

A Sufficiency & Commissioning Strategy for Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire

OUR VISION

We want our children and young people to have every opportunity and the support they need to be the best they possibly can be.

We will give our children strong roots of stability, love, encouragement, positive relationships and healing from past harm.

We will give our children wings of resilience, ambition, aspirational goals and practical and emotional support into successful adulthood.

A Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire

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1. Introduction

A 'Sufficiency Duty' is placed on Local Authorities under the Children's Act 1989 (Section 22G). The Sufficiency Duty requires local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient placements within their geographical area to meet the needs of children and young people in care, and to take steps to develop provision to meet the needs of all children and young people in care locally as far as is possible.

In 2010 the government published 'Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children' (DCSF 2010) as part of a suite of statutory guidance documents which, together with the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 set out how local authorities should carry out the full range of responsibilities in relation to care planning, placement and review for looked after children. The guidance identifies what best practice in securing sufficiency would look like:

- *all children are placed in appropriate placements with access to the support services they require in their local authority area, except where this is not consistent with their welfare;*
- *the full range of universal, targeted and specialist services work together to meet children's needs in an integrated way in the local area, including children who are already looked after, as well as those at risk of care or custody;*
- *where it is not reasonably practicable for a child to be placed within his/her local authority area, there are mechanisms in place to widen the range of provision in neighbouring areas, the sub-region or region which is still within an accessible distance (i.e. based on transport links and community boundaries), while still being able to provide the full range of services required to meet identified needs;*
- *all children with adoption recommendations are placed with an adoptive family within 12 months of that recommendation;*
- *Children's Trust partners, including housing, work together to secure a range of provision to meet the needs of those who become looked after at the age of 16 and 17, and support the continuity of accommodation beyond the age of 18;*
- *services are available in adequate quantity to respond to children, including predicted demand for a range of needs, and emergencies;*
- *in addition to meeting relevant national minimum standards, services are of high enough quality to secure the specific outcomes identified in the care plans of looked after children;*
- *services are situated across the local authority area to reflect geographical distribution of need;*
- *all placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children;*
- *universal services know when a child is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support him/her, including placement providers;*
- *there are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area; and*
- *the local authority and its Children Trust partners collaborate with neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for services for looked after children and commission in regional or sub-regional arrangements. (DCSF 2010)*

This Strategy for Looked After Children (LAC) in Nottinghamshire sets out how we intend to meet the Sufficiency Duty by developing our own local authority provision and by working with external providers and other partners to shape a local market that will meet the needs of children close to where they live whenever this is appropriate.

Analysis of the needs of children and young people in care, identification of the needs that are not currently being met and care population forecast information will inform our sufficiency and commissioning strategy.

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- [Children & Young People's Departmental Strategy 2019-21](#)
- [Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision](#)
- [A Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children & Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-21](#)
- Children Young People and Families Plan

2. National Drivers

Issues such as the Winterbourne scandal and resulting review (DoH 2012) and the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA 2015) has focused concern on vulnerable children and young people living in residential care. Subsequent reports including Sir Martin Narey's independent review of residential care (Narey 2016) and two reports by Dame Christine Lenehan; 'These Are Our Children' (Lenehan 2017) and Good Intentions Good enough? (Lenehan 2017a) have provided some insight into the challenges of providing good support for children living away from home and have concluded that in most cases children are better supported in a family placement in their local community.

In 2017 the annual stability index report was launched by the Children's Commissioner, the index measures the stability of the lives of children in care by looking at the number of home moves, school moves and social worker changes in their lives.

"Stability can be the difference between children flourishing in their environment or having the difficulties they have already had to endure further compounded. Instability makes it harder for a child to form positive trusting relationships with their carers, teachers and social workers, and makes them feel less safe" (OCC 2018)

The report highlights several issues including:

- *Over the longer term most children in care experience a placement move*
- *Some children are at significantly higher risk of experiencing instability and are more likely to experience multiple placement moves:*
 - *Older children, children who enter care at the beginning of adolescence,*
 - *children with additional behavioural or emotional needs, and*
 - *children whose legal status indicates more vulnerability*
- *Children who experience instability are at risk of having it compounded by more instability in the future*

There are several challenges facing all local authorities in the delivery of provision to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people within the care system;

- The number of children coming into care continues to rise
- Local authority internal provision is operating at full capacity
- The market for external placements is saturated; it cannot cope with increased demand
- Young people are presenting with increasingly complex needs and /or challenging behaviours
- Outcomes for young people are potentially being compromised by being placed in a setting that happens to be available rather than one that fits best with their care plan
- Market forces are pushing up unit costs at a time when pressure on local authority budgets has increased to an unsustainable level

All of these factors impact on a local authority's ability to ensure that there are sufficient placements in the local area, and that those placements can provide the necessary stability to support children and young people on their path in to adulthood.

3. Local Context

OUR AMBITIONS

As corporate parents, we have high aspirations and expectations that every looked after child and care leaver:

- is safe and feels safe
- experiences good physical, emotional and mental health & wellbeing
- fulfils their potential
- makes a positive contribution to their communities
- has a successful transition to adulthood
- achieves sustained and fulfilling employment & economic independence

A Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire

2018 - 2021

Meeting the needs of our looked after children is not something that can be achieved in isolation; in Nottinghamshire we are fully aware that there needs to be a whole system approach; working closely with our local area partners and providing timely and robust preventative services to children in need who are at risk of coming in to care or custody.

Nottinghamshire has one of the largest Children's Services departments in the country, serving upwards of 170,000 children and young people under the age of 19 across the County. The Department brings together a range of provision for children, young people and their families; delivering universal, targeted and specialist services to fulfil the statutory duties placed on the authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, as well as discharging the local authority's education functions

Figure 1: The Nottinghamshire Continuum of Children and Young People's Needs



NB. The Nottinghamshire Continuum illustrates the levels of need rather than numbers of children at each Level.

Nottinghamshire's 'Pathway to Provision' sets out guidance for practitioners in identifying a child, young person and/ or family's level of need, and referral pathways to the most appropriate service to provide support. When it is safe and, in the child's best interest to do so, we would look to implement our Early Help and Targeted Early Help Services to support the family and avoid the need for children and young people coming into care.

We know that for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs, especially those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), access to appropriate support in school is extremely important. Nottinghamshire's Integrated Children's Disability Service works closely with partners to ensure that families are supported in a timely way and that children and young people have access to appropriate education placements. By ensuring that there is a robust system of support in place we hope to avoid crisis situations where lack of a school place is the catalyst for children entering the care system.

In January 2018 the nine local authorities in the East Midlands jointly funded the appointment of a Regional Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Commissioning Project Manager. The Regional SEND Project ran for twelve months; the aim was to review the current commissioning arrangements of education placements for children and young people with SEND across the East Midlands and to explore how things could be improved both in terms of generating efficiencies and improving outcomes. One of the products of the SEND Project has been the development of the SEND Dashboard that will allow us to collate regional statistical level data and will provide business intelligence to support commissioning.

We also believe that it is important to enable children and young people with a disability to participate in positive activities which promote independence and to provide parents and carers a break from caring. Nottinghamshire has recently reviewed its short breaks service; our new Short Break offer was launched on 3 September 2018, it incorporates a number of innovations developed in partnership with parents, carers, children and young people designed to make the new offer more accessible, understandable and responsive.

These include:

- the ability to apply via an online application form, providing an instant indication of eligibility.
- clear and publicly available eligibility criteria, making decision making more transparent and understandable.
- the availability of a 'Standard Offer' which provides £216 per annum by a direct payment for activities, providing a more responsive way for parents/carers and young people to access the Council's Short Break funding.

For the children that do need to come into our care we strive to provide the best possible experience of childhood. It is our duty to do all we can to provide stability, security, love and affection, and nurturing support. These are the building blocks that will help to build their self-esteem, their confidence, and their aspirations not just for education or careers but their aspirations and expectations of relationships. Evidence shows that children and young people achieve better outcomes in a supportive family environment.

For those children not in our care but at risk of coming into local authority care we must strive to achieve the same result by supporting birth families or primary carers to improve home-life and relationships so that children can remain in a nurturing household.

4. Current Commissioning Arrangements for LAC in Nottinghamshire

The Children Act 2004 places a duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements to promote cooperation between agencies and other appropriate bodies. In Nottinghamshire we understand the importance of 'good' commissioning and are fully committed to jointly commissioning with our relevant partners.

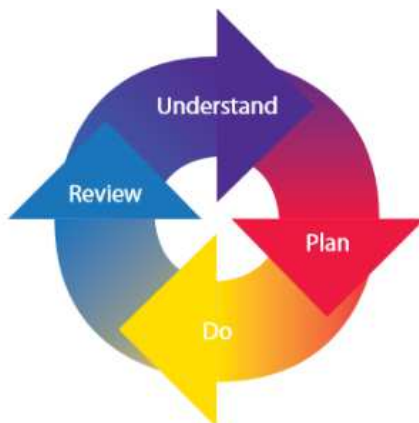


Figure 2: The Commissioning Cycle

Nottinghamshire has a history of working collaboratively with our regional local authority neighbours and will continue to do so. We recognise that regional and sub-regional strategic commissioning is necessary to meet the requirements of the sufficiency duty; more importantly we actively pursue collaboration to ensure that we have provision to meet the needs of all our children and young people including those that require low incident but very specialist provision.

The Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub (ICH) works to align and pool commissioning resources on behalf of Clinical Commissioning Groups, Public Health and NHS England. ICH was established to ensure effective commissioning across organisations and works closely with the local authority to support improved physical, mental and emotional health outcomes for children and young people.

Our Remodelling Children's Care programme seeks to deliver consistent and improved care outcomes for children and young people whilst reducing the overall cost. By utilising demand forecasting, strengthening our knowledge of the market and undertaking reviews of our provision, the programme aims to coproduce solutions with service users and directly impacts the way that services are designed, commissioned and delivered in the future. This includes the integration of county-wide commissioning functions within children's services, through

the establishment of the Integrated Placements and Commissioning Service, in order to apply a consistent commissioning strategy, benefit from economies of scale and work effectively with providers

The authority also has a Remodelling Social Work Practice programme which amongst other issues is reviewing recruitment and retention initiatives to ensure that there are enough experienced social workers to provide consistency and stability for children and young people.

Current Provision

Nottinghamshire has a mixed market for the provision of placements for our looked after children and young people, the range of services include;

Fostering

Nottinghamshire has an internal fostering service which recruits, supports and supervises its foster carers. The service includes an 11yrs+ provision, a 'Home from Home' short breaks service and a specialist 'Contract Carers' service with salaried carers providing short breaks for children with complex health needs. There are currently 194 fostering households offering 363 places.

The authority is also part of the East Midlands Regional Children's Framework (EMRCF), a consortium of seven local authorities, for the placement of children and young people in independent residential children's homes and independent fostering agencies. The EMRCF provides an approved list of 50 fostering agencies from which the authority can call off individual placements.

Most of our LAC are placed with foster families; 40% of the total LAC are placed with internal carers with 30% placed with independent fostering agencies. The actual number of LAC fluctuates daily, of those children and young people placed with foster carers in the independent sector the majority were called off the EMRCF; only 4 placements were spot purchased, 3 of these were with a provider specialising in therapeutic care and 1 was placed within another local authority's internal provision. This however does not tell the whole story for the securing of foster placements, for some children and young people where the care plan is for a fostering placement if a suitable carer cannot be found a residential placement may become a last resort. It is estimated that as many as 25% of the children in residential care have a care plan that supports foster care either as the preferred placement option or as plan to achieve a fostering placement within a specified timeframe.

Residential Children's Homes

Nottinghamshire has three local authority mainstream children's homes offering up to 11 placements, however the occupancy in one of the 4-bed homes has over the years been capped at 3 in order that the experienced staff team can support some of our most complex young people. This willingness to be flexible and creative in the use of our provision has delivered improved outcomes and provided stability for individual young people.

The authority has block contracts with two independent providers, this has fostered closer working relationships, delivered cost efficiencies and provided stability for young people. Currently over 30 placements are secured via the block contracts, there are plans to increase the supply by a further 8 – 10 beds during 2019 which will include solo or small occupancy homes in the north of the county to provide specialist care for some of our most vulnerable young people.

As for fostering, children's home placements in the independent sector are called off the EMRCF, the number of placements that are spot purchased however is much higher. In 2019 at the end of February over 25% of the 'live' cases (outside of the block contract) had been spot purchased from providers who are not part of EMRCF, this is reflective of the national picture with increasingly complex cases competing for placements in a market that is already saturated. Our placements team are finding it increasingly difficult to secure appropriate residential placements from the EMRCF, even where we might commission a 'framework provider' placements are not always offered at the framework price. According to the EMRCF End of Year Report 2017/18, 40% of Nottinghamshire's residential placements procured via EMRCF were 'non-framework'.

Residential Children's Homes for Children with Disabilities

The authority has three residential homes for children with disabilities that provide a mix of short breaks and fulltime residential provision, this is used flexibly to support children and families who may be in crisis. For example, our 8 bed short breaks home holds one bed for emergencies and the registered manager will apply for a variation notice from Ofsted if a child needs to stay for an extended period. Our home for children with physical disabilities and complex health needs works under capacity to allow for flexibility between short breaks and residential provision and in special circumstances or emergencies will provide for children and young people outside of the designated age range.

Placements in the independent sector are called off the EMRCF which has categories for children with disabilities and complex health needs. We also have the Nottinghamshire Approved Provider List which is for education placements including residential independent

special schools. Where these schools have dual registration (including as a children's home) they can provide full-time care for looked after children.

Secure Residential Provision

Managed by Nottinghamshire County Council, Clayfields House Secure Centre is a secure children's home. There is a total of 20 places available 12 of which are contracted to the Ministry of Justice and monitored through the Youth Custody Service, the remaining 8 are welfare beds, which are purchased by local authorities across England and Wales.

The Centre employs in the region of 140 employees and there is a full education provision on site, which includes vocational provisions and the centre is supported by NHS England contracted Health Team on site. Nottinghamshire used the provision for 5 young people over the last 12 months meaning some of our most vulnerable young people were able to be supported close to home.

16+ Supported Accommodation Provision

Nottinghamshire's 16+supported accommodation contracts commenced in August 2015, the contract is for a period of 5 years with the option to extend for 1 plus 1 years. The service supports young people aged 16-21, and is available to homeless young people, LAC transitioning from Care placements and Care Leavers. In total there are 231 units of core/cluster accommodation and an additional 7 units of emergency accommodation.

In addition to the contracts listed above, a High Needs Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) was established in May 2018, a placement is sourced from the DPS where the young person's needs can't be met within the main provision due to either a lack of capacity (emergency beds) or the risks posed can't be managed in the existing core settings.

Current Profile of our Looked After Children

Whilst the range of provision for our looked after children is broad and diverse we know that currently it does not fully meet the needs of all our LAC population and that we need to grow provision to meet future need and to achieve our ambition to secure the right place, first time every time.

Appendix A provides the Current Profile of our Looked After Children

5. Our Commissioning Intentions for LAC in Nottinghamshire

The purpose of this Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy is to support our ambition in providing enough local placements so that all our looked after children can live with carers in homes that support them to have strong roots of stability, receive encouragement to achieve and form positive relationships and healing from past harm.

We intend to communicate our intentions and to work with our partners to ensure we can provide the right provision, in the right place, at the right time. We have in partnership with our closest local authority neighbours published a joint D2N2 Market Position Statement (**Appendix B**) and are actively seeking market engagement to inform our commissioning plans. We will work closely with our Children in Care Council and whenever it is appropriate we will involve our children and young people in these developments.

Nottinghamshire County Council has recently met to agree 2019/20 budgets and has committed to invest a further £9m in Children and Young Peoples Services, this represents an 8% increase in the budget to £126.5m. An additional £28m of funding has been agreed for capital projects.

There are currently several initiatives in progress where the local authority is working with partners across the region to develop provision that will offer stability and security for our looked after children. The table in **Appendix C** sets out the authority's response to developing a best practice approach to securing sufficiency for our looked after children and young people, further details regarding our commissioning intentions are listed below;

Regional Adoption Agency

Nottinghamshire will host the Adoption East Midlands (AEM) regional adoption agency for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire from April 2019,

The regional adoption agency expects to recruit adopters for circa 200 children a year and will offer support to those adoptive families as they need it.

The regional adoption agency does not expect to be able to place all the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire children with their own adopters, sometimes the needs of the children mean we look to other agencies to provide families. We will work with our AEM local authority partners, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Leicester and Leicestershire and with our partners in the voluntary sector, Adopt Together and Coram to work together to place children. We will also work with our regional partners to recruit adoptive families.

All Children who may have an adoption plan are tracked from the earliest stages and home finding begins as soon as legally possible, it is aimed to identify a match within 121 days, of placement order.

DN2

Derby City Council, Nottingham City Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council, collectively referred to as DN2 are seeking to jointly commission evidence-informed services that support children and young people in local authority care, and on the edge of care, to achieve better social outcomes. DN2 will deliver this via a Social Impact Bond (SIB). The DN2 SIB will provide intensive support to a cohort of children and young people who have challenged services and who are at risk of entering care and those already looked after that are at risk of escalating to high cost placements, but which are unlikely to deliver positive outcomes.

There is also a cohort of young people who are accommodated in residential care simply because a suitable fostering placement could not be found, we want to enable these young people to have a supported transition into foster care, and where it is appropriate we want to support young people to return home to live with their primary carers.

The numbers of young people Nottinghamshire County Council anticipate working with over the 4yr period of referrals into programme are;

- Cohort A – Residential De-escalation – 8 to 12 per annum
- Cohort B – Placement Stabilisation – 8 to 12 per annum
- Cohort C – Re-unification – 8 to 10 per annum
- Cohort D – Edge of Care – 2 to 6 per annum

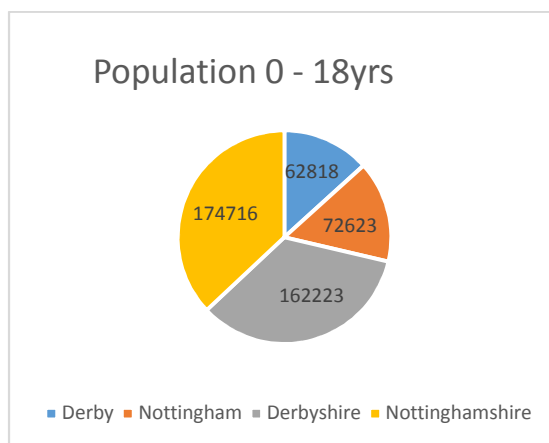
Through this SIB, DN2 aims to support children and young people to achieve stable family type placements (e.g. stepping down from residential care with new types of support) and to remain at home with their families or primary carers where safe to do so.

As well as better social outcomes, DN2 expects cashable efficiency savings will be delivered over the lifetime of the SIB.

D2N2

Derby City, Derbyshire County, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils (D2N2) is one of the largest Local Enterprise Partnerships in England covering an area of 4900km², there is a total population of just under 2.2million.

0 -18yr olds make up 22% of the total population with 19 -25yrs accounting for a further 9%. The chart shows how the 0-18yrs population is distributed across D2N2. This population is expected to increase by a further 7% by 2026



D2N2 are currently developing a sub-regional partnership for the commissioning of LAC placements to replace the East Midlands Regional Children’s Framework (EMRCF) which expires in January 2020. The new arrangements will be a collaborative approach, meeting the needs of all stakeholders including children and young people, providers and placing local authorities.

D2N2 priorities include:

- Local Provision for Local Children
- Establish D2N2 sub-regional commissioning arrangements
- Greater sharing of Council operated provision across D2N2
- Develop relationships with local providers to shape the market locally
- Greater flexibility of provision and commissioning via alternative contract models
- Right placement; right location; right time; right price

Phased extension of Block Contract for Residential Children’s Homes

Phase A: Open 2 dual bed homes and a further 4 bed home in Newark. These homes will be exclusively for Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

Phase B: Develop a satellite site to an existing home, to be registered as a dual home but able to be used as a solo home. All beds are for NCC exclusive use on the new block contract rate (7 beds in total).

Phase C: Develop a second satellite site to an existing home, to be registered as a dual home but able to be used as a solo home. Currently, not all the beds are used for NCC young people, to be agreed as to when these homes become blocked for NCC’s exclusive use (7 beds in total).

Phase D: After completing of Phases A-C have a standstill period before agreeing on any future developments linked to D2N2 initiatives.

Develop Core+ Supported Accommodation Provision

Develop and commission a model of highly supportive accommodation settings for young people leaving residential settings. Providing an enhanced model of support for those young people who find transition from care settings into semi-independent accommodation most challenging and complementing our Transitional Personal Advisor Project which has been able to improve outcomes for young people who are leaving care including increasing reunification with birth family and supporting young people 16yrs and 17yrs at an earlier stage into their transition into adulthood and independent living. It is anticipated that this new Core+ service will commence in Autumn 2019.

Development of Internal Fostering and Residential Services

We are seeking to consolidate our excellent in-house fostering and residential services so that we can maintain an appropriate mix of internal and external fostering and residential placements.

NCC Fostering Service

Proposal is to achieve a net increase of 50 foster carers over the next three years (2019-2021) with whom children and young people can be placed ensuring that they benefit from a local family environment.

By growing the fostering service and putting it at the core of LAC placement provision:

- more looked after children in Nottinghamshire will have an opportunity to be placed in a loving family environment
- the Council will develop a reputation as an exemplar of fostering provision, offering an attractive package of fees and support which will compete favourably with the support offered by IFAs and reduce the risk of the Council's carers leaving
- demand will be reduced for more costly placement types, and this will ease pressure on declining budgets.

NCC Residential Service

Nottinghamshire County Council are exploring a proposal to extend internal children's home capacity by 4 beds during 2020/21.

Children's Disability Residential Homes

The pattern of need for overnight short breaks has changed in Nottinghamshire with the availability of more community provision. There is a proposal to make the specialist provision in our three Children's Disability Residential Homes available to other local authorities and for private purchase, for example where children have received significant compensation due to medical negligence. This could result in a substantial income for the local authority whilst providing much needed low incident but highly specialist care for children and young people with complex disabilities, in Nottinghamshire and across the wider region.

Clayfields Secure Children's Home

Renegotiation of the contract between the Ministry of Justice and Clayfields House and an increase in the price that local authorities pay for welfare beds has provided funding for service development and reduced the local authority's subsidy of Clayfields House to zero. This reconfiguration has meant an increase in the number of welfare beds that are available from 4 beds to the current 8 beds.

6. Concluding Remarks and Reviewing of this Strategy

This strategy sets out our commissioning intentions to ensure we have sufficient placements to meet the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire. As we have cited throughout this document strategic commissioning for LAC is about more than ensuring there are enough placements for children at the point they become looked after.

Our strategy supports preventive interventions and our priorities include:

- adopting a whole system approach to designing universal, targeted and specialist services to improve outcomes for looked after children and children in need at risk of care or custody;
- quality of individual needs assessments and care plans;
- strategic needs assessment and demand analysis;
- market management;
- regional and sub-regional collaboration;
- procurement including purchasing and contract management;
- involvement of children in placement decisions.

Children's services operate within a rapidly changing landscape, both nationally and locally here in Nottinghamshire. The demand on our services continues to grow, owing to rising populations, increasingly complex needs and greater aspirations. This is against the backdrop of increasing financial constraints, as we strive to deliver high quality services with reducing resources. As such this strategy will need to be a fluid document that is continually reviewed to keep abreast of legislative and demographic changes.

The strategy will be owned by Children and Family Services, Commissioning and Placements Group and will be refreshed at least annually.

REFERENCES

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OCC (2018) Stability Index 2018; Overview and findings; June 2018 Children's Commissioner

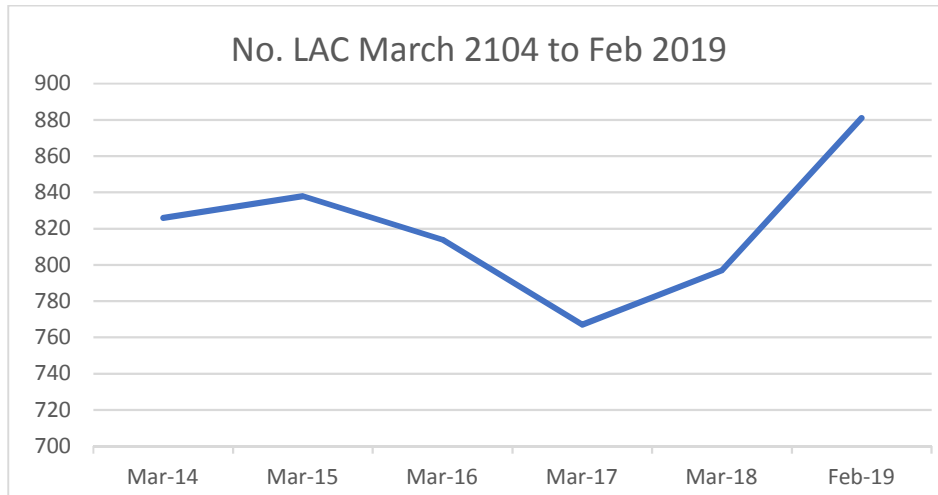
Available online at

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/stability-index-2018/>

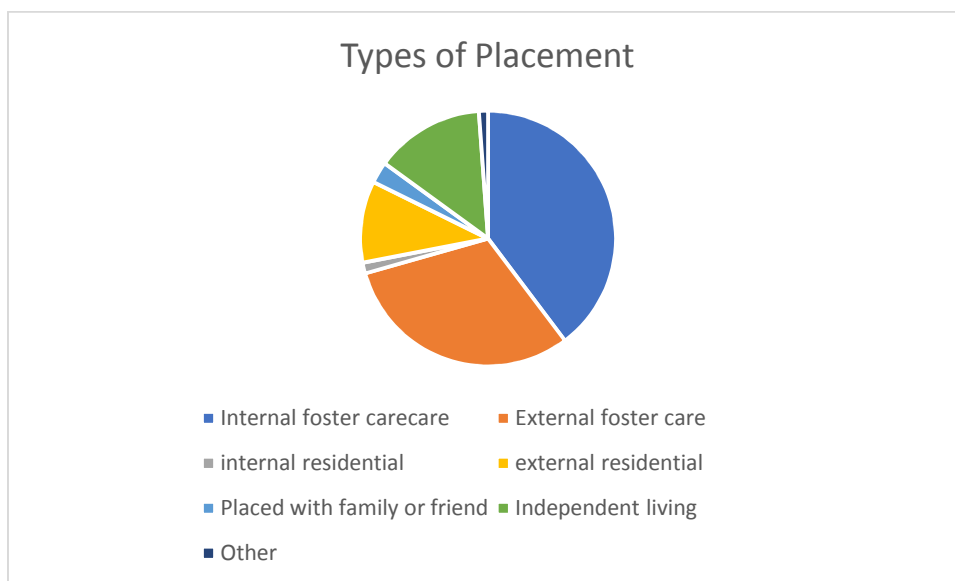
APPENDICES

Appendix A: Current Profile of our Looked After Children

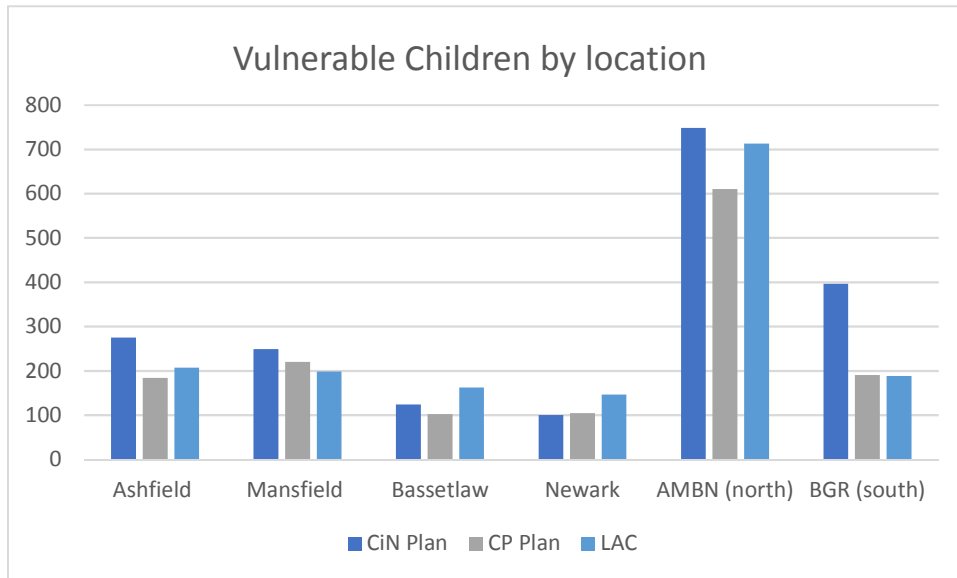
Following a period of steady decline, the number of LAC has risen sharply in recent months.



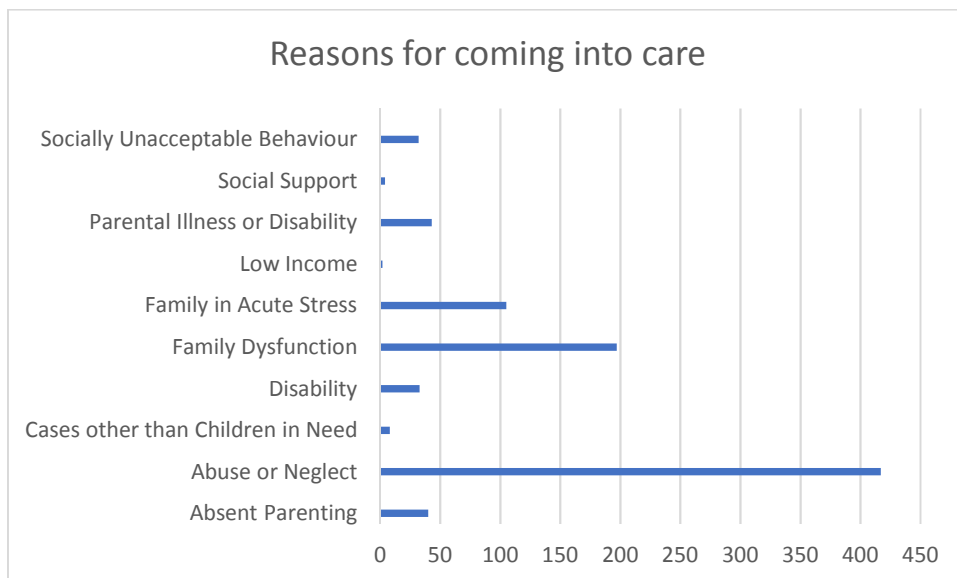
In February 2019 there were 881 children and young people looked after by the authority, accommodated in a range of placement types.



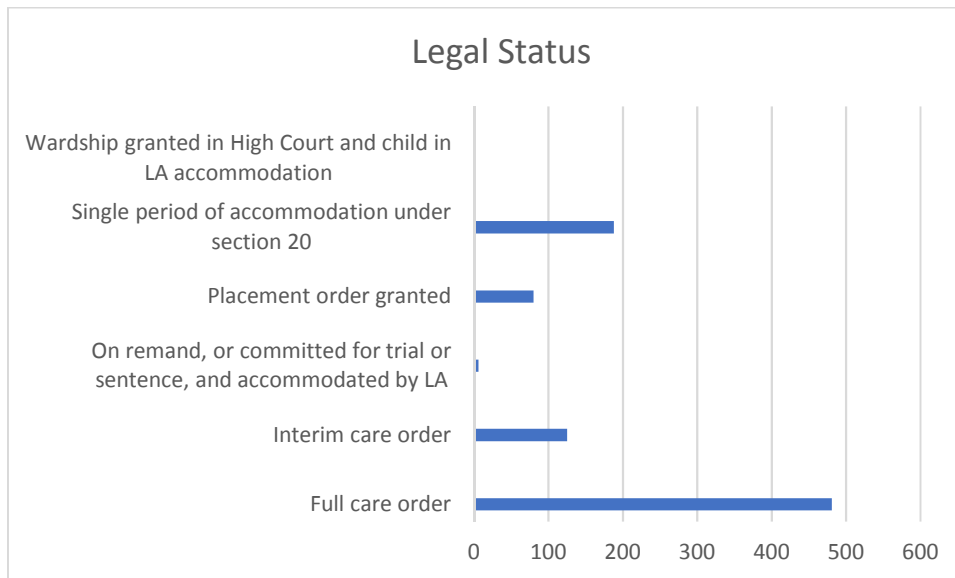
The majority of our children in need, children in need of protection and our looked after children (LAC) are in the north of the county.



For the cohort that were looked after at February 2019 the following reasons are cited for their care episode.

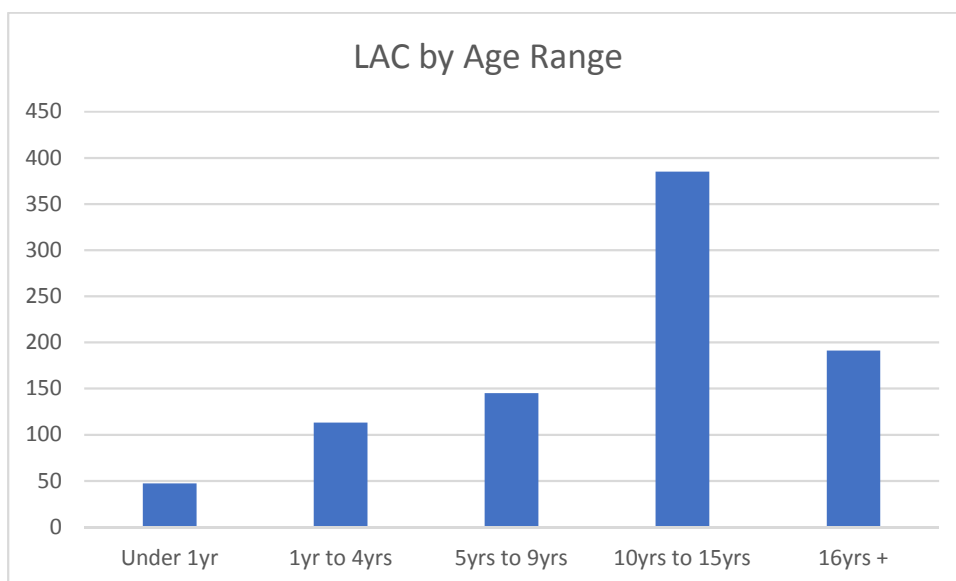


Almost 80% of LAC are accommodated under some form of legal order this is higher than the national average; 188 children and young people are placed voluntarily with parental consent under section 20.



There are more boys (57%) than girls (43%) in care.

The largest age group (44%) are aged 10 to 15yrs; 22% are aged 16yrs and over, 16% are aged 5 to 9yrs, 13% are aged 1 to 4yrs and 5% are aged under 1 year.



Most of our LAC population are white (87%) reflecting the wider children's population in the county, 8% have mixed ethnicity, 1% are Asian, 1% are black and 3% are described as other ethnic groups.

126 (14%) of our LAC have an identified special educational need.

66 (7%) have a disability.

Appendix B: D2N2 Market Position Statement



2019.06.12 D2N2
MARKET POSITION S

Appendix C: Nottinghamshire’s response to developing a best practice approach to securing sufficiency for LAC

<p>The following table outlines DfE Statutory Guidance on what ‘sufficiency’ looks like alongside the authority’s approach to meeting sufficiency in Nottinghamshire.</p>	
<p>DfE example of best practice in securing sufficiency would be that:</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire’s response to developing a best practice approach:</p>
<p>all children are placed in appropriate placements with access to the support services they require in their local authority area, except where this is not consistent with their welfare;</p>	<p>Initiatives are underway based on the D2N2 footprint and include collaborative commissioning of care and education provision and the delivery of a “care de-escalation” programme funded through a Social Impact Bond.</p> <p>Commitment to increase the number of local children’s home placements through extending the block contract arrangements.</p> <p>Local secure welfare provision and the willingness to use internal provision flexibly enables some of our most complex and vulnerable young people to be placed close to home.</p> <p>Plans to increase NCC internal fostering and children’s home capacity.</p> <p>Experienced and knowledgeable LAC placements team ensures access to most appropriate placement available.</p>
<p>the full range of universal, targeted and specialist services work together to meet children’s needs in an integrated way in the local area, including children who are already looked after, as well as those at risk of care or custody;</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire Children and Families Alliance (CAFA) is a partnership of organisations that provide services to children, young people and families in Nottinghamshire. CAFA focuses on developing thinking on how outcomes for children can be improved through the representation of a number of key stakeholders; this includes Nottinghamshire</p>

	<p>Police, district and borough councils, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), education trust boards and the NSP. The Children and Families Alliance makes recommendations to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board and monitors progress on their behalf.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire's 'Pathway to Provision' sets out guidance for practitioners in identifying a child, young person and/ or family's level of need, and referral pathways to the most appropriate service to provide support.</p> <p>Integrated Children's Disability Service (ICDS) works closely with partners to ensure that families are supported in a timely way and that children and young people have access to appropriate education placements. Nottinghamshire's Support to Schools and Virtual School Service ensure that wherever possible a child's education provision is maintained locally.</p> <p>The Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub (ICH) was established to ensure effective commissioning across organisations and works closely with the local authority to support improved physical, mental and emotional health outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>Established partnership joint commissioning arrangements ensures Looked After Children and Care Leavers will be supported through improved placement provision, health services and learning opportunities. Children and young people at risk of 'emerging threats' will be appropriately identified, supported and protected</p>
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<p>where is it is not reasonably practicable for a child to be placed within his/her local authority area, there are mechanisms in place to widen the range of provision in neighbouring areas, the sub-region or region which is still within an accessible distance (i.e. based on transport links and community boundaries), while still being able to provide the full range of services required to meet identified needs;</p>	<p>Deliver a new sub-regional arrangement for procuring residential and foster care placements by January 2020</p> <p>Where necessary and in the child's best interest placements at a distance will be supported by robust monitoring and contract management process that ensures individual outcomes are tracked and constantly reviewed.</p>
<p>all children with adoption recommendations are placed with an adoptive family within 12 months of that recommendation;</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire has been working with agencies across the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire) region, with the intention that adoption services across the region will be managed through the D2N2 Regional Adoption Agency by 2020.</p>
<p>Children's Trust partners, including housing, work together to secure a range of provision to meet the needs of those who become looked after at the age of 16 and 17, and support the continuity of accommodation beyond the age of 18;</p>	<p>Good partnership approach to problem resolution has improved access to services and provided a clear pathway from core to cluster to independence with parity of service provision across the county.</p> <p>16+supported accommodation service supports young people aged 16-21, and is available to homeless young people, LAC transitioning from Care placements and Care Leavers.</p> <p>In addition to the above a High Needs Service supports where the young person's needs can't be met within the main provision or the risks posed can't be managed in the existing core settings.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire's Local Offer for Care Leavers provides guidance on the support that is available to care leavers in the county.</p>

	<p>Transitional Personal Advisor Project has been able to improve outcomes for young people who are leaving care including increasing reunification with birth family and supporting young people 16yrs and 17yrs at an earlier stage into their transition into adulthood and independent living</p>
<p>services are available in adequate quantity to respond to children, including predicted demand for a range of needs, and emergencies;</p>	<p>Utilisation of 'Child in Need' and 'Child in Need of Protection' data alongside the evolving forecasting tools will provide accurate assessment of predicted demand.</p> <p>Termly reporting into the SEND Dashboard will provide timeseries data on the needs of children and young people with an EHCP.</p> <p>D2N2 sub-regional commissioning and planned developments in NCC internal provision will support the range of needs and emergencies.</p>
<p>in addition to meeting relevant national minimum standards, services are of high enough quality to secure the specific outcomes identified in the care plans of looked after children;</p>	<p>Outcomes star monitoring will be rolled out across the Commissioning and Placements Group, and approaches to monitoring outcomes will be explored and standardised wherever possible throughout Children's commissioned services.</p> <p>Developments in the newly established Integrated Commissioning and Contracts Team will provide a more robust and consistent contract management function.</p>
<p>services are situated across the local authority area to reflect geographical distribution of need;</p>	<p>Commissioning is informed by accurate analysis of local data.</p> <p>Developments are targeted in the north of the county which we know has the greatest need.</p>

	D2N2 developments will broaden access to provision in neighbouring authorities which in some cases can be closer to the YP's home district.
all placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children;	<p>The Health & Wellbeing Board, through the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, identifies the priority areas for children and young people's health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The local Sustainability and Transformation Plan looks at how local organisations work together to improve care, health and wellbeing, including the integration of care services for young people transitioning between Children's and Adults Social Care.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire's Local Offer Website provides information and signposting across a range of services.</p> <p>Regular provider engagement activity in support of commissioning objectives includes published Market Position Statement and Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy.</p>
universal services know when a child is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support him/her, including placement providers;	Multi agency working is promoted and supported via the LAC review process. Independent reviewing officers ensure that a holistic approach to a child's care plan is supported by all relevant partners.
there are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area	<p>Nottinghamshire's 'Pathway to Provision' sets out guidance for practitioners.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire's Local offer website provides information and signposting to a range of services.</p> <p>A dedicated LAC placements team supports placement finding and offers advice and support to professionals. When necessary cases are assigned to the Placement Review</p>

	<p>Officer to identify specialist or bespoke provision for 'hard to place' children.</p> <p>Integration of county-wide commissioning functions within children's services will support implementation of a consistent commissioning strategy.</p>
<p>the local authority and its Children Trust partners collaborate with neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for services for looked after children and commission in regional or sub-regional arrangements.</p>	<p>There is a well-established Regional Director of Children's Services Group that meets regularly.</p> <p>The local authority is working with all the upper tier councils across the East Midlands as part of a Regional Improvement Alliance to provide mutual challenge and raise standards.</p> <p>There is a Regional Placements Commissioning Board which meets regularly at both operational and strategic level.</p> <p>Termly reporting in to SEND Dashboard.</p> <p>D2N2 Market Position Statement is published and regularly updated.</p>