

30th November 2020

Agenda Item: 4

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS**

**PROGRESS OF THE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS (2018 – 2021)**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Committee with an update on the 'Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2018-2021)' in Nottinghamshire during the second year of its implementation (2019-2020). This report supports Members to fulfil their duties as corporate parents and to monitor this Partnership Strategy to ensure Members continue to provide sufficient vision and ambition to allow every looked after child and care leaver ("our children") to thrive and to reach their potential socially, emotionally and in relation to their educational progress and attainment.
2. In addition, this report provides Committee with an update on progress within the Leaving Care Service since Ofsted's inspection of Nottinghamshire's Children's Services in October 2019.
3. This report also seeks to provide Committee with an update on progress in relation to the Local Offer for Care Leavers and the impact to date on improving the wellbeing and wider outcomes for care leavers. Committee approved Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Offer in February 2019.

Information

4. The DfE Publication 'Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers' (February 2018) states that "Local Authorities have a unique responsibility to the children they look after and their care leavers". This statutory advice also states that local authorities that have a strong corporate parenting culture, recognise that the "care system is not just about keeping children safe, but also to promote recovery, resilience and well-being". Members are reminded that the Council continues to make a pledge to all children and young people who come into care and can be accessed at:
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2408/safeguardingreportapp6.pdf>
5. The Council's Partnership Strategy (2018-2021) reflects the seven corporate parenting principles that must inform all actions undertaken by Members as they fulfil their duties as 'corporate parents':

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people to gain access to and make the best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

6. A full inspection of Nottinghamshire’s Children’s Services was undertaken by Ofsted in October 2019. The judgement was as follows:

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Requires Improvement
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

7. It is of note that the area judged to Require Improvement in both the 2015 inspection as well as the focussed Ofsted visit in January 2018, is now judged to be Good and reflects the priority and focus on improving provision and outcomes for children in care and care leavers. The Local Offer has made a significant contribution to improving the experience and outcomes for our children and young people (care leavers) thus improving their life chances into adulthood.
8. The Looked After Children and Leaving Care Partnership Strategy 2018-2021 continues to be a key driver which identifies partnership priorities and actions.
9. This is the second report to Members presenting an update from the Partnership Board in relation to the Strategy’s ambitions. Whilst all partners have endeavoured to continue to deliver the Strategy’s priorities throughout the current pandemic crisis, it is nonetheless the case that progress in relation to ambitions have been compromised and delayed. No scheduled Partnership Board meeting was cancelled during 2019-2020 as a result of the crisis and the most recent Partnership meetings have met virtually with generally good attendance by partners.
10. The remainder of the report will provide an update on the progress made in relation to the Strategy’s ambitions and the September 2019 to August 2020 partnership revised action plan. In addition, the report provides Members with an update on the effectiveness of the Local Offer for Care Leavers. It should be noted that Looked After Children and Care Leavers will be referred throughout as ‘our children and young people’.
11. The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board continues to be chaired by the Service Director for Education, Learning and Skills. This Board is also attended by the

Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, Councillor Tracey Taylor. This Board has met bi-monthly since January 2018 and is well attended by both internal services and external partners which, in addition to internal education and social care colleagues, also includes District Council representation, public health, health commissioners, higher education and Futures. A key objective for the Board during 2019-2020 was to secure appropriate membership from the Police and this was achieved during the last Board meeting of the academic year (29th July 2020). The Terms of Reference which includes membership of the Board is available as a background paper. This was reviewed and updated at the first Board meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year on 17th September 2020.

12. Since 2014, local authorities have had a duty (Children Act 2004 section 10) to promote cooperation between relevant partners with a view to improving the wellbeing of all children and young people in their area. At its meeting on 4th March 2020, the Board agreed a two-year delivery plan as a key tool to ensure a shared understanding of this duty with relevant partners in relation to our children and young people. Section 10 defines relevant partners as including: the district council; the local policing body and the chief officer of police; probation board; any provider of probation services; youth offending team; NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups; and the governing bodies of publicly funded schools. This report highlights some of the key achievements to date, driven by the Partnership, to improve the experiences and life chances of our children through the 2019-2021 delivery plan, which is available as a background paper.
13. The Strategy has been driven by a partnership delivery plan which has been 'owned' by strategic partners. This delivery plan is structured around the six Ambitions with the Local Offer for Care Leavers incorporated into the sixth Ambition:

Ambition 1: Looked After Children and Care Leavers are safe and feel safe
Ambition 2: Looked After Children and Care Leavers experience good physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
Ambition 3: Looked After Children and Care Leavers fulfil their potential
Ambition 4: Looked After Children and Care Leavers achieve sustained and fulfilling employment and economic independence
Ambition 5: Looked After Children and Care Leavers make a positive contribution
Ambition 6: Looked After Children and Care leavers have a positive transition to adulthood.
14. This 2019-2021 delivery plan was revised to focus on key partnership objectives/actions as follows:
 - i. To develop, commission and launch a new supported accommodation offer for Looked After Children with complex needs and 18 - 20 year-old care leavers, to be achieved by July 2022 (Ambition 1)
 - ii. To deliver training to teachers (wider than designated teachers) and initiatives in school to improve our children's experience in school and of education by July 2020 (Ambitions 1, 2 & 3)
 - iii. To champion and represent the needs of our children, influencing strategic development and commissioning decision, as well as project implementation decision, to ensure relevant, effective and targeted provision for Looked After

Children and care leavers via the Nottinghamshire's Service Improvement Forum (SIF) for Children in Care (Ambition 2)

- iv. To support and challenge health, education and youth service partners and professionals to ensure there is a range of evidence-based non-clinical early intervention emotional health and wellbeing 'projects' specifically targeted at our children, that complement Mental Health Teams in schools and to ensure that all partners know about these 'projects' and understand how to support our children to access them (Ambition 2)
 - v. To support and challenge health partners to ensure that there is a clear health pathway for our children who are 18 - 24 years in relation to access to specialist mental health services, in line with physical services (Ambition 2)
 - vi. To develop partners' understanding of effective pathway planning for our children and of how they can contribute to the pathway planning process, as well as individual plans. This is to contribute to ensuring that Pathway Plans are effective in supporting our children's successful transition to adulthood (Ambitions 3 & 5)
 - vii. To provide support and challenge to all partners to work individually and collaboratively, to ensure all our children are in education, employment and/or training at 16, 18 and 21 years (Ambitions 2, 3, 5 & 6)
 - viii. To contribute to promote partner engagement in our local offer for our children and young people aged 18 - 24 years to ensure the local offer remains dynamic and relevant to the changing needs of this cohort (all ambitions).
15. It should be noted that several key actions in the 2019-2021 development plan have been impacted as a direct result of Covid-19. For example, the whole day event jointly funded by Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the County Council for teachers and social work practitioners planned for April 2020 has been postponed. NTU's Institute of Education is working to move the conference online; progress is still ongoing and will be reviewed at regular intervals.
16. A particular ongoing challenge for the Partnership Board has been to develop a relevant set of impact indicators and this remains an ongoing task. Members already receive quarterly performance reports which include relevant education and social care data. It was agreed by the Board that there would not be a replication of existing statutory data being presented to the Board. The Board remains focussed on improving strengthening transitions, particularly to adulthood and ensuring that the Board remains focused on securing strong transition to adulthood with improved training, education and employment opportunities, a secure housing offer and improved mental health and wellbeing as key partnership outcomes. In relation to statutory data, the last performance report which summarised the most recent education performance data for looked after children is available as a **background paper**.
17. Impact reports and/or relevant case studies for 2019-2020 have been received from:
- a) Nottinghamshire Children's Social Care and Commissioning and Resources (Looked After Children Service, Leaving Care Service, Independent Chair Service, Commissioning and Placements)
 - b) Nottinghamshire education (Virtual School, Psychology Services, West Notts College)
 - c) Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub

- d) Health care commissioners and providers including Nottinghamshire CCGs (Mid and Greater Nottinghamshire & Bassetlaw)
 - e) Supported Accommodation Provider (NCHA).
18. The Children in Care Council (CiCC) has continued to shape and inform the ongoing development of this Strategy. Throughout 2020-2021, the Youth Service will lead a comprehensive review of the current Strategy with our children through the Children in Care Council (CiCC) with a view of co-producing the priorities for any new Strategy from 2021. The Board will be advised by the CiCC as the academic year progresses and will ensure that any revised Strategy from Autumn 2021 is informed by the views and ambitions of our children. This is a significant piece of work being led by the CiCC and the Youth Service and will ensure that all partners are able to hear the wishes and feelings of our children and young people when ratifying and finalising the revised Strategy from Autumn 2021.

Ambition 1: Looked After Children and Care Leavers are safe and feel safe

19. The impact reports from partners have supported the Board to secure some assurances that the ambitions are continuing to drive improved experiences for our children and young people. Ambition 1 underpins the whole Strategy as children and young people who are safe and feel safe are clearly equipped to maximise opportunities and experiences provided by services and stakeholders. Several of the impact reports from partners, as was the case in last year's report, have continued to highlight successful resilience projects which have met short term needs as well as contributing positively to preparation for adulthood.
20. The Virtual School has continued to work closely with educational psychologists to ensure that designated teachers (DTs) in schools have had access to appropriate training to support our children in feeling safe and ready to learn throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. This training is now part of a DT Curriculum offer which covers all aspects of understanding the needs of those who have had experience of the care sector. This training continued to be delivered despite the pandemic with extra supportive sessions for all schools to access with DTs receiving email reminders to access the bespoke and broad virtual training offer during Covid-19. The course on loss and bereavement was delivered five times virtually, mainly to school-based staff but open to other relevant professionals. These were extremely well attended with over 100 participants on each and with one session attended by 175 teachers and relevant practitioners.
21. 'New to role' or 'refresher' training continued to be offered to all DTs on a termly basis and during the academic year 2019/2020 over 69 DTs received this training. The Attachment Aware Schools (AAS) project, now renamed to 'Relational Schools: Becoming Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed', is a positive intervention when meeting the needs of vulnerable children; there were 45 schools who had either undertaken or about to start the programme during last academic year.
22. The Independent Chair Service (ICS) provides independent reviewing of Looked After Children Care Plans. The primary task of the Independent Review Officer (IRO) is to ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflects the child's current needs and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with the local authority's legal responsibilities towards the child. There are two clear and separate aspects to the function of the IRO:
- chairing the child's review; and

- monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis.

In exercising both parts of this role, the IRO ensures that the child's current wishes and feelings have been established and considered, where appropriate.

23. During 2020, the ICS has initiated a review of Looked After Child reviews to ensure they are child-focused and strengths-based. As a result, there will be a greater focus on supporting children to take part in and attend their reviews, and on review meetings being a place where decisions can be made to ensure that the child's plan is about what needs to be in place to support them to be safe and reach their full potential. Processes are being put in place to ensure our children are able to influence these changes.
24. To date, the Service has re-written its vision and principles in-line with that of the department. They have begun to review documents used in Looked After Reviews, for example, writing minutes for the child, and ensuring reports from partners are written in the same way.
25. Positive experiences and learning from the increased levels of remote contact between IROs and children and young people using technology during Covid-19 has helped to inform how review meetings will run in the future. For example, initial reviews will be face to face for the social worker, child and IRO, with other agencies attending remotely; consideration will be given to the use of technology to support children attending subsequent reviews. The IRO is now expected to make contact with the children's service team manager and social worker at least once between reviews to ensure the plans are on track; and more frequent contact by the IRO with the child and carers between reviews, and with birth parents where appropriate.
26. Work is underway to improve the IRO's 'critical friend' role to social care teams, developing a more structured and strengths-based approach to the IRO as independent scrutineer with individual teams to improve practice and outcomes for children and young people. This also includes working closely with the Virtual School to develop continuous quality assurance of Personal Education Plans.

Ambition 2: Looked After Children and Care Leavers experience good physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing

27. The impact report from the Public Health Commissioning Manager in 2019 reported on how Ambition 2 has driven the 'Integrated Personal Commissioning Pilot ('You Know Your Mind' (YKYM) Project) for our children and young people aged 0-25 years with mental health needs to find alternative and timely support arrangements for their mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. This project has continued into 2020 - 2021 and is a way of exploring person centred alternatives to traditional mental health interventions.
28. Between April and July 2020, 83 of our children and young people in Nottinghamshire have received a personal health budget and personalised support plan in order to support their mental and emotional health needs through the 'You Know Your Mind' Project. The support arrangements through this project have been driven by the children and young people. Some examples of the self-directed support include: gym memberships, bicycles, music lessons, photography equipment, hoverboard and safety equipment, Lego, genealogy

subscription, personal sensory equipment, trampoline, football coaching, singing lessons, kickboxing membership and specialist disabled-friendly bicycle.

29. Previously, reviews of the YKYM funding were led by a specialist youth work apprentice. However, the apprenticeship has now ceased and so feedback from young people is being gathered directly from Social Workers and Personal Advisors. Of the 83 children and young people who have participated in YKYM between April and July 2020, feedback from young people has been positive with the following being identified by young people who accessed the YKYM funds:
- a) one female 21Plus care leaver is diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and as such isolates herself from others. She experiences anxiety, anger issues and self-harm and identified that she did not leave the house often. YKYM issued funding for some photography equipment, which has meant she is now going out of the house more, on long nature walks especially during lockdown and this has increased her mood and reduced her self-harm. The young person was very happy to get the equipment and said "thank you so much, you don't understand how much this means to me, this is such a great opportunity for me...Thank you so much"
 - b) a 14-year-old looked after girl has received singing lessons via her YKYM funding which she said to her Social Worker "I started the singing lessons before lockdown and really enjoyed them. They tried to continue them over the phone during lockdown, but this didn't work very well so they were cancelled for the time being, but they really made me feel happy during the lessons and after I'd had them, I would like to start to do them again soon".
 - c) an 18-year old care leaver had previously experienced some mental health accommodation provision and experienced a sensory room whilst there. They received YKYM funding to make their own sensory 'chill out' room in their current accommodation and they feel that this has made a significant difference to their health and wellbeing, especially during lockdown. The young person experiences a significant Personality Disorder, and this has enabled them to find ways to manage their anger and ongoing mental health conditions to sustain levels of independence and their own accommodation provision.
30. Nottingham Trent University published their external review of the YKYM project in July 2020. This evaluation took place between January and July 2020 and due to Covid-19, was undertaken virtually. 403 children and young people engaged with the evaluation across the County and City. Key findings included the following.
- clear strategic support for the project at senior management level
 - increased embeddedness within existing health and social care provision for young people with mental health needs
 - the need for more specialist and costly interventions from CAMHS and Adult Mental Health Services (AHM) reduced as a result of offering alternatives to placing children and young people onto pathways to health services
 - distress and escalation at a point of crisis decreased as a result of the 'early intervention' approach of the project

- a structure for the ongoing monitoring of how well a young person is progressing in managing their mental health and wellbeing integral to the project through the ongoing contact of the personal adviser.
31. The evaluation also sought to establish what inputs are most important from the perspectives of young people, their care givers and staff. Key findings included the following:
- the active involvement of the young person in their support plan and being ‘listened to’ was key to the success of the project. 91% of the young people reported feeling listened to in the development of their plan
 - typically support plans consisted of indoor, outdoor learning or a mix of one or more activities
 - the age of the young person did not significantly influence the cost of the plan
 - ongoing monitoring of the support plan undertaken during direct work offered the key worker the opportunity to regularly ‘check in’ with the young person which supported the monitoring and effectiveness of the project.
32. Key outcomes reported by the evaluation by partners suggested that prior to engagement with the project, 63.5% of the cohort identified as having experienced a CAMHS input; post project data suggested that only 26.9% of the cohort were receiving support from CAMHS. Other successful outcomes reported by the Police suggested that prior to engagement with the project, 48 young people in the sample of 402 were identified as having ‘going missing’ episodes calculated at a cost to the Police of £98,910; post project costs incurred by the Police for ‘going missing’ episodes had reduced to £46,629.
33. More importantly key outcomes reported by the young people were as follows:
- 61.8% of the young people surveyed said they felt more independent following the project
 - many reported an improvement in their wellbeing with 66.7% suggesting that receiving the support was ‘having fun’ followed by increased happiness (62.2%)
 - 48.9% reporting improvement to their mental health.
34. The full NTU evaluation of the project is available as a **background paper**. A video of the You Know Your Own Mind can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/ZS-nD02pXGM>
35. Improving the physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing has continued to be a key driver across health partners. The Children’s Integrated Commissioning Hub (Public Health Nottinghamshire, Nottingham CCG and Bassetlaw CCG) have supported the delivery of training to teachers and schools. Nottinghamshire County was successful in being selected to take part in the national roll out of Mental Health Services and Schools Link Programme facilitated by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. This programme brought together CCGs, Councils and other service providers with schools and colleges to provide mental health support through brokering contact, sharing expertise and developing a joint vision for children and young people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing in the locality. As of March 2020, approximately 50% of schools and colleges had attended the Anna Freud workshops. Whilst the programme has been interrupted by Covid-19, the workshops will continue later in the year.

36. The Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub and Bassetlaw CCG have worked with partners across health, education and social care to successfully bid for and be awarded NHS England transformation funding to deliver Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) throughout Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. From January 2021, MHST coverage across the County will equate to approximately 48,000 pupils having access to MHST.
37. Approximately 45 new mental health posts will be established through the programme which is a significant increase to the workforce supporting school aged children and young people. During Covid-19, the MHSTs have provided a flexible offer which has included creating a self-referral mechanism for families to MHST, extending operating hours outside of the school day including holidays and offering fortnightly Schools Mental Health Lead network meetings. As of March 2020, 61 schools across the County have received support from the MHSTs.
38. Support for the ongoing development of whole school resilience programmes has continued. 93 schools are currently engaged in these programmes which include Take Five at Schools Programme, mainly in the north and west of the County and the Young Minds Academic Resilience Approach in the south of the County.

Nottinghamshire Children in Care Service Improvement Forum (SIF)

39. The SIF was established in December 2016 and meets quarterly. It is a multi-agency Looked After Children system-wide forum with agreement and commitment from both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County local authorities, health providers and the membership also includes the statutory Designated Doctor and Nurses. The objective of the forum is for partners to hold to themselves to account in meeting and improving the health needs of looked after children. An action plan is overseen by the Children in Care health commissioners and designated professionals. The SIF has highlighted their effective multi-agency partnership work to the Board and has included reference to their current audit activity. The SIF will report the progress via the board action plan at key milestones in January, April and June 2021.
40. The SIF has also agreed to focus on system-wide changes to enable health providers to meet the statutory timescales of health assessments as a key priority in 2020/21, acknowledging that to achieve this it must be a partnership approach.
41. A piece of work was undertaken in 2019/20 to improve the number of Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires returned by the local authority to inform statutory Routine Health Assessments (RHAs) and to support children and young people's emotional mental health and wellbeing.
42. Our year end statistics for 2019/2020 for immunisations and dental checks was as follows:
 - in 2019/20 94% of our children had up to date immunisations. This is an area of focus for the Local Authority and health providers.
 - in 2019/20 89% of our children had up to date dental checks. This is an area of focus for the Local Authority and health providers.

43. An audit is currently being undertaken by all partners in the SIF on how health is being discussed at statutory Looked After Review meetings. This audit includes reviewing whether the latest health assessment is available, whether health needs are discussed, and relevant health professionals invited. This audit complements the work being undertaken around performance of Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) and Routine Health Assessments (RHAs).
44. Additional health improvement activity during 2019/20 has included:
- implementation and on-going review of the Out of Area (OOA) process (pathway)
 - audit of the documentation used for the care leavers health summary
 - quality assurance audits undertaken of Routine Health Assessments (RHAs) by the Designated Nurse (Mid and South) for Children in Care completed six monthly
 - implementation of a joint health/local authority Decliner Pathway (when young people decline statutory health assessments)
 - development of the revised Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to enable comparable health data and performance from all providers across the County
 - designated professionals contributed to the design and delivery of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership multi-agency training 'awareness raising around Looked After Children'
 - designated professionals supporting with the Nottinghamshire General Practitioners (GP) Practice Learning Time (PLT) events
 - designated professionals have been influencing locally, regionally and nationally for equity of access to health services for looked after children whether placed in area or out of area.
 - the Designated Nurses are currently reviewing how information is shared between health and the local authority in relation to residential care (private and local authority), especially in relation to children placed into Nottinghamshire from other areas. They have reported on this with some key recommendations which are being taken forward in partnership with the both local authorities and the Police.
45. The SIF has also been working on ensuring that there is a clear health pathway for our children who are aged 18 to 24 years in relation to access to specialist mental health services as well as adult physical health services. Transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services has been a focus over the past two years due to the national CQUIN (Commissioning for Quality and Innovation) within the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust mental health contract. This has aided the development of a transition process and transition panel. The transition process was due to be added to the 2020/21 contract, however, this has been delayed due to the recent Covid-19 contracting restrictions.
46. Further transition improvements focus on key reporting requirements which have been developed to be included within the contract. Progress against the outcome measures will be reviewed once normal contracting procedures resume with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust. Learning from this pilot will inform developments which the CAMHS subgroup of the service improvement forum (SIF) manages.

**Ambition 3: Looked After Children and Care Leavers fulfil their potential and
Ambition 4: Looked After Children and Care Leavers achieve sustained and fulfilling employment and economic independence**

47. This ambition to ensure our children and young people fulfil their potential has continued to be a priority for the Virtual School which has developed evidence-based guidance for schools on the effective use of the Pupil Premium to ensure that 'fulfilling potential' is a key driver for all additional requests for funding. The work readiness and careers ambition programme has now been developed by the Virtual School supported by the Education Psychology Service. All schools and pupils engaging in the programme (12 Year 8 children) provided positive feedback of their experience. The programme, reviewed and revised in the Autumn term 2019 for implementation from Spring 2020, has been interrupted by Covid-19 but will resume when appropriate during 2020-2021. The programme has been revised for delivery online which will allow more secondary aged young people to engage with the programme during 2020-2021.
48. A key activity undertaken by the Virtual School, in partnership with all children social care teams and the Leaving Care Service, has been the comprehensive review of the Personal Education Plan (PEP). PEPs were identified as an area for development during the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in October 2019, although the review of the PEP process documentation was already underway at that time. The documentation is now age and phase appropriate (i.e. early years, KS1-2, KS 3-4 and post-16) with the option of a targeted document to support those pupils in alternative or specialist provision. All PEP meetings will be undertaken three times per year (termly) and for children and young people from ages 3 to 18 years. There has been a comprehensive guidance document written to provide a framework for strength based and consistent discussions for these meetings. A robust co-constructed quality assurance process has also been developed which will see Children's Social Care and the Virtual School working together on improving the quality of personal education planning. Members can review these and access other education based information and advice at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/virtual-school/nottinghamshire-virtual-school>
49. The Virtual School and Leaving Care team, along with other partners, have developed an 'Employability Achievement Personal Education Plan (EA PEP) for 16 and 17-year-old young people in care which explores interests, employability ambitions, achievement and educational pathway for young people. This plan and process supports a more holistic discussion around career aspirations, and pathways into the world of work. This plan will be completed with education and other relevant professionals on a termly basis and will replace the Education, Employment and Training (EET) part of the current Pathway Plan. This will enable data to be collected on both the young person's trajectory into the world of work and training and will also identify SMART targets towards securing EET status. This process and documentation has been developed during 2019-2020 and will be rolled out from September 2020.
50. In addition, the 'Employability Assessment Tool' (EAT) for care leavers aged 18-20 years will also ensure that our young people who are care leavers are supported into work tasting sessions, the WERK programme, apprenticeships, employment opportunities or further and higher education. This data will be used to provide clearer insight into the EET needs and opportunities of care leavers and will be used by the Leaving Care team to approach and agree increased work opportunities with companies and businesses.
51. The EET will also be used by the 21Plus Service to assess and support the needs of care leavers at 21 years+. This will ensure that any identified needs following completion of further and higher education can be identified and supported as well as identifying care

leavers who may have been not in education, employment or training (NEET) but are now ready to prepare for employment or further education.

52. The capacity of the Looked After and Leaving Care Service has increased from 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts to 4 FTE Personal Advisers and an Achievement Coordinator. This has increased the capacity of the service area to work more closely with the Virtual School to intervene earlier at 16½ years.
53. West Nottinghamshire College (WNC) works closely with the Virtual School and other local schools to support our children as they progress into Key Stage 5. During 2019/20 the College provided education to 46 of our young people. On enrolment each of our children is automatically assigned a support coach who takes the lead on transition, liaison with social care and ensuring a smooth transition into college. Support coaches meet with young people as and when needed and for the most more vulnerable on a weekly basis. During lockdown the College distributed laptops and Wi-Fi dongles to some of our children so they could continue with their learning and in one case provided Fritchley Court with a Wi-Fi hotspot (at the College's cost) so that students there could access Wi-Fi and their online lessons. The College works closely with the Local Authority to ensure financial support, skills for independent living and general life skills are also part of the offer at college.
54. West Notts College has also supported the development of the WERK project, piloting the first cohort of 10 students who are looked after. Feedback from the students was incredibly positive. The second cohort was suspended due to Covid-19. However, WNC is set to build on the pilot this year with the intention that all of our children and young people at the college have the opportunity to access the programme.
55. NTU remains committed to working with partners to achieve the key priorities in the Looked After Children and Leaving Care Partnership Strategy. The Institute of Education within Nottingham Trent University has identified key university representatives to target and report on actions in the 2019-2021 development plan.
56. The Director of the Institute of Education, Dr Chris Rolph, has raised with the Vice-Chancellor the principle of contextualised offers for our children and young people and these discussions are ongoing.
57. Early Childhood Services continue to work with early years settings, schools and young people to promote careers in early years, through engagement at jobs fairs, recruitment days and targeted events. Further work is now taking place to recruit apprentices to work in the Children's Centre Service now that the service is managed by the Council, with local young people not in education, training or employment being the priority for engagement.

Ambition 5: Looked After Children and Care Leavers make a positive contribution

58. Ambition 5 continues to be the focus of the Partnership. On entering care, all our children have the opportunity to complete the 'Listen to Me' booklet which seeks their views in relation to Looked After Children Reviews and other planning processes. Both Looked After Children's Service and the Children's Disability Service continue to ensure the views, thoughts and feelings of our children inform Care Plans and Pathway Planning processes.

59. Whilst the 'Listen to Me' booklet has been used for some time now, over this last year bespoke participation sessions have been held with care leavers to ensure their views directly influence planning for the future.
60. Mind of My Own was launched in Nottinghamshire in July 2019. This app provides an online platform for our children and young people to directly communicate their views, wishes and feelings to their Children's Service worker¹ 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our children were the first group of children in the County to benefit from the app. Since the Board's last report to Committee, the app has been rolled out to the majority of services and teams in the Children and Families department. The app will be rolled out to our care leavers in October 2020.
61. Since Mind of My Own was launched:
- 462 children and young people have set up their own One App accounts
 - around 1,250 statements have been sent by children and young people to their workers
 - 244 statements have been sent by our children to share their views, thoughts and feelings
 - our children and young people of all ages are using the app/sending statements. Those between the ages of 11 and 14 years are sending the most statements
 - 722 workers have been trained to use the app and have worker accounts
 - Looked After Children's Service social workers are amongst the highest ranking users of the app
 - new and existing Council foster carers have completed e-learning so they are able to support our children to register with and use the app.
62. When using the One app, our children continue to report, as they did last year, that they feel 'happy', 'supported' and 'settled' at home. They also report that home and friends are what's good in life'.
63. In May 2020, the Council was awarded the "Swiftest Implementation Award" at the national Mind of My Own VoxCon Awards. Judges praised the Council for getting the app up and running quickly and for getting a high volume of use by children, young people and workers in a short space of time.
64. The Youth Service Countywide Participation and Engagement team has used the Partnership Strategy to drive further meaningful engagement with our children and young people. This service has continued to work with them to better understand their experiences and to ensure that this ambition to make a positive contribution continues to be relevant to them. During 2019 – 2020, they attended a range of positive activities outside the school day, with 558 attendances at forums, activities and events. This has provided a safe and supportive environment in which our children and young people can come together to participate and engage in constructive and fun activities as well as having an opportunity to express their views and feelings about life in care and how it can be further improved. An example of this was recently articulated in a film created by the Children in Care Council, following work undertaken in 2019/20:
<http://home.nottsc.gov.uk/working/departments/cf/children-families-covid-19-updates/promoting-a-fair-and-just-society>

¹ social worker, IRO, supervising social worker, complaints officer, Children in Care Council worker or social worker's manager

65. The Youth Service also actively encourages and enables our children, young people, and those who are adopted or living in residential care, to engage in positive activities and to independently access mainstream provision through the Platinum Card system of free entry to Young People's Centres. Platinum cards are issued to our children and young carers to give free access to the Youth Service's open access provision and is available to young people from the age of 10 to 19 years, up to 21 for our children, and up to 25 years for young people with disabilities. During 2019-2020 113 Platinum cards were issued to our children and young people. In addition, there have been four care leaver Youth Work apprentices in post during 2019/20 within the Youth Service. Three apprentices have completed their Level 3 Youth Work qualifications and will be going on to higher education in September 2020; two apprentices have secured a place at Derby University to study a degree in Youth Work, and one apprentice going on to Nottingham Trent University to study a degree in Psychology.
66. In addition, there are currently 14 young people who are progressing to Higher Education courses for 2020 - 2021, 14 young people that are continuing their university studies (Years 2, 3 and/or 4), whilst four young people are looking to start post-graduate degrees in 2020, and one young person is continuing their post-graduate degree (Year 2).

Ambition 6; Looked After Children and Care Leavers have a positive transition to adulthood, and the Local Offer for Care Leavers

67. This ambition is reflected in the Local Offer for Care Leavers. Preparing our children for adulthood remains the overarching objective of the Partnership Strategy. The Local Offer is driven by the ambitions that ensure every young person (care leaver) can become a resilient and confident young adult, in secure work, with financial independence along with permanent and secure housing, either through long-term tenancy or by buying their own homes. Moreover, the Local Offer supports the development of a healthy lifestyle that brings confidence and fulfilment and seeks to support care leavers to develop the ability to forge and maintain friendships and relationships and be able to engage positively with their wider communities.
68. The Care Leaver Offer was developed through strong partnership working, particularly with the district councils and health partners, and was approved by the Children and Young People's Committee on 11th February 2019 and published on 8th April 2019. This Offer will continue to evolve as partners seek to constantly refresh and strengthen the offer. There was an update of the printed booklet in March 2020 and Members can view the current offer at: www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/careleaverslo.
69. The communication of the Offer to our young people has been boosted by the recent introduction of the 'Notts Next Steps' application (App) which was entirely co-produced with Nottinghamshire care leavers. The app has been designed to work without an internet connection, meaning that our young people have access to information about the Nottinghamshire Local Offer to Care Leavers on a 24/7 basis without needing to rely on Wi-Fi availability or using their phone data. Notts Next Steps will be used as an outreach tool to attract and encourage young people to apply for opportunities within the world of work including the WERK programme, work experience, apprenticeships, taster days, traineeships and mentoring activities as well as a helpful resource regarding contact

information about the Leaving Care team, help and support, advice and guidance and other organisations that can offer support during their transition into independence.

The Local Offer for Care Leavers

70. The exemption from Council Tax for all care leavers up to 25 years is key to supporting care leavers to secure independent living. This benefit has been delivered by district councils who have committed to absorbing the additional costs for this. Whilst individual districts are recording data using different methodologies, feedback does suggest that care leavers are taking up this offer. Leaving Care share monthly information with the district and borough councils to identify care leavers who should have exemption from Council Tax charges (if they are eligible to pay Council Tax in the first instance). As of August 2020, the data for the number of care leaver exempt from Council Tax charges is as follows for the period between April and August 2020:

Ashfield	106
Bassetlaw	84
Broxtowe	43
Gedling	49
Mansfield	103
Newark	69
Rushcliffe	29

71. In addition to the Council Tax exemption, district and borough councils have continued to offer support for our young people to live on their own if this is what they desire. During 2019-20, all Nottinghamshire Councils secured Member approval to prioritise care leavers on their social housing waiting lists. This offer is flexible and allows care leavers to secure housing in any Nottinghamshire district regardless of their existing address. Having secured local authority housing, our young people are now also eligible for priority for repairs and other tenancy support that may be required from their local social housing provider.
72. West Notts College has initiated work to create an independent living 'flat' that the Student Support Team will use with groups of our young people to promote independent living skills. This team now has regular meetings with the Leaving Care Team and direct contact with the Looked After Children Service and has established strong processes to aid transition.
73. Our young people have historically been able to access a range of financial support which has included contributions of approximately £3,500 towards university fees with all accommodation paid for throughout the duration of the course including holiday periods. When setting up home, our young people also access a home establishment grant of approximately £2,000 and practical support and advice is given for budgeting. In addition, all of our young people have a Child Trust Fund or Junior ISA bank account which comprises government and Council and/or carers' contributions that have been made over the course of the time each child has been in care. This account can be accessed at 18 years or left by the young person for future use.
74. The Local Offer provides information, advice and guidance in relation to health and wellbeing. Since the launch of the Local Offer, and through a strong partnership between the Leaving Care Service and district and borough councils, our young people are now able to join their local leisure centre gyms and wider facilities including swimming and other

fitness classes at no cost. This was introduced as of July 2019 and was thought to be the first leisure offer across seven districts within a two-tier authority. The leisure offer take-up has been promoted to all our 18 - 24 year-old young people and currently there is feedback from our leisure centre partners that nine young people are currently accessing Gedling Borough Leisure Centres for free, with a further nine young people accessing a Newark and Sherwood Leisure Centre. In Mansfield district, 13 now have free access to council leisure centres, with three more referrals pending. In Ashfield, 21 young people are accessing free leisure centre access and in Bassetlaw we have had seven young people enrol free at their leisure centres with comments from young people being really positive, especially around the swimming and gym facilities.

75. The Leaving Care Service will also support young people to take a friend or in some cases their child/children in order to engage with leisure facilities and gym classes. There have been restrictions on access during the Covid-19 lockdown, but all district and borough leisure centres are looking forward to continuing this offer for our young people. One of our young people is currently working towards their Gold level Duke of Edinburgh Award.
76. The Leaving Care Service's Achievement Service has received a boost in 2020 by securing 4.2 fte new posts, including an Achievement Adviser Co-ordinator and an Achievement Adviser linked to each of the geographically located Leaving Care Teams. They will also be taking on the support role for EET plans for 21Plus. In addition, there will be a full-time Achievement Adviser for 16 and 17 year olds as well as a 0.4 fte post dedicated to Business Engagement and opportunities in the world of work. This is all underpinned by the continuing effective partnership between the Leaving Care Team and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which allows the Achievement Adviser within the Leaving Care Team to act on the young person's behalf as and when necessary. This has made a significant difference to ensure that our young people secure additional support when looking for employment and training. This support includes access to work readiness programmes, access to work experience, support to complete job applications, preparation for interviews, access to life skills courses, and support for apprenticeship applications.
77. This is the first year that the progression of our Year 12 young people from their GCSE results and EET plans have been tracked, supported by the Virtual School. This will be a focus in the future bespoke Employability Assessment Personal Education Plan (EA-PEP) for 16/17 year-olds which launches in September 2020 for all 16 and 17 year-olds to be reviewed on a termly basis. Between August 2019 and July 2020, 90 young people were EET (76.3% EET) and 28 young people were NEET (23.7% NEET). These July 2020 figures include the 26 new Year 12s who have been accommodated by the Local Authority since August 2019. Out of the 26 young people, there were 15 in EET (57.7%) and 11 young people NEET (42.3%).
78. At this time, 59 of our young people aged 18 - 21 years are in employment, training or apprenticeships, 103 are accessing educational courses, and 13 are in Higher Education. 59.5% of the 18 - 21 years cohort is in employment, education and training (EET), with plans for the new Achievement Adviser Co-ordinator to lead the development of the Care Leaver Offer around further opportunities including mentoring, industry taster days, work experience (and the Work Experience Readiness Programme), apprenticeships and other educational opportunities. This will also support the launch of the new Employability Assessment Tool (EAT) to help identify aspirations, developmental needs

and actions for young people from 18 - 24 years in successfully progressing into the world of work.

79. Securing permanent employment remains a driving ambition of the Local Offer. A key approach has been the development of stronger partnerships with local employers. In March 2019, the Council facilitated a business breakfast attended by 60 local employers ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals. The event was hosted by Sir John Peace, the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, supported by the Council's Chief Executive, Anthony May. This event led to formal commitments and support by local employers to provide work placements, work experience, work mentoring, apprenticeships and jobs. Due to the increase in resource within the Leaving Care team, they are now leading on a local database of employers and opportunities to help match pledges made by businesses and aspirations/needs for young people from their Employability Assessment Tool. In addition, the Leaving Care team has worked with Keepmoat Homes, East Midlands Airport and the Armed Forces to provide employability taster sessions for young people. Following the Armed Forces taster day, one looked after young person was offered a work experience opportunity on the RAF base in relation to physical exercise and instruction.
80. The previous report identified the development of a tool which would identify and quantify the employment skills, including 'soft' employment skills of each of our young people (care leavers) and to match them with relevant opportunities from local businesses. The Employability Assessment Tool is being launched from September 2020 and has directly linked with the development of the new Personal Education Plan (PEP) process thus providing a structure on assessing education and employment needs from Early Years until 21Plus.

Increased Support for 21Plus Care Leavers

81. As of August 2020, 448 care leavers were eligible to request support from the 21Plus Service, and this is predicted to increase to 483 care leavers by August 2021. From April 2019, the 21Plus Service was fully established and included in our Local Offer for Care Leavers. The staffing provision increased to 2 fte experienced Personal Advisors and a 0.8 fte experienced Personal Advisor. Between April 2019 and March 2020 there were 513 requests for support from 207 young people. These requests are measured nationally as the 'returner' rate, meaning the returner rate for 2019 - 2020 was 54.5%. It was originally predicted to be around 20% nationally. Between April and June 2020, 137 requests for support from 86 young people have been received, currently putting the Council's returner rate at around 80% by March 2021. This is a significant achievement.
82. The Department for Education has provided commitment to further new burdens grant to support care leavers aged 21 years plus until 2022. Mark Riddell (National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, DfE) has requested and received further figures around Nottinghamshire's current 21Plus support and returner rates to identify good practice in the County to inform the sharing of this practice in other local authorities.
83. The Council has continued to use funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative fund (MHCLG) to fund the continuation of the Homelessness Prevention Personal Advisor until March 2021 when this post will be fully established within the Leaving Care Service. As part of the MHCLG funding, the Nottinghamshire Leaving Care Team is exploring options for a

designated emergency bed space for our young people to work with the district and borough councils in reducing the need for emergency homelessness accommodation.

84. The Council is required to make at least one contact with all our young people aged 21 years plus per year. Following extensive and proactive work by the 21Plus Service the team is in touch with over 97% of all our eligible young people aged 21 to 24 years, with contact being on average at least every four weeks since the Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020. The team has also updated the new Local Offer for Care Leavers booklet and this has been distributed to all 21Plus care leavers, with additional information about government laptops and social distancing / keeping safe during Covid-19 information. The revised booklet is available as a **background paper**.
85. General feedback about the 21Plus Service from our partners remains positive as demonstrated by the following:
- a) we continue to lead and work with our multi-agency partners to protect and safeguard a 22-year-old care leaver from a coercive, controlling and abusive relationship. This includes working with Probation, Police, Women's Aid, Housing and Adult Safeguarding. We have managed to disrupt the relationship and keep the young person safe, with the overseeing Judge commenting that it was some of the best multi-agency working that they had seen.
 - b) a number of young people lost their employment during the start of Covid-19; we have supported them to apply for furlough (if possible), and if not, to navigate the benefits system or support them back to employment opportunities, some of which took jobs as keyworkers.
 - c) a 22-year-old former unaccompanied asylum-seeking care leaver has achieved a 1st in a BSc in Mathematics. The young person arrived in the UK from Eritrea when he was just 15 years-old, with no family, educational background and did not speak any English. The young person identified that without the ongoing support from his Achievement Adviser and the Leaving Care team (including 21Plus) then he would not have been able to attain this incredible achievement.

Increased engagement and participation with Care Leavers

86. The Leaving Care Team introduced monthly drop-in sessions (until March 2020 and on hold due to Covid-19) around the County, identified as 'coffee and cake' catch-ups, so that our young people have access to previous secure and developed relationships with Personal Advisors. These sessions provide opportunities to access drop-in advice, guidance and support (open to all 18 – 24 year olds) and have been held in Broxtowe, Mansfield, Bassetlaw (Worksop), Rushcliffe and Bassetlaw (Retford). Five young people have attended these sessions so far who previously did not significantly engage with Leaving Care. Of these, three young people have been prevented from being homeless, one young person's debt issues have been managed, and another young person has been supported around concerns of historical emotional abuse. These sessions are being held at various Youth Service venues at no charge, so that it encourages young people to access other services in their local area. The service is planning to run the sessions again from September 2020.

87. Personal Advisers (PAs) continue to be allocated to our young people (looked after) when they are aged 16¼ years-old. This has supported the development of positive relationships prior to the transition from 'looked after' to 'leaving care' at 18 years of age. There was an increase in staffing agreed in June 2020 to achieve this increased activity and recruitment has now taken place. The interview process included questions input from a care leaver.
88. Ongoing engagement and participation with our young people will continue to be essential to ensure the Local Offer, as well as the overarching Partnership Strategy, continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of each cohort of care leavers, particularly older ones.

Pathway Planning

89. As mentioned above, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) review all Pathway Plans for looked after children and the IRO holds partners to account if there is insufficient attendance and engagement with the Plan. In addition, following a pilot for care leavers, those aged 18 years can now 'opt in' to a process which allows them to retain their IRO to review their Post 18 Pathway Plan; this is now being implemented with additional resources being provided to the IRO Service. The purpose of this is to provide increased independent scrutiny and to strengthen transition into early adulthood. The IRO therefore continues to hold all partners to account for the positive outcomes of the Plan for our young people at a critical transition point into adulthood.
90. There has continued to be a focus on the 'review' element of Pathway Plans to ensure that actions and tasks identified in the Plan have been progressed appropriately. There is an expectation that Team Managers within the Leaving Care Service review all Pathway Plans to ensure that these Plans identify specific tasks that will result in improved experiences and outcomes for our young people. In addition, these Plans are expected to be continually updated and informed by the views of our young people. In October 2019, Ofsted confirmed that Pathway Plans are reviewed regularly and focus on progressing important priorities, with young people's views integrated throughout the plans, ensuring that they are meaningful to young people.

Response to risk and managing risk alongside partner agencies

91. Where risks to our young people are identified, the Leaving Care Service now routinely attends and convenes risk strategy meetings with multi-agency partners and on occasion Multi-Agency Problem Solving meetings have also been held. Managers retain oversight of these risks, and both the risk and safety plans are recorded on Mosaic. The Leaving Care Service is also involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) monitoring and processes and continues to engage with MAPPA (Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements) meetings and other relevant safeguarding meetings with multi-agency partners for young people aged 18 - 24 years old.

Risks of larger semi-independent settings

92. A positive development since the Ofsted focussed visit in January 2018 is that a service specification has been co-produced with our children and young people for the 'Core Plus' supported housing. During 2019-2020 work has continued to identify appropriate buildings to deliver this service from. A building has been identified in Mansfield which, when the development is complete, will offer a three-bed unit and a self-contained annex. Two other

properties, located in Colwick, will offer two bedrooms in each house. Initial discussions have also taken place regarding the development of a Core Plus service in Newark.

93. Recognising Ofsted's critique of larger semi-independent settings, a smaller seven bedroom Core Service accommodation has been developed including two self-contained flats. The Direct Purchasing System (DPS) provides an alternative to the main provision, with individual placements commissioned from an approved provider list. These providers can offer smaller settings and solo placements for 16 and 17 year olds and, on rare occasions, for young people aged 18 years plus. These types of placements have been steadily increasing and there are currently 37 young people within these placements.
94. A robust contract management and quality audit system has been established and is driving service improvements within the higher needs DPS provision.

Case studies

95. The Partnership Board has recognised the vital importance of capturing the journeys of our children and young people through the development of case studies. Case studies have particular resonance to support professionals to understand the levels of challenge and to explore in more detail how professionals can work with our children and young people to overcome barriers resulting in better experiences and outcomes them. Throughout 2019-20, 10 case studies have been prepared by partners. Every Board meeting is concluded by the formal sharing by partners of the successes achieved by our children and young people, with the objective of fostering a culture of expectation of success and achievement for all our children and young people, and to promote a strength-based approach to all the work of our partners.
96. As part of the formal review of the work of the Partnership Board, case studies have been drafted to a structured format which includes contextual information, recording child's 'story', what difference the support and/or experiences have made, the perspective of the child or young person and most importantly, a request that professionals identify factors that have contributed to better outcomes for the child. Partners identified a range of factors including:
 - a) the importance of bespoke and differentiated education packages to support reluctant learners and children with identified Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) to access education
 - b) the positive contribution of technology when engaging some reluctant learners and children with SEND in education
 - c) the importance of strong partnership working when tailoring Alternative Provision (AP) for reluctant learners to ensure that career ambitions inform the education package with packages underpinned by working towards and achieving formal qualifications including vocational qualifications
 - d) the importance of balancing teenage voice with strong 'critical friend' (adult) support to ensure that education pathways really will meet the aspirations and employment ambitions of young people accessing AP provision
 - e) the importance of partnership work across counties when young people are placed in out of county provision. This is essential when planning and delivering bespoke and individualised education with the use of high quality education tutors
 - f) the vital importance of offering multiple opportunities to develop and agree pathway planning Post 21 even when previous plans have failed. This requires agencies to

continue to engage with young people when previous agreements and plans have failed. This is particularly relevant when addressing accommodation and the need to avoid risks of homelessness

- g) the opportunities to 'Staying Put' at 18 years and the positive role it can play when transitioning into more independent living arrangements
- h) bespoke and individualised ongoing support to young people undertaking degree level university courses to ensure that individual barriers can be overcome with courses completed and a degree secured.

97. All of the case studies demonstrate the vital importance of professionals developing and maintaining positive and appropriate relationships with our children and young people. Case studies presented for review and shared by professionals at Board meetings all emphasise the important contributions which professionals can make to the outcomes for young people built upon strong and positive relationships between professionals with our children and young people. There has continued to be a significant input from the Leaving Care Service to the case studies, emphasising again the vital importance of professionals to supporting young adults who have been in care.

2020-2021 – Towards Year Three of the Partnership Strategy

98. The Children's Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire (2018-2021) will continue to drive the Partnership to ensure that all of our children and young people can thrive, achieve and secure a positive transition to adulthood.
99. A review of the second year of the delivery plan has reinforced the importance of the two-year development plan particularly to drive further positive developments in provision for our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are placed out of Nottinghamshire, and when our young people turn 18 years. During the final year of both the Strategy and the development plan, the focus of the Board will be to ensure that our children and young people sustain educational success at school, college, apprenticeships and vocational training with a view to securing fulfilling employment and economic independence. During the third year, the Partnership Board will continue to focus sharply on transition to adulthood, underpinned by stable accommodation, quality education opportunities and successful employment.

Other Options Considered

100. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

101. To ensure that Elected Members are able to fulfil their corporate parenting duties.

Statutory and Policy Implications

102. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) considers whether there are any actions it requires to further strengthen the Leaving Care service
- 2) agrees to receive six monthly updates on the impact of the Local Offer for Care Leavers
- 3) agrees to receive an annual report on the work of the Partnership Board and the impact of the Strategy on Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2018 to 2021).

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills
T: 0115 9772073
E: marion.clay@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KK 12/11/20)

104. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 14/11/20)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

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

[Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Nottinghamshire 2018-2021 – report to Policy Committee on 14 February 2018](#)

[Approval of Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers - report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 11 February 2019](#)

[Children and young people core data set – performance for Quarter 4 - report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 17 June 2019](#)

[Changes to the staffing establishment within Children and Families - report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 15 July 2019](#)

[Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers, March 2020](#)

[Evaluation of the You Know Your Mind \(YKYM\) project – Nottingham Trent University, June 2020](#)

Terms of Reference of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board

Nottinghamshire Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Delivery Plan 2019-2020

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1401