

Children and Young People's Committee

Monday, 17 July 2017 at 10:30

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
 - (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2017 3 - 6
- 4 Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of Schools - termly report 7 - 20
- 5 Publication of a Statutory Notice concerning the closure of Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School and the opening of a new school to be called The Lane Primary School 21 - 26
- 6 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the National Transfer Scheme in Nottinghamshire 27 - 32
- 7 Early Help - Changes to the Youth Justice and staffing establishment 33 - 36
- 8 End of year report for the Independent Reviewing Officer 37 - 50
- 9 Fostering Service annual report 51 - 54
- 10 Rota Visits to childrens homes - Spring 2017 55 - 58

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact David Ebbage (Tel. 0115 977 3141) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Date 19 June 2017 (commencing at 10.30am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Philip Owen (Chairman)
Boyd Elliott (Vice-Chairman)
Tracey Taylor (Vice-Chairman)

Jim Creamer
Samantha Deakin
Paul Henshaw
Vaughan Hopewell

John Peck JP
Liz Plant
Phil Rostance
Sue Saddington

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

Vacancy
Vacancy

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marion Clay	Children, Families and Cultural Services
David Ebbage	Resources
Steve Edwards	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Alison Fawley	Resources
Derek Higton	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Pip Milbourne	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Colin Pettigrew	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Beth Richmond	Resources

The Chairman paid tribute to Mr D Richards who had passed away since the last meeting and a minute silence was observed by all Members of the Committee

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The appointment by the County Council on 25 May 2017 of Councillor Philip Owen as Chairman of the Committee, and Councillors Boyd Elliott and Tracey Taylor as Vice-Chairmen was noted.

MEMBERSHIP

That the membership of the Committee was noted.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies

Councillor Creamer replaced Councillor Henry for this meeting only.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 4 2016-17) – SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2017/029

That the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period of 1 January – 21 March 2017 be noted

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES: DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES AND KEY ACTIONS FOR 2017-18

The Chairman introduced the report and asked Members for their approval of the Children's, Families and Cultural Services department's priorities and key actions for the current year.

RESOLVED 2017/030

That the Children's, Families and Cultural Services department's priorities and key actions for the current year, as set out in the appendix 1 be approved.

EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR 2017/2018

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2017/031

That the scale of payments for allowances granted under the exceptional circumstances category up to maximum of £50 per qualifying pupil: 25% of the full allowance for infant school children, 50% of the full allowance for junior school and year 11 children and 75% of the full allowance for other secondary school children be approved.

COUNTY CAMHS LOOKED AFTER AND ADOPTION TEAM – SERVICE PROVISION AND DEVELOPMENTS 2016/17

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2017/032

That the update on the work and service developments of the County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption team be noted.

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 MARCH TO 10 APRIL 2017

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2017/033

That the appointment of Local Authority and additional Local Authority governors to school governing bodies during the period of 1 March to 10 April 2017 as listed in paragraphs 5 and 6 be approved.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2017/034

That the Committee's work programme be noted and updated as agreed.

The meeting closed at 11.23 am.

CHAIRMAN

**REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING
AND SKILLS****OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS – TERMLY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the outcomes of inspections of state funded schools over the spring term and any actions being taken by the Council to support those schools identified as Requiring Improvement (RI) or Inadequate (Special Measures (SM) or Serious Weaknesses (SW)).
2. The report also seeks approval of the following:
 - a) when schools are judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, have Serious Weaknesses or require Special Measures, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services will:
 - write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress towards becoming a Good school
 - write to the Regional Schools Commissioner to raise concerns about the performance in academies judged to Require Improvement, have Serious Weaknesses or require Special Measures
 - write to the Chief Executive of the academies judged to Require Improvement, have Serious Weaknesses or require Special Measures requesting rapid action to address weaknesses identified by Ofsted.
 - b) the Regional Schools Commissioner is invited to Committee to outline his vision to ensure all academies in Nottinghamshire are Good or Outstanding
 - c) all Outstanding state funded schools in Nottinghamshire are invited to a celebration reception in County Hall on a yearly basis
 - d) to bring further update reports to the Committee on a termly basis.

Information and Advice

3. There is a time lag between inspection outcomes as known within the Council and the published summary data. This report will focus on published Ofsted reports for the spring term.
4. This report draws on two main sources of data:
 - Ofsted's website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted which publishes individual school inspection reports, usually within two weeks of inspection. However, this can take considerably longer for a school that is judged as inadequate as Ofsted carries out increased quality assurance exercises. This can take up to two months to complete.
 - Ofsted's monthly management information <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-school-inspections-outcomes>. This is up to date as at 31 April 2017 and provides data on the proportion of good schools at Local Authority level but not the proportion of learners attending good schools. This provides an overall comparison of the performance of Nottinghamshire schools with those nationally.
5. There are two types of inspection under the common inspection framework that are used to judge the performance of schools in England:
 - the section 5 inspection is a two day inspection of a school that Requires Improvement or is Inadequate or being inspected for the first time (typically a new academy). This inspection will provide judgements against the four key inspection areas (Effectiveness of leadership and management; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment; Personal development, behaviour and welfare; Outcomes for pupils) and the overall judgement for the school. If the school has an Early Years Foundation Stage or a 6th Form, these will receive additional judgements.
 - the Section 8 inspection is a one day inspection of schools previously judged as Good by Ofsted (and for outstanding special schools and Pupil Referral Units). This inspection evaluates whether the school remains at the same grade as at the previous inspection. If the inspector believes the previous school grade needs changing the inspection will convert into a two day Section 5 inspection (typically where a Good school is reduced to Requiring Improvement or Inadequate, but also where a Good school could be judged as Outstanding)
 - schools that are judged as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate will also receive periodic Section 8 monitoring inspections to judge whether the school is making reasonable progress (to becoming Good) or making inadequate progress.
 - all inspections will judge whether the school's safeguarding arrangements meet the required standards.
6. **Appendix 1** shows Local Authority inspections over the spring term 2017. Compared with previous inspections:

- 26 of the inspections in the spring term were of Good schools. 20 of these schools retained their previous Good judgement.
- in addition Bishop Alexander (LEAD) Academy previously judged as Requiring Improvement improved to be judged as Good and Birklands Primary Academy improved from Special Measures to be judged as Good.
- Leen Mills Primary and Hetts Lane Infant and Nursery schools previously judged as Good declined and are now Requiring Improvement.
- Jeffries Primary School has declined and has gone into Special Measures (previously Good). It was identified as a high risk school by the Education Improvement Service.
- Alderman White School & Language College improved from Requiring Improvement to being judged as Good.
- In addition, Woodland View Primary School, previously judged as Requiring Improvement, was judged for the second time as Requiring Improvement.
- The Vision Studio School received the first inspection since opening and was judged to be Inadequate.
- Hillocks Primary School, previously judged twice as Requiring Improvement, declined and requires Special Measures.
- Arnbrook Primary Academy, previously judged as Requiring Improvement, declined and is now judged to have Serious Weaknesses.
- Fountaindale Special School improved its previous Good judgements to become Outstanding while the Orchard Special School declined from Good to Requiring Improvement.

7. **Appendix 2** shows the reasons the schools were placed in Requiring Improvement or an Ofsted Inadequate category and the actions taken by the Local Authority to support these schools.
8. Ofsted's monthly management information release (summary table below) shows that, as a result of the inspections over the last term, Nottinghamshire has continued to remain above the national average for all schools, primary and secondary in terms of the proportion of good or better schools and well above other East Midlands' local authorities in all three areas.

Management Information for Schools 30 April 2017			
Number of Good or better schools	National	Notts	E Midlands
All Schools	89%	90%	87%
Primary	90%	91%	88%
Secondary	79%	83%	74%

Other Options Considered:

9. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the outcomes of Ofsted inspections of state funded schools over the spring term and any actions being taken by the Council to support those schools identified as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate (Special Measures or Serious Weaknesses) be noted
- 2) when schools are judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement or Special Measures, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services will:
 - a) write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress to become a Good school
 - b) write to the Regional Schools Commissioner to raise concerns about the performance in academies judged to Require Improvement or Special Measures
 - c) write to the Chief Executive of the academies judged to Require Improvement or Special Measures requesting rapid action to address weaknesses identified by Ofsted.
- 3) the Regional Schools Commissioner is invited to Committee to outline his vision to ensure all academies in Nottinghamshire are Good or Outstanding
- 4) all Outstanding state funded schools in Nottinghamshire are invited to a celebration reception in County Hall on a yearly basis
- 5) further update reports be brought to the Committee on a termly basis.

Marion Clay

Acting Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 30/06/17)

12. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/06/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C0995

Appendix 1

Ashfield	Community	Hillocks Primary and Nursery	3	4	1.3.17	↓	4	3	3	3	2
Ashfield	Community	Jeffries Primary and Nursery	2	4	21.2.17	↓	4	4	4	4	4
Ashfield	Community	Kingsway Primary	2	2	31.1.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Ashfield	Community	Leen Mills Primary	2	3	28.3.17	↓	-	-	-	-	-
Ashfield	Community	Woodland View	3	3	24.1.17	→	3	3	3	3	3
Bassetlaw	Community	Misterton Primary and Nursery	2	2	1.2.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Broxtowe	Community	Brookhill Leys Primary & Nursery	2	2	28.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Broxtowe	Community	Hollywell Primary School	2	2	21.2.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Broxtowe	Community	William Lilley Infant and Nursery	2	2	23.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Gedling	Academy	Arnbroom Primary Academy	3	4	11.1.17	↓	3	3	3	4	2
Gedling	Community	Arno Vale Junior	2	2	23.2.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Gedling	Community	Richard Bonington Primary and Nursery	2	2	17.1.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Gedling	Community	Standhill Infant	2	2	21.2.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Academy	Birklands Primary Academy	4	2	28.2.17	↑	2	2	2	2	2
Mansfield	Community	Forest Town Primary and Nursery	2	2	2.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Community	Hetts Lane Infant and Nursery	2	3	28.2.17	↓	3	3	3	3	2
Mansfield	Community	High Oakham Primary School	2	2	7.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Community	Leas Park Junior	2	2	25.1.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Community	Netherfield Infant and Nursery (Mansfield)	2	2	28.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Community	Northfield Primary	2	2	15.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Academy	St Patrick's Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy	2	2	15.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Newark	Academy	Bishop Alexander LEAD Academy	3	2	17.1.17	↑	-	-	-	-	-
Newark	Academy	Holy Trinity Catholic Voluntary Academy	2	2	28.2.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Rushcliffe	VC school	Bunny CofE Primary	2	2	10.1.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Rushcliffe	VA school	Pierrepont Gamston Primary School (V/A) Church Sch	2	2	7.2.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Rushcliffe	VC school	St Peter's CofE Junior, Ruddington	2	2	12.1.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Broxtowe	Academy	Alderman White School & Language College	3	2	8.3.17	↑	2	2	2	2	2
Mansfield	Academy	Brunts Academy	2	2	22.3.17	→	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield	Studio	Vision Studio School Mansfield		4	8.3.17	↓	4	4	4	4	3
Rushcliffe	Academy	Becket School a Catholic Vol Academy	2	2	28.3.17	→					
Newark	Community special	Orchard	2	3	17.1.17	↓	3	3	2	3	2
Ashfield	Community special	Fountaindale	2	1	14.3.17	↑	1	1	1	1	

School	Current overall effectiveness	School strengths	Areas for improvement	Actions by LA
Arnbrook Primary Academy	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trust, the headteacher and other senior leaders, have correctly identified the most important areas for improvement, in particular the need to raise pupils' attainment. The headteacher enjoys the support of the staff, governors and the majority of parents. Relationships between staff and pupils are positive. Teaching in the early years is good. Children make good progress from their different starting points and are cared for very well. Leaders make frequent and detailed checks on the quality of teaching. These checks are helping to improve the quality of teaching rapidly in the early years and in key stage 1, particularly in reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils do not reach high enough standards at the end of key stage 2, particularly in mathematics, and they do not make sufficiently fast progress. Pupils do not have sufficient opportunities to develop their skills in mathematical reasoning, mental calculation and problem solving. In key stages 1 and 2, the most able pupils are not moved on quickly enough and given work that will deepen and extend their knowledge and skills. Not all teachers have high enough expectations of what pupils can do. This means that pupils do not achieve as well as they should. Leaders have not targeted the additional funding that the school receives for disadvantaged pupils precisely enough. In particular, the most able disadvantaged pupils are not supported well enough. Governors have not been rigorous enough in holding leaders to account for the progress of the disadvantaged pupils, including the most able of them. The attendance of pupils, particularly pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, is not high enough. Staff do not always deal effectively with off-task behaviour by pupils in classrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of concern to sponsoring Trust Letter of concern to Regional Schools Commissioner
Woodland View	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new headteacher has made a real difference in a short time. Leaders now have an accurate view of the school. The school is appropriately placed to improve in the future. Effective staff training has recently resulted in improvements in the quality of teaching and the use of assessment. Due to better teaching, pupils, particularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over time there have been weaknesses in leadership and management. Despite her strong start, the new headteacher has not yet had sufficient time to ensure that teaching, the use of assessment and pupils' outcomes are good. Staff expectations of what the most able pupils can achieve are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Improvement Adviser (EIA) allocated Governing Body Services support Warning notice issued to governors re governance

Appendix 2

		<p>those who find learning difficult, are making much better progress in reading, writing and mathematics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance is much improved recently. Pupils show a good understanding of British values. The school's curriculum and its values help promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school provides a secure and nurturing environment for pupils and the quality of care and support is good. 	<p>not consistently high enough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing curriculum does not place sufficient emphasis on extended writing or on helping pupils to develop their writing skills in other subjects. In mathematics, problem solving and investigative skills are lacking. Over time, disadvantaged pupils have not made sufficient progress. In a few classes pupils are not clear about what they need to do to move their learning forward. Some staff do not routinely identify pupils' misconceptions to help them learn. In whole-class sessions, teaching assistants are not always deployed effectively. Many parents do not recognise or appreciate the considerable improvements made over the last two terms. In some classes, pupils do not sustain concentration throughout lessons and are occasionally too dependent on the teacher to know what to do when they have finished a section of work. Attendance over time has been considerably below average. Over the last two years, too few children have left Reception with a good level of development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning Notice reviewed 6.6.17 removed 27.6.17 (confirmed to governing body and Ofsted) School to school partnership in place
Jeffries Primary and Nursery	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joining a formal collaboration with other schools has brought benefits to the leadership of the school. Staff who shared their views were unanimous that the changes introduced have improved the school's effectiveness. Pupils are confident and friendly. They behave well around the school and are respectful to each other and to adults. Safeguarding is effective. Teaching and learning in the Nursery and Reception classes are stronger than in other areas of the school. As a result, children are on track to achieve better than in the past. Parents who shared their views are overwhelmingly positive about the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils do not make enough progress in reading, writing and mathematics in key stages 1 and 2. Their attainment is below average at the end of Year 6. Too much teaching is of poor quality. Actions taken by school leaders to improve teaching have not yet secured the required improvements. Leaders do not ensure that the school's curriculum policies are implemented consistently in all classes. The curriculum is narrow. Pupils do not get sufficient opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in a wide range of subjects. The most able pupils are not challenged sufficiently so that they can attain high standards in reading and mathematics. Staff do not consistently model grammatically correct speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA statement of support approved by Ofsted EIS adviser allocated School to school partnership in place Pupil premium review Review of governance

			<p>when giving instructions or use good literacy skills when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils' weak knowledge of number bonds and multiplication tables prevents them from working quickly and accurately in mathematics. • Pupils do not have enough opportunities to develop their writing skills across the curriculum. • Staff do not hear the lower-attaining readers in key stage 1 reading individually regularly enough. This is preventing them from reading as well as they should for their ages. • The governing body does not ensure that the pupil premium and the primary physical education (PE) and sport premium are used effectively. 	
Hetts Lane Infant and Nursery	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children make good progress in the early years. Staff deliver effective teaching and ensure that pupils are well prepared for Year 1. • The most able pupils are given challenging work that results in their good progress. • Staff are caring and know pupils well. They build pupils' confidence and trust, help them to settle well and provide enjoyable lessons. • Pupils are happy and safe. The school and its staff have the strong support of parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders have not ensured that teaching is good across the school. Although both teaching and the progress that children make in the early years are good, these aspects are not sustained consistently in key stage 1. • Not all subject leaders check that their colleagues' assessments of pupils' attainment are accurate. • The schools self-evaluation is too generous. It does not take enough account of the weaknesses in the schools provision and outcomes. • Improvements are not happening quickly enough, and timescales are not precise. As a result, pupils' outcomes are not rising quickly. • Pupils who need to catch up, or whose ability is typical, do not receive enough work that is appropriate for them. Some of the work is too easy and other tasks are too hard for them to complete. • The pupil premium is not used effectively in helping enough disadvantaged pupils make good progress in their English, mathematics and science once they have left Reception. • Teachers do not give the older pupils enough occasions where they can practise writing longer pieces of work, nor to conduct simple tests in science. • Too much work in pupils' books and folders contains messy work and scribble. Not all teachers make sure that pupils complete their work as tidily as they can. • Pupils' absence is too high. Although attendance is improving, not enough pupils, and especially vulnerable pupils, attend regularly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA allocated • Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) commissioned from a local school • Pupil Premium review • School has now joined a Nottinghamshire Teaching School Alliance (TSA) to access partnership support

Appendix 2

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers do not consistently ensure that pupils' behaviour in class is good. On occasions, some pupils do not listen, shout out and stop others from learning well. 	
Hillocks Primary and Nursery	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders, staff and governors care for the pupils very well. In some classes, pupils learn well as a result of clear explanations, strong relationships and carefully targeted work. The quality of teaching in the early years is good. Pupils behave well around school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior leaders have not taken sufficiently rapid action to improve the quality of teaching and outcomes for pupils since the previous inspection. Governors do not hold leaders to account closely enough for the improvements that the school requires. Leaders' plans for improvement are not closely enough evaluated for leaders and governors to be certain about the impact of actions taken. Leadership of subjects other than English and mathematics is underdeveloped. These leaders are not improving the quality of teaching or standards sufficiently in their areas of responsibility. Leaders have not checked carefully enough that pupil premium funding and sport funding is having the desired impact on outcomes. Too many pupils are late for school in the morning. Leaders have not been successful in improving rates of attendance, which remain below national average. Not all teachers step in quickly enough to challenge pupils or ask questions that will improve their grasp of concepts in lessons. Not all teachers have high enough expectations of what pupils can achieve or how they should behave. They do not insist that pupils present their work to the best of their ability. Not all teachers consistently provide pupils with opportunities to write across a range of subjects to the same standard as they would in an English lesson, nor to practise their reasoning skills in mathematics. Teaching assistants do not consistently make effective use of time to promote pupils' learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA allocated LA Statement of Action approved by Ofsted Executive Headteacher and partnership support school in place School supported with statutory duties
Leen Mills Primary	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the early years, the quality of teaching is securely good and provision in this area continues to be a strength of the school. Children make consistently good progress and are well prepared for Year 1. Pupils' behaviour and personal development are good. Pupils are respectful to others and show positive attitudes to learning. The school is well regarded by parents. It has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior leaders have not been successful in raising standards quickly enough. Pupil Progress was significantly below national. In 2016, progress in reading at the end of key stage 2 was still significantly below average. In mathematics, faster progress led to above average standards. In some year groups the majority of pupils are still working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA allocated School to school partnership in place.

		<p>a caring ethos and is a safe, calm and well-ordered learning environment.</p>	<p>below the required standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disadvantaged pupils in most year groups are not making as much progress as other pupils nationally. Leaders do not have a clear view of the effectiveness of the support they provide. Teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve are not high enough. They do not always plan lessons that cater for the needs of the least or most able pupils who then do not make enough progress in lessons. Pupils' books show that often the same tasks are set for pupils of all abilities. This means that the most able pupils are not given enough challenge and do not reach the high standards of which they are capable. In key stage 1, pupils do not build quickly enough on the good progress they make in the early years. Too many are currently working below age-related expectations. 	
Vision Studio School Mansfield	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current principal has set a new direction for the school, and leads with determination and vision. Actions to improve teaching, attendance and behaviour are beginning to have impact. The programme of work-based learning and work experience has been much improved and is successful in improving pupils' confidence and workplace skills. Such opportunities are highly valued by pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders and governors have not ensured that the school's safeguarding policies and systems meet requirements or are effective in keeping pupils safe. Turbulence in leadership has led to uncertainty over the school's direction. Although now resolved, this has meant that the school did not adapt quickly enough to meet the needs of its pupils. Middle leaders are not all effective in monitoring the quality of teaching, tracking the achievement of groups and leading improvements in their area. Pupils' achievement in mathematics is inadequate. Poor leadership and teaching in this area have left too many pupils without the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to gain basic qualifications. Teaching does not take sufficient account of the needs of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. The tasks that pupils do are sometimes insufficiently demanding. Teaching does not routinely promote pupils' literacy and numeracy skills. Pupils who face challenges do not always know how to access support in class. A significant minority of pupils do not comply with the school's no-smoking policy. Many pupils who spoke with inspectors 	<p>Not an LA maintained school but the LA has been commissioned by the trustees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review school safeguarding and related policies and procedures Provide advice and access to appropriate training Behaviour and Attendance adviser Review of governance Advice on PREVENT and access to training materials

			<p>expressed their concern about smoking on the school site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils do not have enough to occupy them at lunchtime. The range of opportunities for pupils to improve their physical well-being is too narrow.• Attendance, while improving, remains well below national averages.• The sixth form requires improvement. Pupils who retake GCSE examinations in English and mathematics are not all successful in improving their grade.	
Orchard Special School	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior leaders and governors are uncompromising in their efforts to provide all pupils with the highest possible quality of care and personal support. Consequently, all pupils make good or better progress in their personal, social and emotional development.• The behaviour of pupils is consistently good.• The broad curriculum contributes exceptionally well to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils throughout the school.• The 16 to 19 provision in the school is consistently well led and prepares learners and their families for life beyond Newark Orchard.••••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior leaders and governors have not ensured that all staff follow the school's agreed policies and procedures. Consequently, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is not consistently good across the school.• The governing body does not always hold senior leaders and staff to account for the quality and impact of some aspects of the school's work.• The plans for school improvement lack the necessary detail. They do not identify who is responsible for checking specific actions or give tight enough timescales for tasks to be reviewed or completed.• Senior leaders and governors do not currently have an accurate view of pupils' progress and attainment in English and mathematics.• Systems for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's work are not rigorous enough. As a result, senior leaders and governors do not have an accurate view of the school's current strengths and weaknesses.• Where teaching is poorly planned, work is not well matched to pupils' needs, pupils are not challenged effectively and their progress is hampered.• A small minority of staff do not consistently model positive attitudes to learning or present themselves in and around school with the necessary professionalism.• Targets to promote the continuing professional development of the staff are not linked closely enough to the priorities for whole-school improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EIA allocated• Integrated Children's Disability Service support• Educational Psychology Service support• EIA reports indicate that school is addressing issues raised in inspection report

17th July 2017

Agenda Item: 5

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

PUBLICATION OF A STATUTORY NOTICE CONCERNING THE CLOSURE OF MEADOW LANE INFANT SCHOOL AND COLLEGE HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE OPENING OF A NEW SCHOOL TO BE CALLED THE LANES PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Committee with the outcome of the publication of a Statutory Notice concerning the closure of Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School, and the opening of a new school to be called The Lanes Primary School from 1 September 2017.
2. This report also informs Committee of a subsequent application to the Schools Adjudicator for approval to close Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School, and the opening of a new school to be called The Lanes Primary School from 1 September 2017.

Information and Advice

3. It is current County Council policy that consultations take place to actively consider the advantages of amalgamating schools to form new primary schools. Where these consultations result in County Council approval, the statutory process is then invoked to progress such proposals to formal amalgamation.
4. Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary Schools are located on separate school sites and are approximately 200 metres apart by the nearest available walking route.
5. Following the departure of the College House Junior school headteacher in August 2015, a temporary collaboration agreement between the two schools appointed the Meadow Lane Infant School's existing permanent headteacher as the executive headteacher of both schools from September 2015.
6. In September 2016, College House became a primary school as the first intake of one class of Reception Year pupils was admitted, following the Council's Basic Need expansion of this school to create 210 additional primary school places in Chilwell by September 2022. Thus, the amalgamation under consideration will involve the current Meadow Lane Infant School and an expanded College House Primary School.

7. The opportunity to consider a possible amalgamation of the two schools from September 2017 arose as a result of formal decisions by the governing bodies of the then College House Junior School on 30th November 2015 and of Meadow Lane Infant School on 6th January 2016 that the County Council consult on a proposal to establish a new community primary school, which will replace these two schools.
8. The proposed amalgamation is not a reflection on the quality of education currently provided by either Meadow Lane Infant School or College House Primary School. The main purposes for proposing the amalgamation are in respect of improved teaching and learning, greater opportunities for social interaction across the primary age range, improved transition from age five to eleven, wider opportunities for professional development for staff and governors and the efficient use of resources across a split site serving a wider community of parents.
9. The combined pupil roll for 2016/17 is 538, with a combined net capacity of 560. By academic years 2017/18 and 2018/19, the combined pupil roll is forecast to rise to 546 and 576 respectively. If amalgamated, the new school will have a capacity capable of accommodating 630 pupils.
10. Prior to initiating a formal statutory process, informal discussions were held between representatives of Meadow Lane Infant, College House Junior and the County Council about the possibility of amalgamating the schools. The formal consultation process took place between 18th April and 12th June 2016. Consultation meetings were held with the schools' staff, parents/carers and governors on 19th April 2016. These provided parents/carers, staff, governors and the wider public the opportunity to discuss with County Council officers the implications of amalgamating the two schools.
11. Consultation documents were widely distributed in the local community and responses received by the Council demonstrated that 65% agreed with the proposal to amalgamate. This level of support for the proposed amalgamation led the governors of both schools to request that the process should progress to County Council approval.
12. On 18th July 2016 the County Council's Children and Young People's Committee agreed to forward a request for approval to the Secretary of State, prior to then publishing a Statutory Notice as required under the provisions of Sections 10 and 15 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 for the proposal to amalgamate Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School to form a single 5-11 years community primary school, in existing accommodation, from September 2017.
13. Approval by the Secretary of State was obtained on 3rd February 2017 to publish proposals to establish a new 5–11 community school, to replace Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School.
14. A Temporary Governing Body was set up on 20th February 2017 to oversee the transition to a new amalgamated school. This Temporary Governing Body appointed the existing executive headteacher as headteacher of the to-be amalgamated school from 1 September 2017, as well as a deputy headteacher so that work on establishing the staffing structure of the new school could begin.

Publication of a Statutory Notice

15. The publication of a Statutory Notice under the provisions of Sections 10 and 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 took place on 8 May 2017 and closed on 4 June 2017. This Notice was in place for four weeks. The decision on the outcome of its publication would be determined by the Schools Adjudicator, as prescribed by the Department of Education's Statutory Guidance on Opening and Closing Maintained Schools.
16. The Notice referred interested parties to the complete Proposals for Opening and Closing Maintained Schools, which gave full details of the Council's proposed closure of Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary Schools and proposed opening of The Lanes Primary School in September 2017. Interested parties were invited to submit comments on or in support of, or objections to, the proposal to the Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services at County Hall, West Bridgford.
17. There were no responses received by the Corporate Director during the period of Notice.

Decision by the Schools Adjudicator

18. The Schools Adjudicator decides local authorities' proposals for new schools. On 7 June a request was sent by the Council to the Schools Adjudicator seeking a decision on the proposal to close Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary Schools and open The Lanes Primary School in September 2017. It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulties with this decision being positive or it delaying the opening of The Lanes Primary School on 1 September 2017

Other Options Considered

19. One other possible option considered for the future of these two schools was for both schools to remain as separate infant and primary schools.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. Support from staff, governors and parents/carers of both schools for amalgamation in September 2017, producing a new primary school for 630 pupils.
21. On 18th July 2016 the Council's Children and Young People's Committee approved a request to the Secretary of State to amalgamate Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School and form a new 5-11 years community primary school, in existing accommodation, from 1 September 2017.
22. Approval by the Secretary of State on 3rd February 2017 to publish Statutory Proposals to establish a new 5–11 community school replacing Meadow Lane infant School and College House Primary School.
23. Publication of a Statutory Notice between 8 May and 4 June 2017 resulted in no responses received by the Council.
24. On 7 June 2017 a request was sent by the Council to the Schools Adjudicator seeking a decision on the proposal to close Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary

Schools and open The Lanes Primary School on 1 September 2017. It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulties with this decision being positive or it delaying the opening of The Lanes Primary School on 1 September 2017.

Statutory and Policy Implications

25. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, and the environment where such implications are material, they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

26. If Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary Schools were amalgamated their current year budgets would be combined and any projected underspend transferred to the new school.
27. In the second year the budget for the new school would be calculated on the same basis as any other primary school i.e. October 2017 pupil numbers, with the exception of the lump sum. The lump sum would be 85% of a combined allocation of £100,000 for each school. In the third year after amalgamation, the lump sum will revert to the standard allocation of £100,000. This gradual reduction will provide the new school with resources that will help to enable a smooth transition to a single primary school.
28. It is the intention that the new primary school will operate from the existing buildings. In advance of this, the Local Authority would wish to work with the new school's governing body, headteacher and staff to determine, in the best interests of the children, the most appropriate way of utilising the existing accommodation.

Human Resources Implications

29. The governors of the new school will be supported by County Council officers to ensure that decisions about staffing in the school are made in accordance with employment law and the Local Authority's previously determined policies.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

30. Equality issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed enabling document which will follow an agreed standard format.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

31. Existing policies that currently apply to Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary schools will apply to the new amalgamated school.

Implications for Service Users

32. When the proposal is implemented, pupils on roll at Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary, the schools at the time of closure, will automatically transfer to the new school as appropriate.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

33. Any planning and sustainability implications were addressed in the relevant planning applications.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) notes the outcome of the publication of a Statutory Notice concerning the closure of Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School, and the opening of a new school to be called The Lanes Primary School from 1 September 2017.
- 2) notes the subsequent application to the Schools Adjudicator for approval to close Meadow Lane Infant School and College House Primary School, and the opening of a new school to be called The Lanes Primary School from 1 September 2017.

Marion Clay

Acting Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

34. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SAS 21/06/17)

35. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 26 and 27 above.

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.

Consultation on possible amalgamation of Meadow Lane Community Infant and College House Community Primary Schools – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18 July 2016

Statutory Notice publicising proposed closure of Meadow Lane Infant and College House Primary Schools and opening of The Lanes Primary School from September 2017

Complete statutory proposals for a school closure and establishing a new school: Meadow Lane Infant / College House Junior Schools, and The Lanes Primary School

Electoral Divisions and Member) Affected

Beeston Central and Rylands

Councillor Kate Foale

Toton, Chilwell and Attenborough

Councillors Eric Kerry and Richard Jackson

C0996

17 July 2017

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES &
CULTURAL SERVICES****UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND THE NATIONAL
TRANSFER SCHEME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who become Looked After Children (LAC) in Nottinghamshire.
2. The report also seeks approval of the following:
 - a. that Nottinghamshire's involvement in voluntary transfer schemes, namely the National Transfer Scheme, Regional Transfer Scheme and Dubs Scheme, be suspended in light of the funding shortfall. The County Council will continue to meet its statutory responsibility in relation to "spontaneous arrivals" in Nottinghamshire
 - b. that the Children & Young People's Committee resolve to contact the Minister of State for Immigration, requesting that funding be made available to the Authority to cover the outstanding costs incurred.

Information and Advice**Context and Background**

3. Where a child or young person believed to be under the age of 18 years old enters the UK, unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and seeking asylum, then the young person falls within the scope of Section 20 Children Act 2004 and therefore becomes a 'looked after child' (LAC); they therefore acquire all the same statutory rights as any other child in care, including support from Leaving Care services.
4. For many years UASC have arrived "spontaneously" in Nottinghamshire, claiming asylum having already arrived in the County. Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Social Care is statutorily required to "look after" these children and young people. Over the last five years, the Council has "looked after" about 40 LAC-UASC on average.
5. Over the past 12 months, there has been increased central government focus on UASC entering the UK. The crisis in Syria and events in the Middle East, North Africa and beyond have seen an unprecedented number of migrants and asylum seekers arriving in Europe. Some have gone on to reach the UK via Northern France, including many UASC; in turn, this international crisis has resulted in national (France, Italy and Greece) and regional (Kent, Croydon and Northamptonshire) concentration. Other children are

still in the Middle East, North Africa or are in mainland Europe, and the UK Government has committed to resettle a number of these children deemed to be vulnerable in the UK.

6. In close consultation with the Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services, the Home Office introduced a *National Transfer Scheme* (NTS) in June 2016, underpinned by the powers of the Immigration Act 2016 (formerly identified as the Immigration Bill). The Home Office released an Interim National Transfer Protocol for UASC 2016-2017; this protocol identifies the transfer process for local authorities receiving UASC via transfer or redistribution. These powers are permissive, not mandatory (i.e. local authorities can participate rather than being compelled to do so. In effect, the NTS is currently a voluntary scheme).
7. Co-ordinated by the East Midlands Strategic Partnership, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City, Derbyshire, Derby City, Leicestershire, Leicester City, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland have been considering the acceptance of UASC. These are made up of:
 - a. UASC that currently reside in the region having arrived "spontaneously" (statutory requirement, as per paragraph 4)
 - b. A redistribution of the high proportion of UASC that are currently accommodated by Kent Social Care or other regional local authorities that have already reached their notional ceiling capacity of 0.07% of their total child population; or National Transfer Scheme (NTS) (voluntary participation)
 - c. UASC transferred from camps in Europe or other countries that have been identified by the Home Office as being particularly vulnerable, known as *Dubs* cases (voluntary participation).
8. There is a commitment by the UK Government that 450 UASC from Europe, Syria, North Africa or other European Countries will be resettled in the UK within the course of this current government term (originally identified as May 2020). This has been identified as voluntary participation by local authorities within England. The resettlement and redistribution of UASC under this scheme commenced from 1 July 2016. Nottinghamshire had been participating within the Voluntary National Transfer and Dubs Schemes in respect of accepting the County's "fair share" of UASC in need of support. Since July 2016, the East Midlands region has accepted 39 UASC within the National Transfer Scheme.
9. Nottinghamshire has accepted 7 LAC-UASC on the National Transfer Scheme and 3 LAC-UASC from the Dubs arrivals. A breakdown of Nottinghamshire's UASC population can be found in the background paper¹.

Regional Situation

10. All of the upper tier local authorities within the East Midlands region² have LAC-UASC in their care, by virtue of their statutory duties to "spontaneous arrivals", with six of those

¹ 1 young person from the National Transfer Scheme and 1 young person from the Dubs arrivals have since turned 18 years old and access support from our Leaving Care Service

² Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Rutland County Council

nine authorities volunteering to participate in the National Transfer Scheme. Those not participating are Derby City, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

11. **Figure 1** shows the numbers of UASC in the East Midlands region and the notional number that would take the region and its local authorities to the ceiling capacity of 0.07%.

Figure 1

Local Authority	Number of Children (Aug 2016)	Number of LAC-UASC (as of 31/3/17)	0.07% Population (Aug 2016)	Number of UASC to reach 0.07%
East Midlands	965,734	301	676	375
Derby City	58,350	7	41	34
Derbyshire	154,022	28	108	80
Leicester City	80,750	17	57	40
Leicestershire	134,800	32	94	62
Lincolnshire	141,379	39	99	60
Northamptonshire	160,692	99	112	13
Nottingham City	64,978	34	45	11
Nottinghamshire	163,078	40	114	74
Rutland	7,685	5	5	0

East Midlands Strategic Partnership Data - above figures are correct as of 31 March 2017

12. The 0.07% figure is the “trigger point” where the Home Office would deem a local authority to be able to transfer UASC to other local authorities. In the first instance this would be within the region, unless the region as a whole is above the 0.07% figure. In practice this means that if and when Northamptonshire exceeds 0.07%, then the eight other East Midlands local authorities would be requested to receive transferred children.
13. It is identified that under the guidance of the Immigration Act 2016, Nottinghamshire will be able to accept the transfer of responsibility of UASC placed in the Nottinghamshire area by other local authorities. These UASC will be included within the total figures of the 0.07% child population. Any ‘spontaneous’ presentations by UASC in the Nottinghamshire area will also be included within the 0.07% child population figures, but this is an unpredictable number. As of end of March 2017, there were 15 UASC placed in Nottinghamshire by other East Midlands local authorities, with Nottinghamshire placing 13 in other East Midlands authority areas.
14. The Home Office has identified that there will be a further arrival of UASC between May and July 2017, and that the East Midlands has been identified as a region for accepting some of these.

Local Authority costs incurred in support of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Nottinghamshire

15. Research was undertaken by the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership³ to collect individual LAC-UASC cost data under the following service areas:
 - Social Work costs
 - Placements costs

³ *Analysis of Local Authority costs incurred in support of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in the East Midlands* - East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, May 2017

- Education
- Health
- Legal costs
- Miscellaneous costs

16. Detailed financial data submitted by Nottinghamshire County Council is contained within the background paper, but in summary the average cost for UASC is estimated to be circa £44,000.

• Social Work	£3,600
• Placement	£37,000
• LA Education Costs	<u>£3,400</u>
Total	£44,000

17. For former UASC who are accessing support through Nottinghamshire's Leaving Care Service, the average cost per annum is circa £7,500. This does not include university fees which have been funded by the County Council to date, amounting to £24,781 for fees and accommodation for 2 UASC care leavers⁴. These costs supported one UASC care leaver to complete a 3-year BA (Hons) degree in Accounting & Finance, and a second UASC care leaver to complete their first year of a BEng (Hons) Civil and Infrastructure Engineering degree. A third UASC care leaver is due to start their university course from September 2017, undertaking a BSc (Hons) Maths degree. The financial support provided to UASC Care Leavers is in line with the offer provided to all Nottinghamshire Care Leavers.

Home Office UASC Funding

18. The Home Office funds local authorities with LAC-UASC in their care at the rates⁵ given in **Figure 2**, with those children arriving before 1 July 2016 being funded significantly lower than those since. Regionally, this represents two of every three LAC-UASC. By calculating the percentage distribution of the current regional UASC cohort across the four funding categories, the weighted average Home Office reimbursement per UASC per annum can be calculated as £30,231.

Figure 2: Home Office Funding Rates 2016/17 against regional UASC demographics giving the average reimbursement to local authorities per UASC per annum.⁶

UASC Funding Category		Home Office Funding Rates 2016/17		Current regional UASC cohort demographics	Weighted Home Office funding contribution
		Per day	Per annum		
Legacy Cases	Under 16	£95.00	£34,675	14.9%	£5,167
	16-17	£71.00	£25,915	54.1%	£14,020
National Rate/	Under 16	£114.00	£41,610	8.9%	£3,703
	16-17	£91.00	£33,215	22.1%	£7,341

⁴ These costs were incurred between the 2013/14 - 2015/16 academic years. Nationally, tuition fees for 2017/2018 now stand at £9250, of which the County Council contributes £3465 directly to the individual University, with the learner applying for a tuition fee loan of £5785 (repayable) as Home Students

⁵ ["Funding to local authorities: Financial year 2016/17 \(Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children \(UASC\)\)" Home Office \(Oct 2016\)](#)

⁶ *Analysis of Local Authority costs incurred in support of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in the East Midlands - East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, May 2017*

Kent Referrals					
Weighted average Home Office funding per UASC per annum					£30,231

Conclusion

19. The results of the UASC financial analysis above give an average cost to Nottinghamshire County Council supporting UASC in care as £44,000 per UASC per annum. This is significantly lower than the regional calculation of £55,000. By comparison with the 'weighted average Home Office reimbursement per UASC per annum' of £30,231, a current average funding shortfall in Nottinghamshire of £14,000 per UASC per annum can be approximated.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the update on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Nottinghamshire be noted
- 2) Nottinghamshire's involvement in voluntary transfer schemes, namely the National Transfer Scheme, Regional Transfer Scheme and Dubs Scheme, be suspended in light of the funding shortfall. The County Council will continue to meet its statutory responsibility in relation to "spontaneous arrivals" in Nottinghamshire;
- 3) the Children & Young People's Committee resolve to contact the Minister of State for Immigration, requesting that funding be made available to the Authority to cover the outstanding costs incurred.

Colin Pettigrew

Corporate Director, Children, Families & Cultural Services

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Constitutional Comments (LM 05/07/17)

21. The recommendations in the report fall with the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/07/17)

22. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 19 above.

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.

"Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Nottinghamshire".

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0998

17 July 2017**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL
WORK****EARLY HELP – CHANGES TO THE YOUTH JUSTICE STAFFING
ESTABLISHMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to convert 1 FTE (full-time equivalent) Youth Justice Support Officer post (NJE Grade 5) to 1 FTE Youth Justice Case Manager post (Hay Band A) from 1st August 2017.

Information and Advice

2. The recent restructure of Youth Justice Services saw Youth Justice South retain two Youth Justice Support Officer (YJSO) posts and reduce 2 FTE Case Manager posts. This was contrary to West and North teams where only one YJSO post was retained and fewer case managers lost. This decision was based on the demand in the south of the County for court duty work and crime prevention which can be undertaken by unqualified YJSOs.
3. Since the introduction of the new structure in February 2017 it has been noted by management in the south of the County that there is a demand for qualified Case Managers to hold complex statutory cases with less demand for work that can be undertaken by the unqualified Youth Justice Support Officers. When allocated to an YJSO, young people on statutory orders are secondary allocated to a case manager for quality assurance purposes.
4. The caseloads for the Youth Justice Team South over the last year have remained stable whilst the number of qualified case managers in the team has decreased.
5. Committee is therefore asked to consider converting a YJSO post to a Case Manager post in order to meet demand and effectively deploy resources. The Youth Justice Support Officer post is currently vacant so there will be no impact on existing employees and no redundancy risk.

Other Options Considered

6. Consideration was given to moving Case Management posts between different locality teams to readdress the staffing balance, however this was assessed to be likely to have

an adverse impact on capacity across the other localities where demand for managing complex cases is also high.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The recommendation is made in order that the service can meet the needs of complex young people receiving statutory court orders for youth offending in Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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

9. Conversion of the post from NJE Grade 5 to Hay Band A, with on-costs, has a budget implication of up to £6,745 per annum which will be contained within the Youth Justice Service budget. In line with the Council's recruitment policy, the service would seek to recruit into the bottom of the band which would represent an increased cost of £850 this financial year which is found from within a forecasted underspend.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the conversion from 1 FTE Youth Justice Support Officer post (NJE Grade 5) to 1 FTE Youth Justice Case Manager post (Hay Band A) from 1st August 2017 be approved.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 19/06/17)

10. The recommendations in the report fall with the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/06/17)

11. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 9 above.

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.

Job Description for posts of Youth Justice Support Officer and Case Manager

Youth Justice Workload Report 2016/17

Changes to the staffing establishment in the Family Service – reports to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18 July 2016 and 19 December 2017

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0999

17 July 2017

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) SERVICE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the activities and performance of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April 2016 to March 2017, and to inform the Committee of the areas of focus in the coming year.

Information and Advice

2. The annual report, which is attached as **Appendix 1**, informs the Committee about the activities undertaken by the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) in ensuring good outcomes for the children and young people in Nottinghamshire. It also takes into consideration how well the Service is doing and identifies areas for focus in the coming year 2017-18.
3. The report focusses on the key functions of the Independent Reviewing Officers and highlights the challenge and ongoing robustness of the IRO's role when working with looked after children and young people. Over the past year, the looked after population has remained stable and this has enabled the IROs to increasingly fulfil the wider expectations of their role and increase their contact with children and young people in order to advocate on their behalf. Indeed IROs are continuing to find creative ways to ensure that children and young people are able to contribute to or attend their looked after reviews.

Other Options Considered

4. The report is for noting only

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the activities and performance of the Independent Reviewing Officer service from April 2016 to March 2017, and the areas of focus in the coming year, be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

7. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 16/05/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0989

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Annual Report of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service
April 2016 – March 2017

Independent Chair Service vision statement:

“To ensure that, through the independent review process, protection and care plans for children meet their individual needs and secure better outcomes for children and young people.”

1. Introduction

- 1.1.** The Independent Chair Service (ICS) in Nottinghamshire is part of the Safeguarding and Independent Review Service. The ICS is responsible for quality assuring practice in relation to children in public care and children subject to child protection plans, ensuring that appropriate care/safeguarding plans are in place for these children, and promoting effective interagency working. There are two groups of staff within the ICS and this report will focus on the statutory function of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). A separate report is available in respect of the Child Protection Coordinator part of the service.
- 1.2.** The IRO Handbook states that the manager of the IRO service is responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the Children and Young People’s Committee and for it to be accessible as a public document. This report will provide information and analysis regarding the activity and performance of the IRO service over the past 12 months, and identify areas for development in the coming year. Progress against actions identified in the Annual report 2015-2016 will be addressed in the body of the report.

2. Purpose of service and legal context

- 2.1.** The Independent Review Officers’ (IRO) service is set within the framework of the updated IRO Handbook, linked to revised Care Planning Regulations and Guidance which were introduced in April 2010. The responsibility of the IRO has changed from the management of the Review process to a wider overview of the case including regular monitoring and follow-up between Reviews. The IRO has a key role in relation to the improvement of care planning for children Looked After and for challenging drift and delay. The IROs role is to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council acts as a responsible corporate parent and provides good standards of care and services to the children they care for.

The National Children’s Bureau (NCB) research ‘The Role of the Independent

Reviewing Officers in England' (March 2014) provides a wealth of information and findings regarding the efficacy of IRO services.

The foreword written by Mr Justice Peter Jackson; makes the following comment:

The Independent Reviewing Officer must be the visible embodiment of our commitment to meet our legal obligations to this special group of children. The health and effectiveness of the IRO service is a direct reflection of whether we are meeting that commitment, or whether we are failing.

The NCB research outlines several important recommendations with three having an influence on IROs work plan priorities:

- A. Where IROs identify barriers to their ability to fulfil their role, or systemic failures in the service to looked after children, they must raise this formally with senior managers. These challenges and the response should be included in the Annual Report.
- B. IROs method for monitoring cases and how this activity is recorded should be clarified.
- C. A review of IROs core activities and additional tasks should be undertaken. There is a need to establish whether IROs additional activities compromise independence or capacity.

3. Staffing/workload

3.1. The establishment for the IRO group is 14 (full time equivalent). During 2016 three IRO posts were filled with internal secondments and those staff have now secured a permanent position within the service and the team is now fully staffed. In order to develop the skills and knowledge of the three new workers they were mentored by more experienced IROs for a six month period. Caseloads of the IRO group has remained relatively stable with each individual IRO holding cases of 50-65 children. Within the IRO Handbook 2010 it states for an IRO to fulfil the overall roles and responsibilities as defined in the Care Planning Regulations a full time IRO should have a caseload consisting of 50-70 children/young people. It is important to note for the IRO to provide a meaningful service to children by overseeing their care plan they also actively attend other meetings arranged about the most vulnerable children along with holding additional reviews.

3.2. The IROs have specialisms/lead roles within the service which enables them to develop specialist knowledge which is shared with colleagues and creates good working networks with other agencies when striving to achieve good outcomes for looked after children. For example, developing knowledge and practice with missing children, those vulnerable to CSE (Child Exploitation), with disabilities, UASC (unaccompanied asylum seeking children) and other vulnerable children within the looked after population. The lead roles also involve IROs attending meetings/forums, as described below:

Children Disability Service - Two IROs meet regularly with the CDS managers and discuss areas of concern and priorities for the IRO service. This involves an interactive session where the IROs attended a meeting with social workers to discuss their role and answer any questions in relation to care planning and reviews. They also attended the DOLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards), information session with CDS and there is a plan to coordinate regional feedback on specific practice in relation to this subject.

Local Family Justice Board - The appointed IRO has attended all Nottinghamshire LFJB meetings this year which are held quarterly. These meetings include legal and representatives from social care from both county and city, solicitors, Judge and CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service). Court timetables, research or changes in practice in public law is shared within the meeting.

Adoption - Two IROs meet quarterly with the Operational Service Manager, an interactive liaison where information regarding trends, good practice and areas for development are addressed. This has enabled the IRO service to remain informed on significant changes in adoption practice, adoption support available, the fostering to adopt service and regionalisation. The IROs communicate any known issues impacting on children awaiting adoption and anything raised at LAC reviews. The service offered by the Adoption team is viewed as excellent by the IROs and meets the needs of Nottinghamshire children.

Children in Care Council - The achievements for the past year has involved; the development and embedding of Looked After Children reports for all young people who wish to receive them.

The development of Young Person friendly Pathway Plan has been completed and is in the process of being launched (this will not replace the formal Pathway Plan but the Young Person version can be used with the YP and the information transferred to the formal copy).

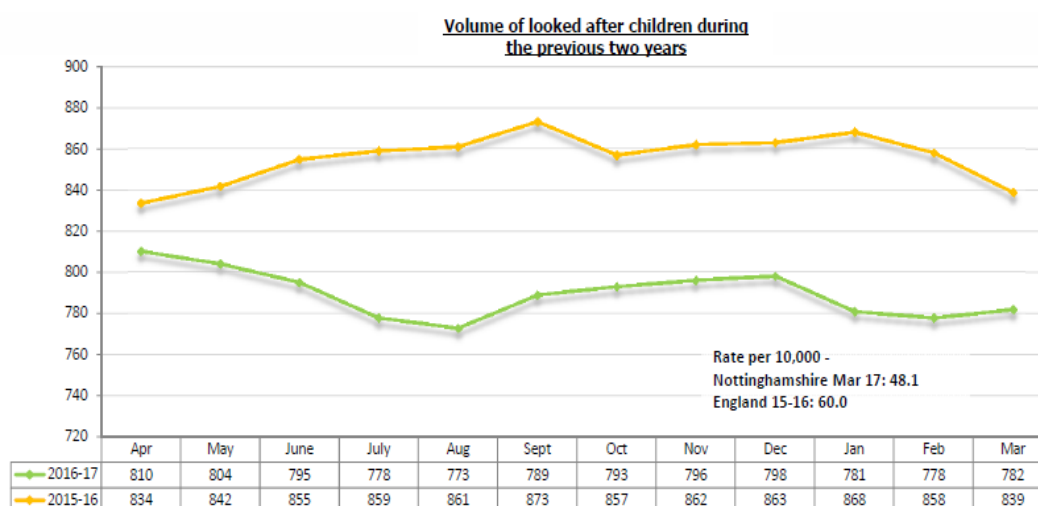
Planning and delivery of the play day (Centre Parcs) and Awards event which combined consultation opportunities between IRO and children and young people and was considered to be valuable for both. Children and Young People were reported to be interested to meeting their IRO if they had not met them before.

Foster carers meetings - The lead IRO's attendance at FLAG (Fostering Liaison Group) has given a valuable and interesting insight into diverse fostering issues and any challenges in the care they provide to Nottinghamshire children. The IRO's role is about listening to the concerns raised by foster carers along with establishing what carers have found useful at LAC reviews they attend. Concerns have ranged from differing views around support care and the impact this may have on the children they care for and the importance of them being able to make contact with the IRO. Foster carers have commented how useful it is to receive card details of the IRO and how they can be contacted in respect of any issues with the child

they are caring for.

4. Profile of Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire

4.1. At the end of March 2017, there were 782 children and young people looked after by the authority. This figure has remained relatively stable throughout this year and the previous year. This total figure includes 25 children with disabilities who are accommodated under an agreed series of short-term breaks. The looked after rate per 10,000 at the end of the year was 48.1 which remains lower than the rates for both our statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2015/16 which were 59.8 and 60 respectively. When considering the differences between our statistical neighbour's audit work undertaken has confirmed that thresholds for children to become looked after are appropriate and consistently applied. In monitoring the thresholds, the role of the Child Protection Coordinator is crucial in alerting their managers if it is deemed that a child needs accommodation and the appropriate action is not occurring for this to happen. However there continues to be operational management oversight to ensure children in need of protection are accommodated in a timely way.



4.2. Of the 782 children and young people looked after at the end of March 598 were in foster care, (which comprises of 76.5% of the total LAC population) with 20 placed outside of the county, and 33 were children with a disability. In considering other placements a total of 108 children were placed in different residential settings, whilst 4 were subject to a secure placement. Out of the total of 782 children 49 (6.3% of LAC population) were placed for adoption during the year.

4.3. When considering the age profile of the children who became looked after in Nottinghamshire over the past year 21% were between the age of 1-5 years, with 21% between 6-10 years and the highest percentage 54% made up the LAC population of 11-18 year olds at the end of March 2017. Of the total number of young people accommodated 56% were male and 44% female.

4.4. Of the total number of children who became looked after this year the majority were initially accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (66%). This means that these children were accommodated at the request of and or in agreement with parent/s or those with parental responsibility. Section 20 accommodation is intended as a short-term measure pending either a return home or the commencement of care proceedings, and these cases are now being more closely monitored by both the operational service managers and the IROs both in relation to preventing delay and ensuring informed consent by parents.

4.5. Last year the Scrutiny panel, firstly known as the Residential panel, was introduced with the purpose to scrutinise placements for children in Nottinghamshire care. The panel reviews all children in residential placements along with high cost or bespoke fostering arrangements and any changes to their plan is presented to the panel within 4 weeks.

The Service Manager for the Independent Chair Service sits on this panel with other operational service managers. The panel's focus is to ensure the placement is good value for money in meeting the young person's needs whilst confirming that the young person's care plan/pathway plan is appropriate. It is also important to ensure that the young people are being appropriately progressed onto independent living and have acquired the necessary skills to care for themselves. The IRO has a key role in ensuring the plan is focused on what skills and support the young person needs to prepare them in becoming independent.

4.6. In terms of permanency outcomes during 2016/17, there has been a high number of children returning to the care of their parents (102), with young people progressing onto Independent Living being (96) and 34 children being made subject to a Special Guardianship Order. The IROs continue to ensure that a child's Care Plan is meeting their needs and that changes to the plan are made to reflect any change in circumstances.

5. Looked After Reviews

5.1. A total of 1947 reviews were chaired by IROs in the year ending of March 2017, of these 95.5% of these were held in timescale, which was an improvement from the end of March 2016, which was 92.2%. This performance indicator is calculated on a rolling year basis and the current figure remains below the target of 95.5%.

5.2. IROs complete some reviews in a series of meetings to ensure the relevant people are involved and the meeting remains child focused and friendly. A total number of 293 children of young people who became looked after in Nottinghamshire between April 2016 and March 2017, neglect or abuse has continued to be the main reason (46%), with family dysfunction or the family being in acute stress also featuring highly, (37%).

5.3. IROs continue to track how cases are progressing between reviews as it is important to ensure the child's care plan is progressing. IROs will

appropriately challenge or prompt social workers to ensure work is undertaken effectively, such as convening strategy meetings for those who go missing or at risk of sexual exploitation and that risk assessments on these children are up to date.

6. Children and young people's participation in their reviews

6.1. The IRO service strives to ensure that children and young people participate in their review whether that be in person or through other creative means to include them in the review. Indeed in 2016/7 children aged 4 and over are recorded to have conveyed their views in over 92% of reviews, which signifies a continued improvement.

6.2. The IRO monitoring data indicates that the majority of children and young people are consulted about the venue of the meeting and who they would like to attend the review. Of the total number of reviews held this year in respect of children aged 4 years and over, 45% had the child/young person attending the review meeting or part of their meeting. When you look at the overall picture throughout the year both figures remain relatively consistent therefore children participating by attendance or other means continues to be high. There are examples where young people have been supported by their IRO to either chair or co-chair their own review. IROs are creative with the young people and discuss the best ways in which they can contribute to their review. This can be illustrated in the following example:

One young person aged 16 struggled initially with attending reviews, and it was evident that the young person was finding it difficult with parents being present. At the last review the IRO decided to offer parents a separate meeting and the young person attended with the support of her key worker. The young person had their own agenda, which was incorporated into the review and was included in the record of the meeting. The young person did not want their own child friendly minutes as they were of the view they were old enough to have the full minutes.

Participants at the review managed to agree and negotiate on a plan for the YP future education, their free time in the community, access to their phone and lpad and explored how they could become more independent. The young person felt anxious at the beginning of the review, however at the end they commented they felt they had been listened to and were really happy with the plan that was agreed by all parties.

6.3. Some children or young people make informed decisions not to attend their review but will participate in other ways such as completing the 'listen to me' document, providing their views in other written or pictorial forms, or alternatively meeting with their IRO prior to the review. IROs are increasingly visiting children and young people prior to reviews, and this can include observing very young children in placement with their carers'.

6.4. The group of young people least likely to participate in their review are teenagers. IROs continue to consider creative ways in exploring how to

communicate with those who do not attend or present their views for the review. The following example illustrates positive ways in which the IRO has include the young person in their review:

With the assistance of the IRO a 15 year old put together a PowerPoint presentation and then showed it to the participants at the review whilst talking thorough each slide which contained information about the young person's needs, everyday life, contact with birth family and ambitions for the future. As part of this process the young person has moved away from saying what they dislike about their parents to discussing their own life and the future. This is an example of a couple of the slides they created to convey their views.

Welcome to my PowerPoint! I hope you enjoy this as we go through different topics ☐

- Oh and I hope you enjoy your cakes and coffee as well.
- Right lets jump into it!!
- I have now got a national insurance number and I am filling it out to send back.
- I have also got a bank card, well a savings card but I still have a pin on it and I can still go to a cash machine and withdraw money from it. My budget is £10 and £10 only which is a fair amount of money anyway.
- But yeah I'm totally buzzing about that right now

7. Dispute Resolution process

7.1. The IRO handbook sets out that one of the key functions of the IRO is to resolve problems arising out of the care planning process. Where an IRO has significant concerns about practice or other issues affecting a child's care plan then the IRO can instigate an alert. In the first instance, the IRO will initiate an alert and seek to resolve the concerns with the social work team manager. A record of this alert and outcome is placed on the child's file. If the matter is not resolved within the required 10 working day timescale then the IRO with their manager will then consider taking action by progressing to stage 1; this involves the operational service manager.

7.2. During the year 68 alerts on 86 children were initiated by IROs to Social Care practitioners, which is a significant reduction from the 91 alerts the previous year. The themes that emerge from alerts largely relate to concerns regarding care planning; drift and delay in respect of recommendations not being completed from the previous review, assessments not being completed in a timely manner where a decision is needed to progress the care plan. During this past year, the service has moved onto record alerts differently and are now part of the young person's electronic record. The reduction of alerts indicates care plans are being progressed in a timely way, we are also aware that IROs are also resolving issues informally with team managers without it needing to be escalated to a formal alert. However further work will be undertaken by the ICS managers to ensure alerts are being initiated appropriately throughout the coming year.

- 7.3.** In relation to outcomes, there were no alerts this year that were escalated above stage 1- service manager level. External alerts are also considered with IROS when there are individual concerns about partner agencies and when there is any delay in contributing to achieve good outcomes for the child/young person. There have been a couple of external alerts initiated and this has surrounded lack of service to young people who need immediate support in relation to their emotional well-being. This area continues to be a challenge and has been addressed within the staff group to ensure any issues are automatically followed up and then recorded to demonstrate IROs role in challenging partner agencies involved in the care planning process.
- 7.4.** Equally when practice has been outstanding the IRO will send an email or speak with the social worker or partner agency in person to compliment them on their contribution in enhancing good outcomes for the child/young person. IROs do alert Social Care managers and senior managers when practice has been outstanding. Compliments are also made by IROs regarding foster carers and residential homes when the support they have provided a child or young person is felt to be exceptional.

8. Learning and development

- 8.1.** Regional seminars have been rolled out to IROs within the region for the past 3 years now. The service managers from each of the nine local authorities within the region enlist speakers to deliver on the different topics that have been identified by the IROs themselves and specific priorities of development. This continues to be a valuable opportunity in respect of IROs sharing their own experiences and offering suggestions with new developments. The ICS service manager chairs the regional IRO managers meeting which takes place four times a year and has recently joined the National IRO managers partnership group which meets at the DFE (Department for Education) office in London. The attendance of the ICS service manager at both these meetings enables information about national developments in respect of IROs and children in care to be shared seamlessly when contributing to the national and regional work plan.
- 8.2.** The regional seminars have continued to be held quarterly throughout 2016-17, and topics have included pathway planning, UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child), Special Guardianship Orders and learning from a SCR (Serious Case Review) relating to this, Safeguarding Looked after children, CAFCASS, CAFCASS plus and placement with parents. There is good attendance by the IROs in Nottinghamshire who value these workshops, with the learning being shared with their own group whilst exploring how any elements can be integrated into their own practice.

9. Feedback from children, young people, parents/carers and professionals

- 9.1.** Children, their carer's and parents continue to make positive comments about the involvement of the IRO in their lives and for many the IRO has been the most consistent professional. With the number of young people progressing onto independent living some have been sad to end their relationship with the

IRO and have appreciated the support and guidance provided whilst in care. The service values the views of children and feedback was sought from those young people aged 9 years and over, parents/carers and professionals who attended a LAC review in January/February 2017. Questionnaires were given out following 115 LAC reviews regarding 142 children and the return rate was positive with 398 forms returned from professionals and parents with 31 returned and completed by children and young people. This is a larger sample from the previous year, which is a positive increase in participation.

Comments received from parents and professionals;

95% of parents, 99% of carers, and 98% of professionals felt welcomed by the IRO. The gap between parents, and carers/professionals' positive experience has narrowed (last time parents only rated this 87%, compared to professionals 99%, and this had been a target for improvement).

The IRO was receptive to ensuring that balance was given to F's short-term and long-term needs – SSW

*She was very fair and very polite. She was very nice – Father
Excellent communication and respect for chair – Mother*

Always leads a very person centred review. All parties have opportunities to participate and have a clear understand of professional's responsibilities – LAC Achievement

Is an experienced and excellent IRO who is respectful and listens to review participants. He is also clear and firm with good safeguarding skills – Children's Guardian

- The child-centred and holistic approach
- That difficult subjects were faced and discussed, and not skirted over
- Recognition of challenge to drift

Feedback from young people;

- 97% felt welcomed
- 95% understood what was discussed
- 92% felt involved
- 95% felt all the important things were talked about
- 89% understood what was decided

It's good to know I have all the support

I understood everything and I got all the answers I wanted to hear

Everyone said nice things and I am doing well. I was happy.

Of those who did not attend their review, it appears that children and young people are not unduly disadvantaged by not attending and have a very high satisfaction level of feeling their views were represented.

It appears that considerable effort is made by the social workers and the IROs to ensure there is no disadvantage, with young people being seen and clear explanations given.

- 9.2.** Exploring how the service can obtain the views of all children through other means than questionnaires is being explored. An IRO is involved in the project group with young people looking at the best means of obtaining views about their review and involvement with their IRO. This was discussed with the Nottinghamshire Children in Care Council - No Labels Group in respect of children 5-9 years and the feedback received was that the 'listen to me' booklets was the best means for these children to put forward their views.

10. Key findings

- The LAC population has remained stable throughout the year which has enabled IROs to continue to fulfil the wider expectations of their role; including contacting children/young people in advance of reviews and monitoring a child's case on an on-going basis.
- There have been examples of good outcomes being achieved for children and young people.
- Internal secondment opportunities have resulted in staff taking up permanent positions.
- Reviews indicate a good level of child participation and evidence of the voice of the child.
- Child friendly reports are now produced for children and young people if they want them.
- IROs are developing their lead roles in specific areas which is enhancing the profile of the service.
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of alerts being initiated by IROs to Social Care practitioners. There is evidence of enhanced communication between the IROs and the LAC team.
- Positive comments about the IRO group from recent questionnaire
- IROs continue to value the role specific regional training opportunities and are seeking to be involved in promoting the knowledge and skills of newly appointed social workers.

11. Areas for focus during 2017-18

- Continue to raise the profile of the IRO by involving them in developing new members of staff and to regularly attend events involving LAC.
- Continue to provide challenge and support to all agencies, including children's social care, through review and alert process and engagement in learning activities.

- Develop a standard form which acknowledges positive work undertaken by agencies, including children's social care, in achieving good outcomes for children and young people.
- Implement a new system that enables IROs to share data they collate at the end of each review about practice with Team Managers.
- Strengthen the process IROs use to raise concerns about partner agencies' involvement in the child and young person's LAC review.
- Continue to strengthen working relationships with CAFCASS and other IROs within the region in order to share good practice
- Further explore the development of technology in ascertaining children and young people's views as part of their LAC review.
- Work with the Children in Care Council to develop a young person friendly annual report.

Izzy Martin
 Service Manager
 Independent Chair Service
 8.05.17

17 July 2017**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL
WORK****FOSTERING SERVICE: ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2016 TO MARCH 2017****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the activity and performance of the fostering service from April 2016 to March 2017.
2. The report also seeks approval to provide recruitment packs to Elected Members to support their engagement with fostering recruitment in their electoral divisions and for a further report be brought to the Committee in six months on foster carer recruitment and retention.

Information and Advice

3. The number of children in the Council's care has decreased over the past year from 839 (March 2016) to 771 (March 2017). This is due to a large number of young people exiting 'looked after' services as they become 18. Of the 771 children in the Council's care, 601 are placed in foster care (78% compared with 73.9% at the end of March 2016). Of these 601 children, 350 (58%) are placed with a foster carer approved by Nottinghamshire County Council (compared with 66.6% in March 2016). 251 (42%) are placed with an independent foster provider (compared with 33.4% at the end of March 2016).
4. Of the 771 children in the Council's care, 350 are placed with a foster carer approved by Nottinghamshire. This equates to 45.39% of the total looked after population. The internal fostering service is the Council's highest provider of placements at the lowest cost.
5. The expansion of internal fostering is being considered as part of the Review of Children's Care.
6. In 2016 a change was made to the way specific or additional living costs were paid for fostered children. In place of a range of weekly payments and discretionary awards a weekly fostering supplement of £10 per week was added to the fostering allowance to reduce the inefficiency and inequity of individual requests. This has saved considerable officer and administration time.
7. 25 foster households were approved in 2016/17 compared with 52 in 2015/16. The Council terminated the approval of 5 foster households in 2016/17 and 4 foster households submitted their resignation - a total loss of 9 foster households. The resultant

net gain to the Council in 2016/17 was 16 households compared with 43 in 2015/16. The primary reason for terminating foster carer approval was for safeguarding reasons. In one family there were concerns about domestic violence, in three families there were concerns about carers' ability to meet the emotional needs of the children and one "family and friends" placement it was identified that they would not meet fostering standards.

8. The recruitment and retention of foster carers is the core activity within the fostering service. The performance in 2016/17 is indicative of very positive retention activity but less positive recruitment activity. From March 2016 to March 2017 534 enquiries were received, resulting in 155 initial visits, compared with 232 initial visits in 2015/16. Foster carer recruitment is currently very challenging and this is a national trend. The fostering service works closely with colleagues from Marketing and Communications to develop the service's recruitment and retention strategy. Recent developments include a Facebook page dedicated to Nottinghamshire County Council Fostering, an advocacy group of carers who will spread the word about fostering for Nottinghamshire and a new online portal to provide information and advice to foster carers.
9. The children and young people for whom there is a continued struggle to find placements are teenagers and siblings groups. Our marketing campaigns reflect this. There is also an identified particular need in the Mansfield and Ashfield areas. As a result this was the focus of the Council's campaign in this area during Foster Care Fortnight (8-21 May 2017).
10. The fostering service has strengthened its support strategy to foster carers and children who foster. A Sons and Daughters Council has now been established and a fourth annual event took place in October 2016. It is planned that this celebration event will take place on an annual basis as part of the children who foster strategy. The contribution of the foster carers' birth children to the outcomes for a fostered child has long been appreciated and recognised.
11. The fostering service has a good reputation in respect of the support it provides to its foster carers. This is evidenced by the level of foster carer retention. The service continues to engage foster carers in service developments and continues to support its foster carers in their professional development and professional identity through a varied programme of learning, training and developmental opportunities.
12. As part of the service's commitment to supporting the development of foster carers a rolling programme of joint pre-approval training with Nottingham City has been embarked on. The aim is to share resources and to ensure that new foster carers have peer support as they start their career.
13. The fostering service is a service for children. The profiles of children, who wait for a long term foster family, have been featured on the local and regional family finding sites as well as a national site. Due to the complex needs of some of these children, progress is limited but there is a work-stream dedicated to promoting this work. The focus is particularly on the needs of young people currently living in residential care.
14. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to celebrating the achievements of looked after children and young people. Fostering recently had its second annual 'Fostering's Got

Talent' event. Ten acts performed and the winning act was a very moving poem about the life changing impact of fostering for one young person.

15. The fostering service has excellent staff retention. The level of passion and commitment the staff demonstrate is outstanding. The fostering service is part of the 'Review of Children's Care' and seeks to expand internal fostering. The review will lead to an attractive foster care offer, for recruitment purposes. The service is committed to providing high quality care for children and young people in a family environment and is particularly keen to develop the services offered to children with more complex needs and behaviours.

Other Options Considered

16. This report is for information only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. This report is for information only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the information on the activity and performance of the fostering service from April 2016 to March 2017 be noted.
- 2) the fostering service provides recruitment packs to Elected Members to support their engagement with fostering recruitment in their electoral divisions.
- 3) a further report be brought to the Committee in six months on foster carer recruitment and retention.

Steve Edwards

Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Fostering Service Manager

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Constitutional Comments (LM 04/07/17)

19. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 16/05/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0990

17 July 2017

Agenda Item: 10

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL
WORK****ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: SPRING 2017****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the outcome of six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in Spring 2017. Recommendations are made by Councillors when they visit and officers act on any recommendations that are made.
2. To identify any Members who are interested in undertaking rota visits to children's homes.

Information and Advice**Purpose of Rota Visits**

3. The Children's Act 1989 and 2004 places a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure that their children's homes are regularly inspected by personnel not directly involved with the line management of the home. Rota visits form an important part of Nottinghamshire County Council's governance role in relation to the Council's residential services. Members have a duty to ensure that each home is meeting the key principles of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and section 22(1A) of the Care Standards Act 2000, and ensuring that children and young people are safe and protected. There is also a requirement that each home is inspected monthly and these visits are called Regulation 44 visits which are undertaken by a person who is independent to the home. The homes are also inspected twice a year by Ofsted.
4. Rota visits are carried out twice a year by Members and reports on the findings of the visits are taken to the Children & Young People's Committee and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.
5. Members of the Committee who wish to undertake rota visits to children's homes are asked to contact Vonny Senogles, Children's Service Manager, Access to Resources, at vonny.senogles@nottsc.gov.uk for further information.

Rota visits – Spring 2017

6. **Lyndene** – former Councillor John Allin visited Lyndene on 11th April and a report is awaited.

7. **Caudwell House** was visited on 19th April 2017 by Councillor Boyd Elliott. During the visit Councillor Elliott noted that the home is warm, clean and inviting, with lovely recent pictures displayed, which have been enlarged. These can be stimulating and give a homely feel for long stay residents. There were two recommendations:
- Commended on ability to work at such short staffing levels, short breaks up 78%, encouraging out of County placements with City Council and Derby City.

A business case is being finalised to seek agreement to employ a part-time occupational therapist who will be part of the staff team. A report will be brought to Committee seeking approval.

8. **Minster View** was visited by Councillor Boyd Elliott on 19th April 2017. He noted that the electronic gate is in the process of being installed to improve the safety of the children and young people, and that all the children in residence have the opportunity to engage in new recreational experiences. There was one recommendation relating to the challenges in recruiting new staff to vacant posts.

- The reasoning behind the challenges in recruiting staff to new posts could be life style choices by candidates not wanting shift work. How can this be made more appealing?

The service continues to seek creative and robust advertising and recruitment processes, working alongside HR and business support, to try and address this challenge.

9. **Oakhurst** was visited on 13th April 2017 by Councillor Colleen Harwood. She observed that the home is well maintained and clean, with a homely feel, and there was evidence of young people using the living areas, but the home is well looked after and respected. They have monthly meetings where a range of subjects are discussed so that each young person feels respected and they have the opportunity to feel they have contributed to the house. They have recently been involved in interviewing new staff as part of a three-tier interview process. There were no recommendations

10. **West View** was not visited during this period.

11. **The Big House** was visited by Councillor Jacky Williams on 27th April 2017. Councillor Williams recorded that robust care plans are in place for each child. It was clear that on the previous evening, a child with very challenging behaviour had stayed at the house and staff were well equipped to deal with this. There is plenty of play equipment in the garden and the house itself is well equipped with soft toys, books and IT equipment as well as TV and DVD facilities (some in the young people's rooms). There was one recommendation:

- I have noticed that OFSTED do not take the elected member rota visit reports into account when carrying out their inspections. They might add a little more flavour to the overall impressions of the facility.

This has now been addressed. The manager(s) of the home ensures that Regulation 44 reports are made available to Ofsted inspectors during their inspection visits, and that these are discussed.

12. **Clayfields House** was visited on 25th April 2017 by Councillor Jacky Williams. Councillor Williams noted that the development work for the Scarlett unit is still ongoing, and that a tour of the home showed it to be in mainly good condition, with some new paintwork and lots of colourful and informative displays on the walls. There is ample evidence to demonstrate that the young residents are kept as healthy as possible and nurses and a local GP are regularly on hand to deal with minor ailments. Councillor Williams also recorded that a new initiative is an alliance, formed in November 2016, with the George Spencer (Academy) Alliance. This is of mutual benefit, with access to a range of resources and CPD for Clayfields teachers and support staff. Future developments could include opportunities for trainee teacher experience in working with complex and disillusioned young people in preparation for their careers. There was one recommendation:

- Work towards resolution of the Regulation 44 issues, which are preventing our children's homes from achieving an outstanding rating from OFSTED.

This has been addressed. The service manager for residential homes continues to brief Regulation 44 inspectors following all inspection visits, including rota visits and Ofsted.

Other Options Considered

13. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the outcome of the six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in Spring 2017 be noted.
- 2) Members who wish to undertake rota visits to children's homes to contact the Children's Service Manager, Access to Resources, as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report, for further information.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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T: 0115 9774153
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Constitutional Comments

16. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/06/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1000

17 July 2017**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2017-18.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme. It may be that the presentations about activities in the committee's remit will help to inform this.

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason for Recommendation

5. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee's work programme be noted and consideration be given to any changes which the committee wishes to make

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (HD)

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
18 September 2017			
Performance reporting (Quarter 1 2017/18) – Services for Children and Young People	Quarterly performance report (includes Virtual School)	Celia Morris	Matt Garrard
Update on regulated inspections		Derek Highton	Natasha Wrzesinski
BioMass boiler remedial works – progress report	For noting	Jas Hundal	Sara Williams
Post 16 area based review	For information – to include proposed new T levels	Marion Clay	Marion Clay
Commissioning of an Information, Advice & Support service in partnership with Nottingham City Council	For decision	Derek Highton	Louise Benson/ Chris Jones
Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire – six-month update	Six monthly update report	Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 – annual progress report	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Amanda Collinson/ Natasha Wrzesinski
Principal Child and Family Social Worker - annual report 2016	For information	Steve Edwards	Diana Bentley
Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: update	Six-monthly update	Steve Edwards	Pam Rosseter/ Joe Foley
Children & Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Transformation Plan	Six-monthly report	Kate Allen	Kate Allen/ Lucy Peel
Children's Workforce Health Check Survey 2016-17		Derek Highton	Liz Maslen
Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017		Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Local Authority governor appointments/ reappointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	Marion Clay	Jane Mansell
16 October 2017			
Schools Policy & Place Planning Strategy		Marion Clay	Linda Foster

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board annual report 2016/17	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Steve Baumber
School Capital Programme progress report	Six month update report	Jas Hundal	Sara Williams
Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms 'New Burdens' Grants 2016/17 and 2017/18 – progress	Report back on spend & activities	Derek Higton	Jill Norman
Penalty notices - update on attendance and enforcement & revised charges for Chaperone and Child Entertainment licences		Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - review		Steve Edwards	Holly Smitheman
20 November 2017			
Performance reporting (Quarter 2 2017/18) – Services for Children and Young People	Quarterly performance report	Celia Morris	Matt Garrard
Children Missing Education		Marion Clay	Linda Foster/ Karen Hughman
Nottinghamshire Early Years Improvement Plan 2015-17 – annual update & proposed future plan		Derek Higton	Irene Kakoullis
18 December 2017			
Nottinghamshire Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award 2017	Annual update report	Derek Higton	Pom Bhogal
Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-18 – annual update	Annual update report	Derek Higton	Sean Kelly
Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire – six-month update	Six monthly update report	Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
National Children and Adult Services Conference 2017	Report back on attendance	Colin Pettigrew	Colin Pettigrew/ Natasha Wrzesinski
Local Authority governor appointments/ reappointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	Marion Clay	Jane Mansell
15 January 2018			
Financial support for students in post-16 education	Annual determination	Marion Clay	Linda Foster

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Exceptional payments for school clothing and footwear 2017/18	Annual determination	Marion Clay	Linda Foster
Rota visits to children's homes: Autumn 2017	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles
26 February 2018			
Performance reporting (Quarter 3 2017/18) – Services for Children and Young People	Quarterly performance report	Celia Morris	Matt Garrard
Home to school and Post 16 Transport policies 2019-20		Marion Clay	Dave Litchfield
Nottinghamshire School Admission Arrangements 2019/20		Marion Clay	Mary Kiely
19 March 2018			
Performance figures for Nottinghamshire schools, academies and colleges – academic year 2016/17	For information	Marion Clay	Linda Foster
Children & Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Transformation Plan	Six-monthly report	Kate Allen	Kate Allen/ Lucy Peel
School Capital Programme progress report	Six month update report	Jas Hundal	Sara Williams
National Minimum Fostering Allowances and Fees to Foster Carers	Annual determination	Steve Edwards	Naomi Sills/ Tara Pasque
Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: update	Six-monthly update	Steve Edwards	Pam Rosseter/ Joe Foley
Schools Forum and Education Trust Board officer group report	Annual officer group report	Marion Clay	Marion Clay
Local Authority governor appointments/ reappointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	Marion Clay	Jane Mansell
23 April 2018			
21 May 2018			
Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2017/18) – Services for Children and Young People	Quarterly performance report	Celia Morris	Matt Garrard
18 June 2018			
Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire – six-month update	Six monthly update report	Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Principal Child and Family Social Worker - annual report 2017	For information	Steve Edwards	Diana Bentley
Local Authority governor appointments/ reappointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	Marion Clay	Jane Mansell
16 July 2018			
Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018		Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: annual report 2016/17		Steve Edwards	Pam Rosseter
Children's Workforce Health Check Survey 2017-18		Derek Higton	Liz Maslen
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 – annual progress report	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Amanda Collinson/ Natasha Wrzesinski
Rota visits to children's homes: Spring 2018	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles
Members' visit to Outdoor & Environmental Education residential centres	For decision	Derek Higton	Phil Baker
To be placed			
Review of the Schools Swimming Service offer		Steve Edwards	Laurence Jones
Short Breaks offer – outcome of review		Derek Higton	Jill Norman
Progress with Special Educational Needs & Disability Strategy and Action Plan		Derek Higton	Jill Norman