents. The proposal in the report is therefore within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Financial Comments (CDS 27/03/24)

13. 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.

CF0163

16 April 2024**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, HELP, PROTECTION AND CARE****LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update on the review and expansion of the Nottinghamshire Local Offer for Care Leavers aimed at those young people who have been looked after by Nottinghamshire and are aged 18 – 24 and identified as ‘care leavers’, receiving support, advice and guidance from the Leaving Care Service.

Information

2. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 placed a requirement of all local authorities to develop their own Local Offer for Care Leavers, identifying what young people aged 18 – 24 can access around advice, guidance and support as a care leaver. This also placed a requirement on other departments within local authorities (housing, leisure etc.) and other agencies to contribute towards their corporate parenting responsibilities.
3. In 2019 the first Nottinghamshire Local Offer for Care Leavers was produced working alongside the seven district and borough councils and other partner agencies who are part of the Looked After and Care Leaver Strategic Partnership Board. The Local Offer identified some key support areas for care leavers including Council Tax exemption and free leisure centre access.
4. In 2020, Nottinghamshire also produced an Achievement Local Offer to identify the commitment to care leavers achieving in their employment, education, and/or training (EET). This included the hosting of a business breakfast for local and national employers to commit and pledge support to offering more opportunities within the world of work, to children and young people who are care experienced.
5. There is a requirement under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 for the Local Authority to regularly review the Local Offer for Care Leavers. This started in the summer of 2023 with surveys and consultations with Nottinghamshire care leavers. Information was gathered via an e-survey to all care leavers aged 18 – 24 years, one-to-one discussions with personal advisers, focus groups and drop-ins, as well as structured feedback discussions with young people who have lived experience of particular subject areas (such as children seeking asylum, parents or parents to be, and those who have had involvement from the Youth Justice Service).

6. Consultation with the Children in Care Council (including the sub-groups) has taken place, as well as discussions and consultation with our key partners and agencies within the Looked After and Care Leaver Strategic Partnership Board, and input from local and national businesses as part of the Achievement Offer review.
7. Young people were asked about the current Local Offer and the impact it has had on them and what they would like to see within a reviewed and updated Local Offer. Some comments included:

"My home is really important to me. I've ticked so many [parts of the Local Offer] so it's [had] a huge impact. It's turned my life around... I don't know how else to explain it".

"It made moving into my own property a lot easier".

"[My PA] helped me sort out my home - I have a lovely place to live".

"They've helped a lot I struggle a lot with my mental health so some PAs I've had and the 21plus team have been amazing".

"[The Achievement Offer] enabled me to do a lifeguarding course which got me my job".

"It's helped me progress with my life and become a better man".

"It has made a big difference, because of my family situation, I don't really have a safety net so the support is second to none, some of the situations I've been in, I wouldn't [have] been able to get out off without the help of my social worker and leaving care worker, I have had support emotionally, financially, and career wise as well".

Updated Main Local Offer

8. The main Local Offer is the umbrella offer which includes continuing Council Tax exemption for care leavers until they are 25 years, the continuing free leisure centre offer, as well as access to Everyone Active Leisure Centres across the UK; it also includes updates about support for young people with neurodiversity, monthly drop-in sessions for young people to access support and advice and to keep in contact with former professionals who are important to them, and the new Integrated Care Board (ICB) funded Wellbeing Workers to support care leavers' emotional and mental health (via Barnardo's).

Extended Local Offers

9. As part of the review of the Local Offer, it was identified that there was a need for more specific Local Offers for care leavers. The extended Local Offers align with Ofsted's new Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework.
10. The Achievement Offer has been reviewed and updated as part of the extended Local Offers. The extended Local Offers are:
 - a. **Achievement Offer** – aimed at care leavers aged 16 – 25 years in relation to their employment, education, and/or training and linking with opportunities within the world

of work. This includes support for young people to access career advice, explore their educational and employment pathways (through Personal Education Plans), employability briefings with local and national businesses, support to access Higher Education and university pathways, and building aspiration and achievements within the world of work (including apprenticeships).

- b. **21Plus Offer** – aimed at care leavers aged 21Plus and accessing support, advice and guidance from a specialist bespoke service. This identifies the young person's continuing access to their Home Establishment Grant to help them set up their home, advice and access to our Homelessness Prevention Personal Adviser, support in accessing universal and adult services depending on need, and continuing communication via e-newsletters, cook-books, drop-in sessions and positive proactive contact at least six times per year (requirement within the Children and Social Work Act 2017 is one contact per year).
 - c. **Parenting Offer** – aimed at care leavers who identify as parents or parents to be. Offering support to those young people who are making decisions about their future as a parent and the other support that can be accessed (including information about health and wellbeing). This includes support for care leavers from the Development Trauma and Attachment Team (DTAT) to explore their care history and recognise how this may impact on their parenting style and approach.
 - d. **Custody Offer** – aimed at care leavers aged 16 – 25 years accessing support, advice and guidance due to being in custody, released from custody or involved with the Youth Justice and/or Probation Services. This has been co-produced with the Youth Justice and Probation Services to ensure that there is multi-agency working and consistency in supporting young people in positively changing their pathway.
 - e. **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Offer** – aimed at care leavers who identify as coming to the UK as asylum seeking children and being in the care of Nottinghamshire County Council. This explores the options and sometimes restrictions they face due to their leave status in the UK. This also identifies the support that they can receive around emotional and mental health from the UASC Wellbeing Worker (via Barnardo's) as well as exploring their educational pathways, being part of the community and adjusting and adapting to life in the UK.
11. All the Local Offers will be available in print and electronic pdf format and the main local offer will be posted to all Nottinghamshire care leavers. The 21Plus Offer will be sent alongside the main Local Offer to all those young people aged 21 – 24 years. The *NottsNextSteps* application for electronic devices is updated to reflect the new and extended Local Offers, as well as web versions on www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk. Versions of the Local Offers can be made available in large print, audio or translated into other language(s) when required. The Local Offers have been shared with relevant partner agencies who attend the Looked After and Care Leaver Partnership Board and will also be shared with partners who have direct contact and access to Nottinghamshire care leavers.

Future Plans

12. There will be a further review of the Local Offers by 2027 which will consist of more consultation and feedback from care leavers as to what they find helpful, and what developments they would like to see so that they shape any future Local Offers.

Other Options Considered

13. None. There is 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 looked after children and care leavers until their 25th birthday.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. Nottinghamshire County Council has a responsibility to provide support, advice, and guidance to care leavers.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers the update on the Nottinghamshire Local Offer for Care Leavers and advises of any further assurance or activities required to provide the best possible outcomes to young people transitioning from care.

Amanda Collinson
Service Director, Help, Protection and Care

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Constitutional Comments (GR 27/03/24)

17. Pursuant to the Nottinghamshire County Council Constitution this Panel has the delegated authority to revive this report and to consider the recommendation contained within it.

Financial Comments (VC 04/04/24)

18. There are no 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.

CF0165



Department
for Education

An illustrated guide to the

Children's Social Care National Framework



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For children and young people

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About this guide

‘Children’s social care’ refers to the different kinds of support that children, young people and their families receive from their local authorities when they need extra help. Your local authority is the organisation who provides for the people in your local area, and they can support you.

Every year there are 400,000 children and young people, like you, who receive children’s social care.

This means around 5 children in every classroom in England have been supported at some point over the last eight years. Proper support can change all these people’s lives, and yours, but only if everyone knows what good quality children’s social care looks like.

To bring everyone together, the Department for Education created the ‘**Children’s Social Care National Framework**’.

It tells everyone involved in providing support what children’s social care is supposed to achieve and how it should work. The purpose of the National Framework is to clearly explain what you should expect from the help and care you receive.

This guide will tell you what the National Framework will mean for you and how it puts your wishes at the heart of the children’s social care system. You should use it to compare your current support to how it is described here. That way, you can be sure the support you get is good enough, and you can speak out if you don’t think it is.



The purpose of children's social care

It is important to take a moment to tell you what the purpose of children's social care is. This is so you can understand the shared goal of everyone who works in this area. In the National Framework, it says the purpose is to:

“...support children, young people and families, to protect children and young people by intervening decisively when they are at risk of harm and to provide care for those who need it so that they grow up and thrive with safety, stability and love.”

What this means, in simpler terms, is to be there for you, so that you can be safe, and so you can grow up to be healthy and happy.



The principles of children's social care

People working in children's social care should follow 6 principles when they work with you. You can think of these principles as things that everyone who works in children's social care believes. They are that:

- children's welfare is the most important thing of all
- children are asked about their wishes, and they are listened to and responded to
- children's social care works with whole families
- children are raised by their families, with their family networks or in family environments wherever possible
- local councils work with other people to understand what children, young people and their families need
- local councils are committed to acting fairly for everyone



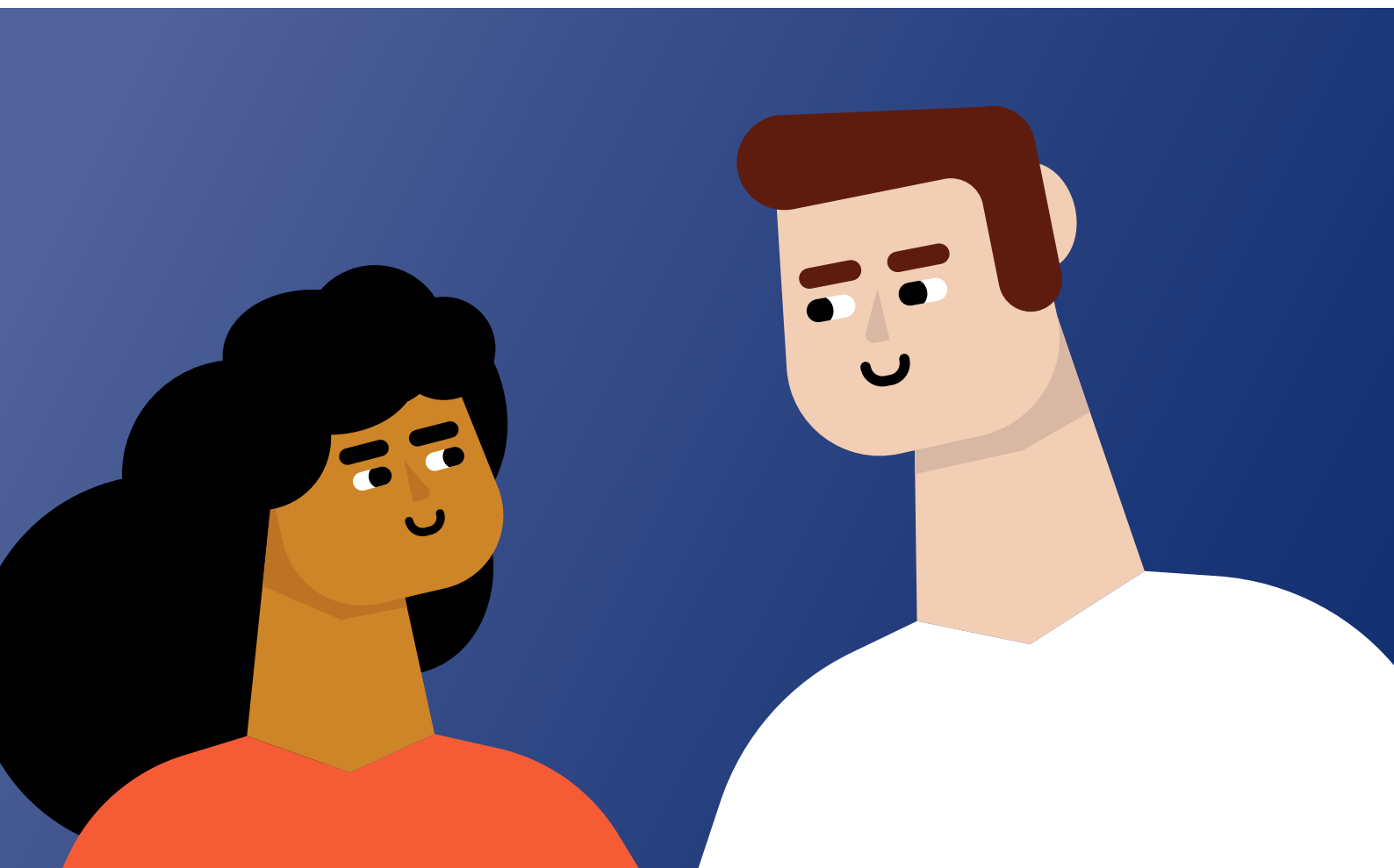
These principles inform everything that children's social care hopes to achieve. But they particularly contribute to 4 things the National Framework focuses on, called 'outcomes':

- your family staying together, and you being able to stay with them when it is safe
- being supported by your family and family network
- being safe
- being able to live in a loving home

These are the areas of your life that children's social care is there to help you with the most. The system is designed so that the focus is on family because families can often provide the best support for their children.

However, it is not always the case that children can stay with their own family. When this happens, children's social care is there to find them a loving home somewhere else. In all cases, the safety of children is the most important thing.

The rest of this guide will explain what the National Framework means for you in terms of these 4 outcomes.





outcome 1

Children's social care will help your family stay together

Your council will help your family stay together, and give them support so they can look after you wherever it is safe to do so.

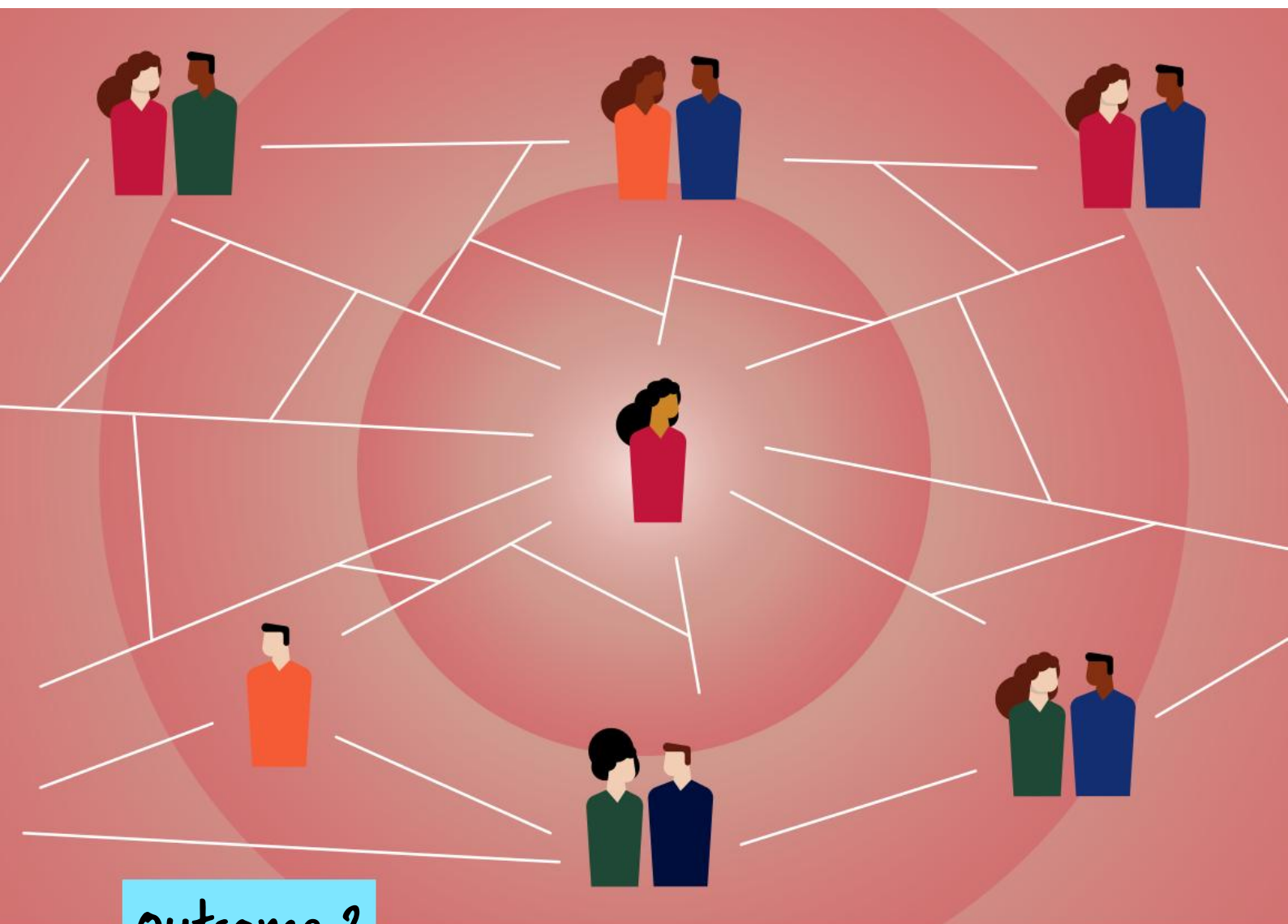
Children's social care works with parents and family members to help them cope with any difficulties they face. Children's social care is committed to keeping children and young people within their family

wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. This is so that the important people in your life are in the best position to provide you with safety, stability, and love.

What this means for you

- Your views **will be heard**, whatever your age or how you best communicate with others, and those supporting you will do their best to understand your perspective.
- You and your family **will be listened to** by everyone who works with you, so practitioners can understand how to design services that work properly. Practitioners are the people who work with you to give you support and keep you safe.
- You will be **supported to understand** how children's social care works, and your family will be helped to access the right support at the right time.
- If you have a disability, you and your family will be **supported to make decisions** about the help you receive.
- Your parents' views will form part of the plan **to keep you safe**.
- You will be encouraged to **share your wishes and feelings** separately from other people in your life.
- Your culture will **be respected**, and discrimination will always be challenged.
- Your family will be **given practical advice** on getting support with money and housing from people in your community.
- Practitioners will try to understand what has happened in your life and will **help you to cope with things that you find difficult**.
- Practitioners understand how important education is in **keeping you safe and helping you to reach your full potential**.





outcome 2

Children's social care will support your family network

Children's social care will support family members beyond parents, like your grandparents, aunts and uncles, as these people can often provide essential safety, stability and love.

Often there are wider family relationships and networks that can help families that are experiencing problems.

Support from these family members can improve children's lives, but sometimes these family members need help from children's social care to make this happen more effectively.

What this means for you

- You **will be asked** who you consider to be your family. This might include relatives like aunties, uncles, grandparents or people like family friends.
- You **will be asked** about how your family network can look after you, and the support, love and trust you feel with them.
- Your **views will be considered** when arranging support from wider members of your family.
- Your family **will be asked** how much support from children's social care services they receive, and if it is enough.
- Your family will be **brought together to share** their experiences, and they will have time to answer any questions about your support.
- You may **receive support** from people beyond your family, including from friends, youth workers, teachers and people in your community or religious network.
- Your family could **get help to strengthen relationships** or repair difficult ones where necessary.
- You **will be supported** when your family or family network can't look after you, especially when it is unsafe.
- If you have a disability, your family network could be **supported to help you**.





outcome 3

Children's social care helps to keep you safe

The absolute most important thing is your safety, at all times and wherever you are.

The National Framework makes it clear that children's social care wants to protect you from harm and if you might be being harmed, work out exactly what is going on.

This applies whether harm is occurring at home, where you live, in your community, or online.

What this means for you

- You will be **asked about your safety and wellbeing** at all stages of your care experience, and you will be asked what needs to change so that you can be safer.
- Practitioners will **act quickly to protect you** if you are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing harm.
- You will **get regular information** on the decisions being made about your life.
- Your **views will be heard** if your council is worried about you and thinks that they need to go to court to ask a judge to decide how to keep you safe.
- Your **voice will be heard** independently from the views of parents, carers, or other adults.
- Practitioners will **work hard to build strong relationships** with you and they will try to understand everything that is happening in your life.
- Your **views will be heard**, whatever your age or how you best communicate with others, and those supporting you will do their best to understand your point of view.
- You may have experienced upsetting things that you find very hard to talk about. People supporting you **will understand** that harmful events might have happened, or be happening to you, and they will hope that you can tell them about these things, so they can help you and keep you safe.
- You should be **treated fairly**, and if you are being discriminated against, the people supporting you should address this.
- Even when children and young people harm others, practitioners will **recognise that they are still people in need of help and support**.





outcome 4

Children's social care will help to give you a loving home

You deserve the same love, care and protection as anyone else.

If you can't remain living with your family, within a family network or with others, your local council will provide the support you need. Children's social care should provide homes that offer love, care, protection, and stability.

The support that you receive will help you understand your feelings and address any issues you may have while making sure you are safe. It will give you the basis for a healthy, happy life.

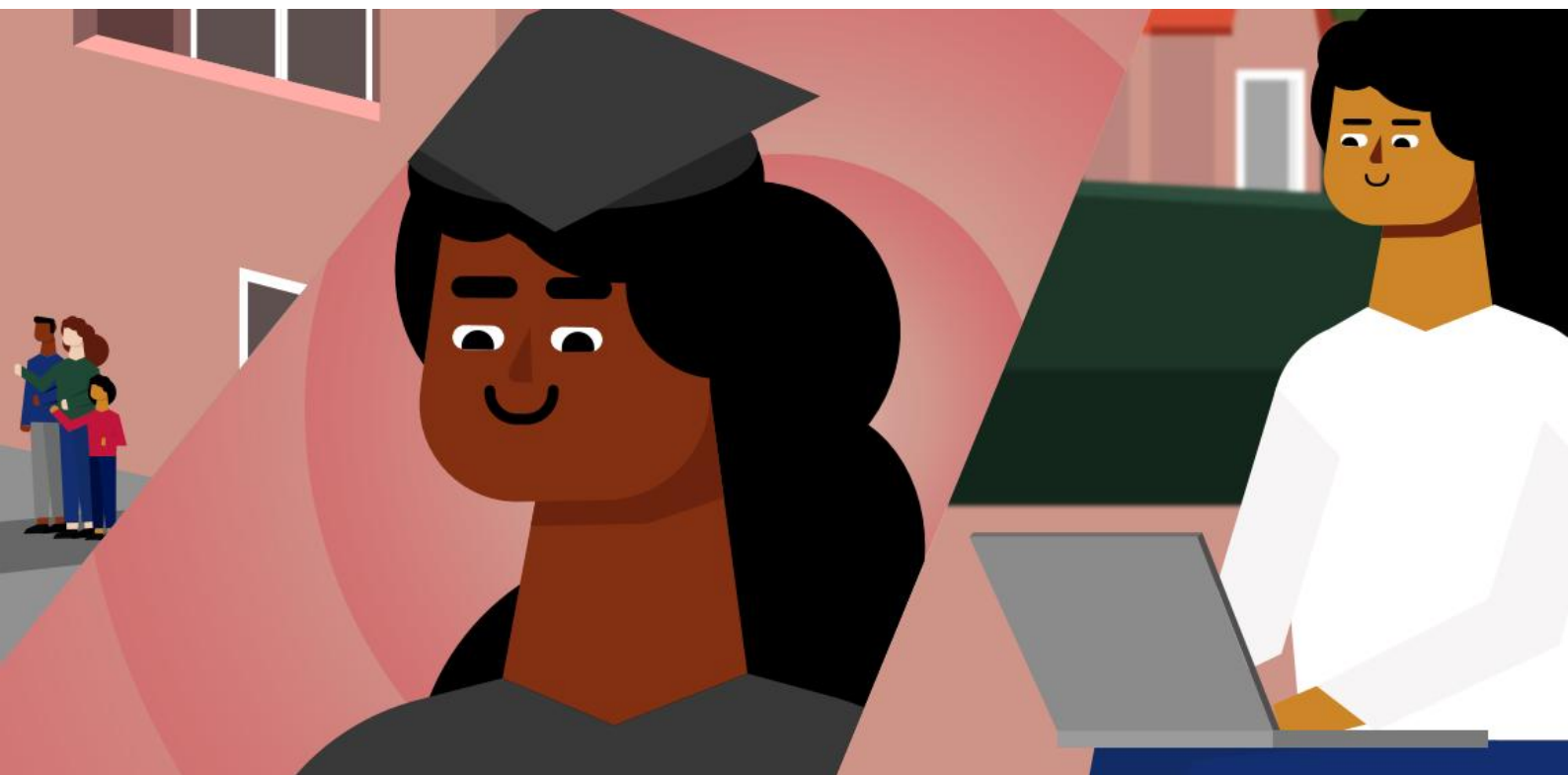
What this means for you

- You will be **asked where you want to live and what's important to you** if you can't remain with your family.
- You will **get regular updates** about the decisions being made, so you can be clear about what is happening and why.
- You will have regular opportunities to **share your hopes and dreams**, and this will be reflected in how you are provided with support.
- You will be **encouraged to put forward your views**, including through independent advocacy. This is where someone will represent your views, wishes and needs without judging you, and help you make a complaint if you need to.
- You will be **given a safe and loving home** if you can't live with your family or family network.
- You will be **supported to stay in touch with your family, friends and community**, and especially with your siblings, if you move to a new home.
- Your **mental wellbeing should be taken seriously**, and practitioners will help you get support.
- Adopted children will be supported by practitioners **to bond with their adoptive parents** from the first time they meet.
- Children who have travelled to England without their parents will be **supported, and their needs and experiences considered**.



For older children leaving children's social care and approaching adulthood

- You will be **supported to develop and nurture loving relationships** with your family networks and friends as you get older and become an adult.
- You will be **supported to live in safe, suitable accommodation**, and children's social care will try to offer you a range of options to choose from. You may have priority for social housing and help with accessing rented accommodation. Every effort is made to avoid care leavers becoming homeless.
- You will be **supported to access education, employment, and training** as you become an adult. Practitioners may work with job centres and potential employers to help find opportunities for you to apply for, including opportunities made especially for care leavers.
- You will be **supported to plan for the future** because proper education, work and housing is necessary for living a healthy and happy life.





What to do next

This guide is here to show you what the Children's Social Care National Framework means for you. But it only shows you the most important things. There may be other parts of the National Framework that are relevant to you, so you should think about having a look at the full [Children's Social Care National Framework](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, you can speak to your social worker, personal advisor, family support worker or another member of staff.

You can also get more information, advice and support from these charities:

- **Childline** is a safe, confidential place for children with no one else to turn to. Whatever your worry, whenever you need help or just want to talk, you can contact

Childline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year on 0800 1111 or through the one-to-one chat on their website. Childline has a huge online community where you can get support from other children on message boards, as well as resources to help you through any issue you are concerned about.
[childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)

- The **Children's Commissioner's Help at Hand** team can offer free support, advice, and information about your rights if you are in care, leaving care, living away from home or working with children's services. This is to help you with any challenges you are experiencing. You can call the team for free on 0800 528 0731 or visit [childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand)



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16 April 2024**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, HELP, PROTECTION AND CARE****CARE LEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on the provision, services and outcomes for those young people who have been looked after by Nottinghamshire between the ages of 18 - 24 and identified as care leavers receiving support from the Leaving Care Service.

Information

2. The Looked After Children and Leaving Care Service sits within Help, Protection and Care Division within Nottinghamshire County Council. The teams are overseen by a Group Manager and two Service Managers. The Leaving Care Service consists of three teams covering geographical areas: South, North and Central, and the 21 Plus team. The Service also has an Achievement Service which provides information and advice about training, education and work opportunities. The Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Team offers a more dedicated and specialist service to UASC under the age of 18 and also to UASC care leavers aged over 18.
3. There are 4 FTE Team Managers overseeing 44 FTE posts including Personal Advisers, Achievement Advisers, 21Plus Personal Advisers, Transitional Personal Advisers and a Homelessness Prevention Personal Adviser. The service has recently increased the number of Personal Advisers so that young people can have an identified allocated Personal Adviser from the age of 16½ to help better prepare them in their journey to adulthood.
4. At the end of February 2024, there were 425 care leavers aged 18 - 21 receiving support from the Leaving Care Service with an identified allocated Personal Adviser. A total of 160 looked after young people aged 16-17 years had an allocated Leaving Care Personal Adviser. There were 386 care leavers over 21 years accessing support from the 21Plus Service and 78 young people who are classed as 'Qualifying' care leavers under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000; they do not have an allocated Personal Adviser, but can access support, advice and guidance from the Leaving Care Service when needed. Qualifying care leavers can also access elements of the Local Offer for Care Leavers.
5. Of the 425 care leavers aged 18 - 21 years, 231 (54.3%) identify as male, 192 (45.1%) identify as female and 2 (0.3%) identify as gender fluid. Within the service, 360 (84.7%)

care leavers identify their main ethnicity as being White, 38 (8.9%) young people identify as being mixed race, 6 (1.4%) young people identify as being Black, 10 (2.4%) young people identify as Asian, and 11 (2.6%) young people identify as being 'other'.

6. Of the 425 care leavers aged 18 - 21 years, 349 (84.7%) identify their current address as being in Nottingham City or one of the seven district/borough councils of Nottinghamshire. This number increases to 373 (87.7%) young people identifying their address as within the East Midlands conurbations.
7. The role of a leaving care personal advisor is to provide advice (including practical advice), assistance and emotional support. The aim of leaving care services is to support care leavers so that they can experience a smooth transition and go on to live successful independent lives. Each care leaver will reach that point at a different age.
8. 'Stable Homes, Built on Love: strategy and consultation' is the government's plan for how we make children's social care work better. Ambition 4 is to: Make care better for children in care and care leavers and states: *"If you are in care your local authority is your 'corporate parent'. This means they should act like any loving parent would and provide you with the best possible support and care. If you are leaving care, you should continue to feel safe and loved"*.
9. Support from a personal advisor is like what a parent would provide such as encouragement to access emotional support, if needed, such as counselling or input from mental health services, celebrating success, encouragement to apply for jobs or to consider further education, advice on budgeting, managing money, advocating for example if the young person has wrongly accrued debts, and support to apply for benefits. It could be practical support like helping to put together furniture. Our young people should feel they are not on their own.
10. If a care leaver starts a college course or university the more support that is provided in the first term means they are more likely to continue attending and to achieve.
11. The Stable Homes, Built on Love strategy also increased the amount of money young people get when they leave care to a minimum of £3,000 from April 2023. This is known as their Home Establishment Grant. A key role for the personal advisor is supporting a care leaver in setting up their first independent home. The home establishment grant is to enable care leavers to purchase essentials (such as furniture, white goods and carpets/curtains) when they move into their first home.
12. The Local Authority is required to send information to the Department for Education on an annual basis. Local Authorities have to provide information such as the numbers of care leavers that the Local Authority is 'in-touch' with, how many young people are in employment, education and/or training (EET) and how many are in suitable accommodation.
13. In 2022-2023, Nottinghamshire County Council identified that they were in touch with 97% of care leavers aged 17-18 years (96% is the national average), and 94% of care leavers aged 19 - 21 years (94% is the national average), as well as 89% of those care leavers aged 21Plus (no national average benchmark).

14. In 2022-2023, the Local Authority identified 66% of 17 - 18 year-olds being in employment, education and/or training compared with 62% for statistical neighbours and 66% being the national average. 53% of 19 - 21-year-olds were identified as in employment, education and/or training which is also in-line with the national average.
15. In terms of suitable accommodation for care leavers, Nottinghamshire County Council has commissioned supported accommodation provision for young people aged 16 - 25 years. As part of the new Staying Close agenda, a co-production worker is in post to shape the provision who is working on the recruitment of a multi-disciplinary team to provide support to young people living in supported accommodation. This team will be able to provide emotional and mental health support as well as drug and alcohol support. In addition, through some grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Leaving Care Service has access to Care Leaver Emergency Accommodation for those young people that are at risk of homelessness. This accommodation offers wrap-around support for 12 weeks to ensure that these young people have the right support in place at the right time. Working alongside the seven district/borough councils and other multi-agency support, the young person is then able to move back into their own tenancy or move to supported accommodation provision.
16. In 2022-2023, 90% of 17 - 18 year-olds, and 89% of 19 - 21 year-olds were identified as being in suitable accommodation. Of the 19 - 21-year-olds, 3% were identified as being in custody and 4% in other accommodation which would include houses of multiple occupancy. Houses of multiple occupancy, which are classed as unsuitable accommodation, include young people at university who are choosing to house-share or live in halls of residence accommodation.

Pathway Plans

17. Looked after children should have a Pathway Plan by the time they are 16¼ years of age. From 18 years the completion of the young person's Pathway Plan is the responsibility of their Personal Adviser and it is reviewed every six months or earlier if appropriate. As of March 2024, the Leaving Care Service had completed and reviewed 98% of Pathway Plans within timescales.

Local Offer for Care Leavers

18. Since September 2023, the Leaving Care Service has been undertaking a review of the Local Offer for Care Leavers, which has involved gaining the views of care leavers through electronic surveys, focus-groups and one-to-one discussions with young people. This review has also taken into consideration Ofsted's new Inspection of Local Authorities Children's Services framework as well as good practice from other East Midlands local authority partners, reflection from other leaving care services within the UK and from learning by participating in the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum run by Catch 22.
19. The review of the Local Offer has led to the production of a newly revised Local Offer for Care Leavers, as well as an updated Achievement Offer (employment, education and/or training), as well as extended offers focused on young people in/or leaving custody, young people identifying as being parents or parents to be, young people seeking asylum, and those who are accessing 21Plus support. The updated Local Offers were launched at the

end of March 2024 with printed versions available to young people, web and electronic versions (available for download) from www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk, and updated information on the Notts Next Steps (Care Leaver App) on mobile phone and electronic devices. The consultations and working together on the updated and new Local Offers have been across services and organisations and have included the Children in Care Council, Strengths-Based Practice Team, Youth Justice Service, Probation Services and health colleagues.

Young People's Achievements and Feedback

20. The Leaving Care Service celebrates the achievements and success of care leavers and this is often fed into the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board. A few examples of feedback and achievements are as follows:
- *One young person had his passing out parade for the Army and is now joining the Irish Guards*
 - *One care leaver had support from the Achievement Service and gained their first part time job, they previously did not take up employment as they would not leave their house.*
 - *A 21Plus Care Leaver enrolled at University on MBChB Medicine 4th year for 22/23 and has been supported to go to New Zealand on her elective medical placement for 3 months. The young person said "I just want to say a massive thank you to you both for helping me arrange this elective, it's a massive thing for me and I'm really appreciative for all your input and help. I honestly don't think I could have done it without you both. So thank you very much!"*
 - *A care leaver attended one of the Achievement Service's Employability Days with Boots PLC, and they loved the atmosphere and culture when visiting there and so applied for a job and is now working there!*
 - *A care leaver got a job at a children's home in Nottinghamshire. He is really excited to be able to, "give back to the system that raised me, and help some lost souls like myself." He got the job based on what he said about his experience in care and how he would help others.*
21. Positive comments were also received from agencies about our working together in the best interests of our care leavers. An example of this was from the Department of Work and Pensions who emailed management to say: *"Thank you to NCC [Nottinghamshire County Council] and Achievement Service, you've been brilliant whenever we get in touch, they will get back to us within 24 hours whether we call 21Plus or any of Leaving care service – really good, really helpful unlike some other areas we work with."*

Future Plans

22. The Leaving Care Service is working alongside Nottinghamshire NHS Trust and Barnardo's to provide 2.5 FTE wellbeing workers from Spring 2024, for care leavers and children seeking asylum. These workers will work alongside statutory mental health services, but target support to those young people that do not identify as being at the level

for adult services intervention or are transitioning from children's mental health services. They will offer consultation to the Personal Advisers so that they feel more confident to support young people with their emotional health and wellbeing.

23. The University of Bristol has been undertaking a study on the health of care leavers since 2020 and Nottinghamshire's Leaving Care Service has been part of this study. Identified as the 'Lift Study', this is now concluding by the end of Summer 2024. The researchers are now analysing the impact that specific health training and learning for Personal Advisers has had on the service that is offered to care leavers. Once the study is complete training sessions will be offered to workers within the Leaving Care Service.
24. As a result of a self-reflective audit in Leaving Care, neurodiversity training has been identified to take place in June 2024. The outcome of this training will be that some Personal Advisers will be identified as neurodiversity champions within Leaving Care. The champions will then support team members to identify individual needs (whether diagnosed or undiagnosed) so that Pathway Plans can be more meaningful and impactful.
25. Several workers within the Leaving Care Service recently met with an independent person as part of preparation for the Ofsted visit. Reflective discussions took place along with audits and individual discussions to identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement. The outcome of this work will be shared with the team shortly and plans can then be made for future workshops and reflective discussions.

Other Options Considered

26. 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

25. 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

27. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers the annual report on Care Leavers and advises of any further assurance or activities required to provide the best possible outcomes to young people transitioning from care.

Amanda Collinson
Service Director, Help, Protection and Care

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Constitutional Comments (GMG 28/03/24)

29. The report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel for consideration under Section 7, Part 1, paragraph 36 on p.125 of the Council's Constitution.

Financial Comments (VC 04/04/24)

30. There are no 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.

CF0164

16 April 2024**Agenda Item: 12****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
INCLUSION****DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 12-13 LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE COHORT
2023 – 2024****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 2022-2023 and went into Year 12, and those in Year 13 of post-16 education for academic year 2023-24. The Panel is asked to consider whether there are any further actions it requires arising from this information.

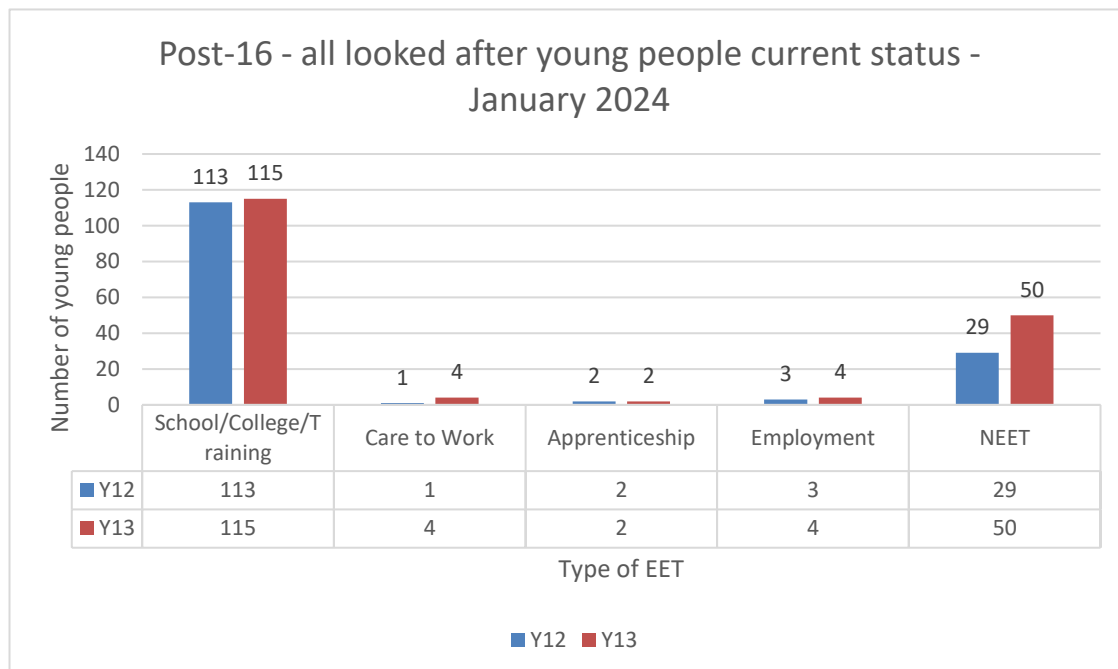
Information

2. Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel act as corporate parents to the children and young people looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council and therefore receive 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. There is a joint responsibility and established collaborative working relationship between the Achievement Service and the Virtual School in Nottinghamshire to support the 16-18 year old cohort across all social care teams working with looked after children and care leavers. 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 Plan meetings where needed.
6. 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 which enables 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 young people. Social workers, designated teachers, other education staff, 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.
7. During the secondary phase, pupils are encouraged and supported to consider their post-16 education choices as soon as Year 7 as part of their Personal Education Plan. 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.
8. Nottinghamshire Virtual School and the Achievement Service work with a range of partners to support early post-16 planning and transition for our looked after young people. Work includes: open days at universities for care experienced students, additional careers advice and guidance sessions when needed, bespoke visits to local colleges, summer transition projects with local colleges, and employability briefings with local businesses.

Breakdown of education destinations – correct as of January 2024

9. 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).



10. 76% of all Year 12/13 young people are in education, employment and training (244/323); this compares with 73% (220/303) in January 2023). For the 903 cohort who were in care on 31 March 2023, 83% of our Year 12 and 13 young people are in education, employment and training.
11. 93% of our 244 young people who are in education, employment and training are attending further education colleges, training providers and school 6th forms or an education setting. 24% of our young people are not in education, employment or training (79/323), which has decreased by 4% when compared with January 2023. The cohort of looked after children and care leavers in this age group has also increased when compared with 2023 which is a trend. 29% of young people who have not in education, employment or training status came into care during 2023.

English and mathematics Key Stage 4 grade 4 results for current Year 13, 2022

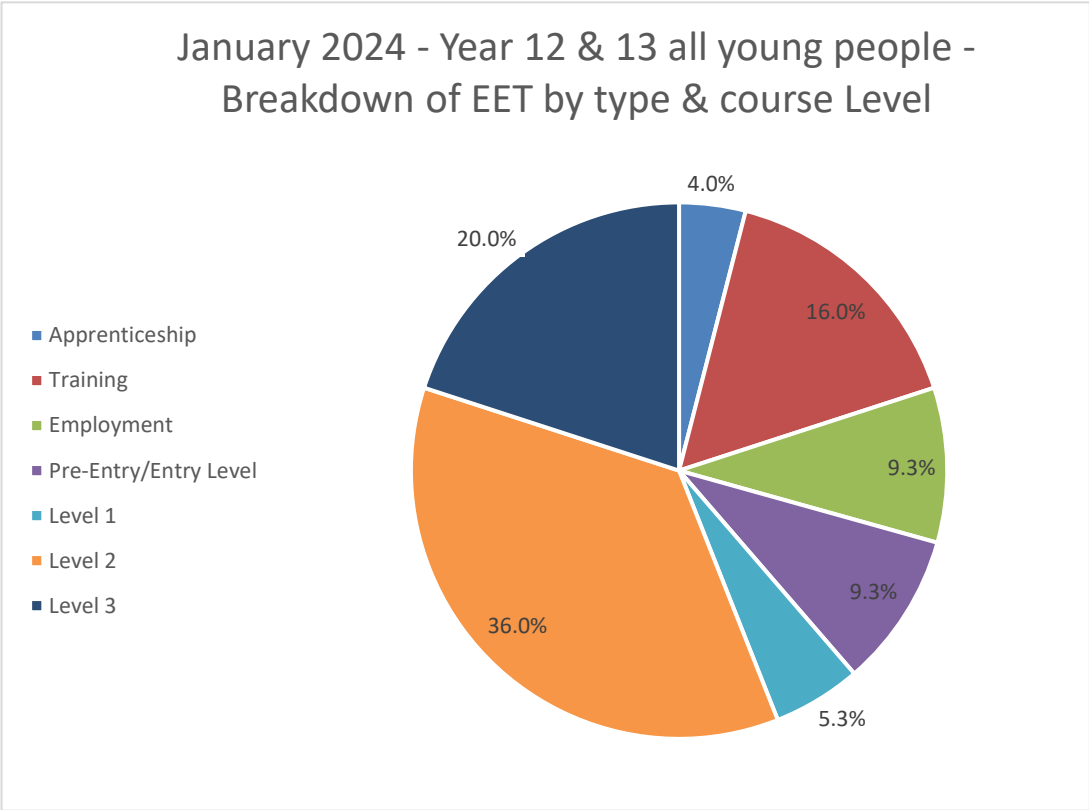
	English & maths 4+	English & maths 5+
Notts 903 Cohort	22%	12%
National CLA	22%	11%

12. The table above shows the end of Key Stage 4 outcomes from 2022 for the current Year 13 cohort. Validated end of Key Stage 4 outcomes from 2023 for the current Year 12 young people are released in March 2024.

13. 22% of our young people in the 903 cohort (in care on 31 March) achieved a grade 4 in both GCSE English and maths at the end of Year 11 in 2022. 12% of the same group achieved GCSE 5+ in both English and maths which is 1% above the national average.

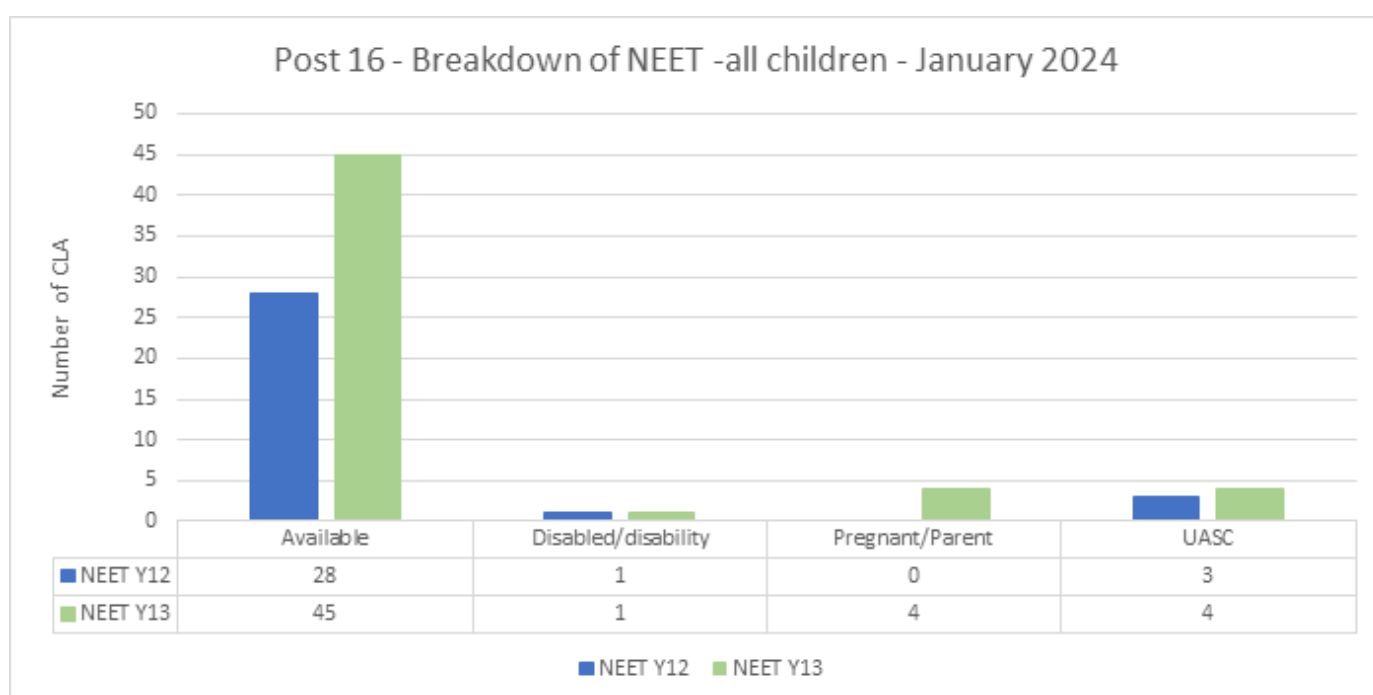
Breakdown of courses – correct as of January 2024

14. 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. The proportion of our young people accessing higher level courses (Level 2 and Level 3) has increased when compared with the last academic year.



Not in education, employment or training (NEET) – correct as of January 2024

15. The graph below indicates those young people who are not in education, employment or training. 'Available' status indicates that the young person is able to seek education, employment and training but has not secured this at the point of producing this data. At the time of writing, 5/7 unaccompanied young people seeking asylum who are not in education, employment or training were new to the country and undergoing assessments to determine correct college course level.
16. Our young people who are not in education, employment or training 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 education, employment and training status working alongside a range of other teams and services, including the social worker, personal adviser or transitional personal adviser.



Children who are unaccompanied and seeking asylum

17. There are 97 Nottinghamshire unaccompanied children seeking asylum (compared with 69 in 2023) and 83 of those are in our post-16 cohort in Year 12 and 13. 92% of the post-16 cohort are in education employment or training. 68% of those in education or training attend Nottingham College or Catch 22 studying ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses. Those who are not in education, employment or training are either new to the country and applications for colleges are being processed or they are being supported by the Achievement Service to explore their education and training options.
18. The Achievement Service and Virtual School work in partnership to support our unaccompanied children seeking asylum in education and training. Joint working this academic year has included bespoke Personal Education Planning training for ESOL

course providers and settings, and summer ESOL sessions provided by Winchmore Tutors at Nottingham Trent University accessed by 16 young people.

Post-16 Pupil Premium

19. Nottinghamshire Virtual School began the post-16 Pupil Premium pilot in September 2021, part of the grant was used to introduce a new embedded mentor/wellbeing coach role which is part of the care experienced offer at West Nottinghamshire College. The Virtual School commissioned the Educational Psychology Service to train Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) in West Nottinghamshire College and Nottingham College, working with colleagues from Nottingham City. Building Relational Colleges: Attachment Aware & Trauma Informed training in 2022-23 was accessed by four post-16 settings and follow up supervision sessions are ongoing during 2023-24. Much of this work has supported West Nottinghamshire College's inclusive and relational approach supporting care experienced students to excel. The College regularly shares their good practice in termly college network meetings and delivered a workshop.
20. Post-16 Pupil Premium Plus has also enabled Further Education settings to purchase laptops and other resources for individual students to support effective access to courses and enabling work from home.

University

21. There are 36 Nottinghamshire care leavers aged 18-25 years who are undertaking their undergraduate or post-graduate degrees this academic year. 8 of our young people secured first year university places in September 2023. At the time of writing, 17 looked after young people/care leavers have submitted first year applications to universities for the academic year 2024-25.
22. It is recognised by a number of universities including Nottingham, Nottingham Trent and De Montford (Leicester), that Nottinghamshire County 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 support them during their studies.
23. 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 Achievement Service 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 include prompts from Year 7 about going to university. In December 2023, the Virtual School and Achievement Service worked with Nottingham Trent University to facilitate an open day for our young people. The event included a tour, insight into a variety of courses and hearing from care experienced university students. 27 young people attended the event. One attendee was reluctant to attend the event initially but they enjoyed the day, they want to visit again and they are now considering university.

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

24. 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 Achievement Service 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

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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

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Constitutional Comments (CD 03/04/24)

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

Financial Comments (SS 03/04/24)

30. There are no 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.

CF0166

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

Title	Sponsor/ Report Author
Standing items for each meeting:	
Foster Care (FLAG) items	Amanda Collinson
Children in Care Council items	Rachel Miller
Visits schedule and observations from visits	Amanda Collinson
Update on Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes and Secure Accommodation service	Amanda Collinson/ Jenny Whiston
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Board update	Amanda Collinson
Inspection gradings of Children's Residential Homes commissioned solely for Council use (verbal update + reports every 6 months)	Rachel Miller/ Beth Downing
Government response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care	Amanda Collinson
2 July 2024	
Performance of Adoption Services	Shelagh Mitchell
Health of Children in Care	Katharine Browne
Children in Care Council – activity and achievements	Pom Bhogal
To be placed	

