

Corporate Parenting Panel

Tuesday, 18 July 2023 at 14:00

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers
- 3 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 16 May 2023 3 - 10
- 4 Foster Carers Liaison Group Update
- 5 Children in Care Council Update
- 6 Elected Member Visits to Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes 11 - 14
- 7 Update on Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes 15 - 22
- 8 Inspection Gradings of 'Exclusive Use' Children's Residential Homes
- 9 Update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care
- 10 Performance of Adoption Services 2023 23 - 28
- 11 Provision, Achievements and Progress of the Children in Care Council 2022-23 29 - 34

12	Health of Children in Care	35 - 38
13	Work Programme	39 - 42

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 Adrian Mann (Tel. 0115 804 4609) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

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

Meeting: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date: Tuesday 16 May 2023 (commencing at 2:00pm)

Membership:

Persons absent are marked with an 'Ap' (apologies given) or 'Ab' (where apologies have not been sent). Substitute members are marked with a 'S'.

County Councillors

Sinead Anderson (Chair)
Anne Callaghan BEM
Francis Purdue-Horan
Sam Smith

County Council Officers

	Amanda Collinson	-	Service Director for Care, Help and Protection
	Laurence Jones	-	Service Director for Commissioning and Resources
Ap	Devon Allen	-	Group Manager for Regulated Services
	Sophie Eadsforth	-	Group Manager for Looked After Children
	Claire Sampson	-	Group Manager for Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement
	Jon Hawketts	-	Group Manager for Commissioning
	Charles Savage	-	Group Manager for Psychology and Inclusion Services

Substitute Members

None

Officers and colleagues in attendance:

	Heather Bennet	-	Executive Officer
	Davinia Lawton	-	Service Manager for Residential and Contact Services
	Adrian Mann	-	Democratic Services Officer
	Stephanie McGill	-	Assistant Head of the Virtual School
	Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Administrator
	Paul Thomas	-	Service Manager for Secure Accommodation

1. Apologies for Absence

Devon Allen

2. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interests were made.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 January 2023, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. Foster Carers Liaison Group Update

Sophie Eadsforth, Group Manager for Looked After Children, provided an update on the Foster Carers Liaison Group (FLAG). The following points were discussed:

- a) The FLAG meets on a quarterly basis to enable foster carers to engage with Council officers and members, ask questions, consider specific topics in depth and share good news stories. The meetings are being held in a virtual setting and are progressing well, with between 30-40 households represented at the last session (where, previously, solely in-person meetings had been attended by fewer than 10 households). However, it is important to identify clearly which questions from foster carers should be addressed at FLAG meetings and which should be raised with the Panel.

Resolved (2023/009):

- 1) To note the update on the Foster Carers Liaison Group and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to the points raised.

5. Children in Care Council Update

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, provided an update on the Children in Care Council (CiCC). The following points were discussed:

- a) The Chair of the CiCC has been invited to attend the meetings of the Panel, and is able to raise any related topics with the Panel as required.

Resolved (2023/010):

- 1) To note the update on the Children in Care Council and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to the points raised.

6. Member Visits to Children's Residential Homes

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, provided an update on visits by members to both the Council-run children's residential homes

and those homes run by external providers for the sole use of the Council. The following points were discussed:

- a) A schedule of visits to the Council's children's residential homes has been produced and, as all members have now received the appropriate training, dates are being set for the first visits to take place. The visits will be announced to the homes and will take place when the children are likely to be present, with members being accompanied by the appropriate officers.

Resolved (2023/011):

- 1) To note the update on member visits to Children's Residential Homes and request that the visiting dates are established as soon as possible.

7. Update on Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, presented a report providing an overview of the internal children's residential homes in Nottinghamshire. The following points were discussed:

- a) The Council operates seven homes in Nottinghamshire, and their overall performance is good.
- b) West View is closed currently due to flood damage, but it is planned to replace it with two new 2-bed homes and for the site to be converted to make it suitable for children with learning disabilities. Plans are underway to open two further 2-bed homes in Nottinghamshire – a suitable property for one of these has now been identified and the search for a second is underway. Improvement works are also progressing at two existing homes, with one undergoing a significant refurbishment while another is being converted to make it suitable to support children with learning disabilities.

Resolved (2023/012):

- 1) To note the report on the internal children's residential homes in Nottinghamshire and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to its contents.

8. Inspection Gradings of 'Exclusive Use' Children's Residential Homes

Jon Hawketts, Group Manager for Commissioning, presented a report on the current performance of the children's residential homes that are operated by Homes2Inspire for exclusive use by children in the Council's care. The following points were discussed:

- a) The majority of the Council's children's placements are commissioned from residential homes operated and managed by companies from the private and voluntary sector. The Council has a longstanding relationship with Homes2Inspire, which is part of a national charity and is a large provider in the Nottinghamshire area. In a number of cases, the Council has acquired a property

for use as a residential home exclusively for Nottinghamshire children, which is then operated on the Council's behalf by Homes2Inspire.

- b) Robust monitoring arrangements are in place for the homes operated by Homes2Inspire, which will now include visits by Panel members to the properties either owned by the Council or operated by Homes2Inspire for the Council's sole use. Clear management plans are put in place for any home identified by Ofsted as requiring improvement.
- c) Ofsted's latest inspection of Holly House identified requirements for improvement because some of the children experienced difficult relationships with their fellow residents that resulted in them being placed at risk of harm. As a result, some of the children at the five-bed home have been transferred to other placements (all but one still within Nottinghamshire), for the purposes of safety. Five-bed homes like Holly House can give rise to challenges in ensuring positive relationships between the residents, so it is sometimes best to move some of the children into residential homes with fewer residents to ensure that everyone has a safe and stable placement. The Ofsted inspectors have since returned to the home and noted the improvement work carried out to date.
- d) The Panel considered that it was very positive to see that most of the residences operated by Homes2Inspire were rated as either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, and was provided with assurance that the appropriate management plans were in place to achieve the required improvements at the two homes where this was currently not the case.

Resolved (2023/013):

- 1) To note the report on the current performance of the children's residential homes operated by Homes2Inspire and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to its contents.

9. Update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care

Amanda Collinson, Service Director for Care, Help and Protection, provided an update on the Government's response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (IRCSS). The following points were discussed:

- a) The Government's formal response to the findings of the IRCSS is anticipated to be released on 23 May. Once the response has been published, a report will be brought to the Panel to set out any implications arising for the Council in its role as a corporate parent and to establish any resulting, ongoing regular reporting and monitoring requirements.

Resolved (2023/014):

- 1) To note that, following the publication of the Government's response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, a report will be brought to the Panel to set out any implications arising for the Council in its role as a corporate

parent and to establish any resulting, ongoing regular reporting and monitoring requirements.

10. Care Leavers Annual Report

Amanda Collinson, Service Director for Care, Help and Protection, presented the annual report on the experience of care leavers in Nottinghamshire. The following points were discussed:

- a) In 2018, the Leaving Care Service launched a local offer for care leavers, and this has progressed well. The Council is now reflecting on its related services in the context of Ofsted's new Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework to identify what it should be proud of, to consider how the activities carried out can be best evidenced, and to assess whether the services provided to care leavers are in line with Ofsted's revised expectations.
- b) The local offer is being reviewed in consultation with young people to find out what potential services have the most value to and impact on them. There will also be more specific local offers targeted towards unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, young people aged over 21, care leavers in or leaving custody, and care leavers who are parents. Further links with Adult Social Care have been developed to improve the transition experience of care leavers moving to those services from Children's Social Care.
- c) The Council has developed a bespoke 21Plus Service using the Additional Burdens Grant from the Department for Education, which is a means of support that care leavers can choose to opt into. A number of young people are participating in the scheme and the Council contacts them over 12 times per year with information concerning employment opportunities, education and training, tips on managing the increasing costs of living, birthday cards and interactive newsletters.
- d) The Council has received a funding commitment from health partners to continue the 'You Know Your Mind' offer, which is designed to facilitate conversations with care leavers about mental and emotional health and wellbeing, as well as to commission a specialist mental health practitioner. A funding bid to the 'Staying Closer Staying Connected' scheme has also been successful, which will build upon plans around multi-disciplinary teams and assistance within Supported Accommodation Provision.
- e) The Panel requested that a specific report on the work and outcomes of the 21Plus Service is brought to a future meeting. Members also suggested that the issue of what makes a good care leavers service, and the associated best practice, could constitute a valuable topic for review by an appropriate Select Committee, given that the Council has resolved to consider care experience as equivalent to a legally protected characteristic.

Resolved (2023/015):

- 1) To note the annual report on the experience of care leavers in Nottinghamshire.

- 2) To request that a report on the work and outcomes of the 21Plus Service for care leavers is brought to a future meeting of the Panel.
- 3) To suggest that an item on what constitutes a good care leavers service, and the associated best practice, is considered for review by an appropriate Select Committee.

11. Destinations of Year 12-13 Looked After Young People Cohort 2022-23

Charles Savage, Group Manager for Psychology and Inclusion Services, presented a report on the education destinations of children in care who left statutory education at the end of the 2021/22 academic year, and those in post-16 education during the 2022/23 academic year. The following points were discussed:

- a) A new online platform has been introduced for the improved gathering and more detailed reporting of information in relation to the educational and training destinations of care leavers. The Virtual School, the Achievement Service and Children's Social Care work together closely to further improve the effectiveness of the transition of young people from Year 11 to post-16 settings, and specific structures are in place to support care leavers who are not currently in education, employment or training.

Resolved (2023/016):

- 1) To note the report on the education and training destinations of children in care who have left statutory education and confirm that no additional actions are required in relation to its contents.

12. Work Programme

Laurence Jones, Service Director for Commissioning and Resources, presented the Panel's current Work Programme. The following points were discussed:

- a) Priority items for future Panel meetings will include a focus on the performance of Adoption Services across Nottinghamshire and the wider D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership area, the Independent Reviewing Officer's annual report, the health of children in care, the activity and achievements of the Children in Care Council, and the work carried out by District and Borough Councils in relation to their corporate parenting responsibilities – including how support is provided in the context of Council Tax, and access to leisure and housing.

Resolved (2023/017):

- 1) To note the Corporate Parenting Panel's Work Programme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2) To request that a report on the work and outcomes of the 21Plus Service for care leavers is brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 2:29pm.

Chair:



18 July 2023

Agenda Item 6

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES**

**ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S
RESIDENTIAL HOMES**

Purpose of the Report

1. The report provides information on the outcome of visits by Members to Nottinghamshire children's residential homes.

Information

2. The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel state that "Members will be expected to lead regular visits to care settings in line with local guidance accompanying as appropriate other Elected Members beyond membership of this Panel. Guidance and training will be made available."
3. Members who have made visits have received training to support their approach to the visits and engagement with young people in the homes. Written guidance on visits and providing feedback to the Panel were made available.
4. Visits have been made to Lyndene and Oakhurst and their feedback is detailed below.

Lyndene on 9 June 2023

5. Councillor Anderson and Councillor Callaghan visited Lyndene on 9 June 2023 at 3.30pm and the following represents their observations during the visit.
6. The young people appeared very happy and relaxed as they interacted well with staff members and each other. They were happy to sit and chat with us, one proudly showing us round their bedroom. The manager said they had completed a matrix in order to ensure the young people would be able to get along with each other. As it was a very warm day a big paddling pool had been filled on the back lawn and as soon as possible two of the young people were happily jumping in and out once sun cream had been applied to them. The young people said they had input into the weekly food menu and often went to purchase the ingredients with a staff member for the weekly meals. This weekend the menu had changed to add barbecue food which they were all excited about. The home

invites the young people's families to the home and twice a year they will put on a tea for all the young people's families and staff to socialise.

7. The young people appeared very safe as there were clear boundaries, rules and routines in place that they understood. One young person had not followed the rules and as a consequence their phone had been confiscated for the night. The phone was returned to them as they had behaved throughout the school day. There were several identified areas in and outside of the home where young people could be by themselves or talk privately with a member of staff. Staff members clearly had a good knowledge of each young person's needs and were able to support them when and if required to do so.
8. The young people said they liked living in the home, two of them choosing to live there as their foster placements were not right for them. They said that staff listen to them and give them time to communicate their wishes and feelings. None of the young people appeared to want to change anything at this time.
9. Staff spoke very warmly about each young person and appeared to want the very best for them. The home, which is beautifully maintained and resourced, is run like a real family home, giving these young people a secure and safe environment to thrive.
10. There were no concerns at the time of this visit.

Oakhurst on 20 June 2023

11. Councillor Purdue-Horan visited Oakhurst on 20 June 2023 at 6pm and the following represents his observations during the visit.
12. Both the staff and two young people seemed to appreciate that a councillor had taken the time to visit.
13. The visit was made just as dinner was being served and the atmosphere was normal and relaxed.
14. There were five members of staff on site and there did not appear to be any reasons to be concerned about the young people.
15. One of the young people enjoys being able to play with the PlayStation but would like to use the Chill Out front room with the large flat screen, rather than hooking up to the main television in the lounge. The Chill Out room is awaiting finishing off following a damp issue and is currently closed off.
16. The re-decorating work in the downstairs front Chill Out room needs to be completed as soon as possible now that the damp repairs are complete. Councillor Purdue-Horan noted that major work is required on Oakhurst which keeps being delayed.
17. Another young person said they were happy at Oakhurst but would like to be allowed to go out with friends to local gigs in pubs with the approval of the Manager.
18. There were no concerns at the time of this visit.

Other Options Considered

19. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there is any feedback that it wishes to give and any actions that it recommends in relation to the information contained in the report.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (GMG 05/07/23)

23. This report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider (see p.125 of the Council's Constitution).

Financial Comments (CDS 05/07/23)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

25. 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.

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18 July 2023

Agenda Item 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

UPDATE ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Purpose of the Report

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

Information

2. There are six internal children's residential homes in Nottinghamshire comprising two providing for children with disability, three mainstream homes and one secure home.
3. The current children's disability homes are Caudwell House and The Big House, although there are plans agreed to convert West View to become a specialist disability home in the future.
 - **Caudwell House (Southwell)** is a 12 bedded home, with either 4 resident beds and 8 short break beds or 5 resident and 7 short break beds dependent on demand at the time of need. It provides residential care for children with physical disabilities and associated learning difficulties and health care needs, and children with learning difficulties and on the autistic spectrum. The home may provide care and accommodation for no more than 12 children from the age of 10 to 18 years.

Caudwell House is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The Regulation 44 reports are always very positive highlighting the excellent service provided for children and young people. These Regulation 44 reports reflect the passion staff show and the feedback from parents demonstrates the strength of the home in ensuring that staff work closely with parents and other professionals.

Two of the resident children previously moved on to adult placements after a planned and supported transition. This left only two residents for a while which impacted on occupancy levels. However, these have now been filled with two out of county children from Derby being accommodated at the end of March and a child from Rutland who was placed in mid-April. The out of county children have settled in extremely well. The other two children have welcomed them into the home, they are a settled and happy group of children. Two of the resident children have been on holiday and the home has

many activities planned for the summer including trips to hydro swimming, farms, the seaside and the circus. The children have been part of the choosing and planning.

There are plans for one of the girls, who turned 18 in June, to move to an adult placement at the end of August so that a full transition can be supported. The child who is receiving treatment for Leukaemia continues to attend hospital regularly supported by staff. He participates in activities that he enjoys and is currently on holiday for two nights at the Disney Hotel.

The short breaks service offers accommodation for a maximum of five children, which allows the home to provide the 1-1 support needed to care for the children safely, considering the support they need with moving and handling and medical needs.

Maintenance work on the grounds has started with the removal of the sensory walkway. The home is aiming to get a suitable walkway for wheelchairs put into the adjacent sensory garden and this is expected to start in September. The new lights and sounds room within Bramley group has been completed. The children helped to decide how this was being furnished and it has been ensured that there is something to interest all the children using it.

Although there are still challenges to recruitment, the home has a settled staff team committed to making the children's lives as varied and fulfilled as possible.

- **The Big House** is a short break home in the village of Edwinstowe. At present the home provides overnight breaks for 27 children. Each child has a bespoke package of care ranging from 24 nights a year to 156 nights a year. Allocation is dependent on need and is subject to change dependent on the changing needs of the children. Any child attending The Big House will have a severe intellectual disability, combined with manifestations of challenging and complex behaviour. Children must be of school age, attend their own school and can be up to 18 years of age. The child is expected to be mobile, but provision will be made for those who have some degree of difficulty with mobility.

The Regulation 44 reports are very positive and highlight that *'the home is going from strength to strength. The children are having lots of different experiences and visiting different places. Children have choices and are heard and listened to by a dedicated staff team. The home ensures that children are given every opportunity to do a variety of things that they may not have the chance to do at home. The staff are proactive at planning activities and approach them with positivity'*.

Although some staff have left the service, the home has filled all vacant posts. This is excellent given the current and ongoing issues relating to the recruitment of staff. The new staff are all enthusiastic, proactive and bring new ideas to the home.

Mainstream homes

4. **Lyndene** is currently at full capacity, accommodating three children. Two children currently attend full-time education. One child has completed all GCSE exams, is on target to achieve 8 GCSEs at level 8/9 and has been accepted for a college placement in September, with aspirations for university and to become a primary school teacher.

Supporting children to remain in education remains a challenge, with staff working closely with education providers, including providing strategies for managing difficult behaviour and using incentives and rewards when children are in school.

5. All children have weekly activity charts and have a daily routine to follow. It is the norm for the home to have a variety of activities planned such as days at The Mill, bowling, walking in the Peak district, Alton Towers, Skegness trip, bike rides, attending local parks, wildlife animal parks, family time, clothes shopping and visiting skate parks.
6. All children have plans to participate in local community events this summer, such as 'Edwinstowe Bloom' where children have their own garden patch to maintain in the village thus ensuring they take pride in their own community. They will also be attending a summer festival in the local forest and designing posters to be displayed in the community for the 'Tour of Britain' that will begin in the local area.
7. Animals are important to children so staff bring their dogs to the home and go on walks with the children on a regular basis.
8. The Regulation 44 report continues to be positive, the report on the visit made in June concluding that children are effectively safeguarded, the home is well managed, adequately staffed, well led by management and that the children are effectively safeguarded and their wellbeing promoted.
9. There has been one missing episode with two children within the last month. This behaviour is out of character for one of the children and was clearly influenced by a peer. Risk assessments are reviewed and updated regularly and after any incidents. When incidents occur these are reported, the response of the child is recorded and a management analysis is completed for each incident. Key work sessions are provided after incidents. Risk assessments are updated, and incident reports are reviewed by the manager.
10. De-briefs are completed with children and staff by a manager as recommended by the last Ofsted inspection under Regulation 35. Monthly catch-up sessions are implemented with the children to explore their wishes and feelings, each child receiving a personal response from the manager with outcomes and actions. There have been no physical interventions in the home in June.
11. Currently there is one Residential Social Care Worker vacancy. A local recruitment drive has resulted in interest from the community.
12. On 9 June two members of the Panel visited the home which the staff welcomed. The members met the three children and took an interest in their journeys and their home environment. Staff look forward to further visits.
13. **Oakhurst** is a four bedded home that currently has two resident children. The home provides a range of care for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties with or without moderate learning disabilities.
14. The two children currently attend full-time education, one of the children is on target to achieve A levels, is planning to attend university and the staff team have been supporting

her to attend University Open Days in Nottingham, Sheffield, and Manchester. The second child attends Alternative Provision three days a week accessing a learning schedule bespoke to their needs, including support from therapeutic and pastoral support workers. On the remaining two days the child accesses one to one tutorial educational support on functional skills. The aspiration is that the child is to return to full-time education in September with bespoke support for his tutors and the staff team.

15. The home encourages children to participate in hobbies and leisure activities that will help their physical and emotional wellbeing. The home aims to build children's endurance, develop better social skills and maintain healthy lifestyles into adulthood and children are supported to take part in a variety of activities in order to support building their confidence and developing their interests.
16. All children are involved in the planning of their weekly activity charts and planned events such as camping, Ninja Warriors, swimming, Drayton Manor Park, gym, ice skating, a trip to Skegness and trips out to places such as Yorkshire Wildlife Parks. The home recently hosted a barbeque party to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation and supported the children to invite their family, guests and friends. The event went very well and was a lot of fun with apple bobbing, sponge throwing, football skills and royal mask wearing.
17. The home recently celebrated one of the children's birthdays, hosting a Harry Potter themed event with the staff team dressing up in costume. The home was decorated for when the child returned from school as a surprise and a birthday cake, party packs and games. His Mum and siblings were also invited to the party at the home.
18. The Regulation 44 reports continue to be positive, the report on the visit made in May concluded that *'the home managers continue to be a role model, coach and challenge practices that highlight contextual risk behaviors. The home was highlighted for its therapeutic approach to children'*.
19. The home is preparing for an imminent Ofsted inspection, having received its last inspection in July 2022 which rated it as 'Good'.
20. The home has introduced an equality and diversity display board. The destructive reactions from one child have all but dissolved and the slow transition to a more restorative approach appears to be having a positive effect on his behaviour. Both children and staff have spent time decorating and purchasing soft furnishings to create a homely look and feel at Oakhurst.
21. There have been no breaches of safeguarding, no incidents, no missing episodes and no physical interventions since January 2023. When incidents occur, these are reported, the response of the child is recorded and a management analysis is completed for each incident. Key work sessions are provided after incidents. Risk assessments are updated, and incident reports are reviewed by the manager.
22. The new manager joined the home in January 2023. She has now made her application to Ofsted to be the registered manager and a fit person interview date is awaited.
23. The home remains understaffed and continues to utilise staff from the relief pool of workers. These staff are known to the children. Over the last months the home has taken

the lead in an intense recruitment drive through community-based initiatives to approach the public and have an open dialogue about potential job opportunities in the children's residential service. The result of this was a marked increase in people applying for positions at the home and consequently three people have been appointed as Residential Social Care Workers. They are currently going through their employment checks and will be in post imminently.

Clayfields Secure Children's Home

24. Clayfields Secure Children's Home is a national resource providing Secure Care for up to 20 vulnerable young people between 10 and 18 years of age. Within the centre, a total of 20 places are available for purchase by the Ministry of Justice for children on remand or sentenced to custody and for local authorities under Section 25 of the Children Act, for example, where children frequently abscond from care, are at risk of child sexual exploitations (CSE) or are involved in child criminal exploitation (CCE) e.g., gang activity.
25. Clayfields House is due a full Ofsted Inspection in July 2023. Feedback was extremely positive from the last inspection which took place on 19 - 21 July 2022. The inspectors spoke about "young people being safe", "strong multi agency approach", "staff know the children well", "staff are warm and have a clear understanding of young people's needs" and "leaders and managers know the service well".
26. The judgement continues to be Good in all areas, with overall judgement being a strong Good, with many of the areas on the edge of being outstanding.
27. Monthly Regulation 44 visits continue by an independent person and provides a healthy challenge to the service. The visitor summarised her visit in May 2023 as follows:

This visit is a typical example of the need to understand the context of the provision and be flexible as an independent visitor. The majority of what I had anticipated in the planned structure of the visit was addressed but little scope to explore any detail and so the report does reflect more questions than conclusive analysis.

The centre was busy as usual, there were some key staff absences since it was half term. The centre seemed to be moving out of a particularly busy period with a significant spike in incidents and increase in restrictive physical interventions. The movement of children both admitted and discharged was pretty much the norm but nevertheless an undertaking that requires significant attention and impacts the dynamics of the residents in a manner that is unlike any other nonsecure setting.

Behind the scenes the independent investigation into performance continues and should reach conclusion in due course. Despite the pace of work, I noticed that established processes to celebrate staff contribution continues and three members of the support services team were given the employee of the month this month and compliments also provided to the head of catering who seems consistent in the quality of his provision to the young people.

Overall, the view of external partners and staff on the units is that the young people are making progress, they do have opportunities to learn, relax and have enjoyable experiences. Risk seems to be managed reasonably well and the young people's best

interests are advocated by the team. Timely and difficult decisions are taken to safeguard the children which at times means terminating placements.

28. There is a distinct feeling of change and positive transformation in Clayfields; the Senior Leadership Team seems to be working well together, the building is looking positively different, and young people are able to contribute to the changes that are being made.
29. Whilst the home still has vacancies across different departments e.g., education, care, intervention and health, every effort is being made to advertise and appoint to these positions. The service is exploring all possible avenues to recruit and retain staff including market factor supplement payments or the return of the secure allowance for frontline staff, which is an exercise the governance board is taking forward, alongside the national piece of work being undertaken by the Secure Accommodation Network, which provides support, *guidance and advice to Secure Childrens Homes in order that they can grow and develop a range of trauma aware and psychologically informed integrated care, health and educational services and interventions that meet the individual assessed needs of young people placed within an environment in which their liberty is restricted due to welfare concerns (as identified within sec 25 Children Act 1989/2004 or the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014) as well as those subject to criminal proceedings or outcomes.*
30. As of 31 May 2023, Clayfields has been operating on 99.72% occupancy level, with an overall bed night loss of eight nights, which continues to be positive news compared with 31 March where when it was at 97.33%.
31. The vacancy figures relating to Youth Custody Service beds are low, and the welfare bed referrals have been constant and consistent which is reflective of the low loss of beds nights overall. It appears that whilst the adult estate numbers are significantly increasing, youth custody figures remain low across the youth estate due to more community disposal orders, where young people are serving their sentences on license in the community. At the time of writing this report the welfare referral waiting list is at 58 beds with over 20 beds pending information.
32. As previous reported the service had done well in securing Department for Education capital funding programmes that were bid for and agreed, the main one being £2.85 million of capital to refurbish Loxley and Sherwood house units, including their external leisure activities/ yard. The total capacity at Clayfields was due to increase to 21 beds, however, due to the significant increase in building costs, the building programme will only undertake refurbishment and the number of beds will not increase. Alongside these funding bids, funding had already been received for the refurbishment of the main yard and an updated personal protection system for which the Department For Education had already agreed £340,000. However, again the cost has increased following an internal survey that has been undertaken. The Department for Education has provided an early indication that the additional funding will be agreed and alongside their approved architects have undertaken a feasibility report to modernise all secure children's homes nationally.

Developments

33. A property bought last year has been leased to the Council's largest provider of children's homes. Following refurbishment, it will seek Ofsted registration with a target to open as

two-bed home in early autumn. This will provide much needed capacity to provide more Nottinghamshire children with a good quality home environment in the County, enabling them to maintain links with their communities and support networks. Plans are also advancing for the refurbishment of some of the Council's existing children's homes.

34. They will be supported in their aim to provide homes for some of the children with the most complex needs by the appointment of a Specialist Social Worker. This new role is currently being recruited to. The postholder will offer direct help to children who have experienced trauma and ensure staff providing care are trained to help those children thrive.

Other Options Considered

35. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

36. The report provides an opportunity for the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

37. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (GMG 05/07/23)

39. This report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider (see p.125 of the Council's Constitution).

Financial Comments (CDS 04/07/23)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

41. 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.

CF0090



REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR HELP, PROTECTION AND CARE

PERFORMANCE OF ADOPTION SERVICES 2023

Purpose of the Report

1. The report provides information and an update regarding the performance of Adoption Services for Nottinghamshire County Council.

Information

2. The Permanence Team provides a service to all Nottinghamshire children who have a plan for adoption. This also includes 'Together Apart' assessments (assessing whether siblings should live together), Child Permanence Reports, matching with adopters, post adoption support and non-agency adoptions.
3. As of 19 June 2023, the Permanence Team supports 171 children.
4. The Permanence Team has an establishment of 11 full-time equivalent (FTE) Social Workers, and 2 FTE Team Managers. The team is countywide and is fully staffed, although two of these workers are agency Social Workers.
5. The Permanence Team works closely with Adoption East Midlands (AEM). AEM provides a range of adoption services on behalf of Derby City, Nottingham City, Derbyshire County and Nottinghamshire County Councils, and is in its fifth year of operation as the Regional Adoption Agency.
6. Services include the recruitment of adopters and finding other agency adopters where necessary. Part of the role of AEM is to identify adopters for Nottinghamshire children. AEM works closely with the Permanence Team, to ensure the plans for children within the adoption process are progressing in a timely manner, and to ensure that families are available for matching. AEM also provides information regarding the likelihood of achieving adoption where requested by the Courts.
7. AEM has developed a therapeutic support plan and a therapeutic parenting plan for use during matching children and families, to ensure that all of the appropriate support is in place. AEM also provides independent birth family services and is developing both the support for birth families affected by adoption and including the voice of birth families in developing services.

8. AEM facilitates all of the 'keeping in touch' work for children to maintain links with birth families. This is evolving from letters only to more modern ways of keeping in touch as adoptive children become ready to explore this.
9. AEM is responsible for adoption support and provides a comprehensive offer that includes a peer support network, a help and advice line and assessment regarding access to the Adoption Support Fund.
10. Most adoptive carers identified for Nottinghamshire children are assessed and provided by AEM. When there is no available family in AEM the Family Finding Team seek an adoptive family from another adoption agency. There is a partnership across the Midlands, with the aim of keeping children as local as possible. In 2022-23 there was a fall in the numbers of adopters approved, but there remain adopters waiting from other agencies. AEM adopters are matched very soon after their approval, and only a few need to wait for a match.
 - Between February 2022 and February 2023, 54 adopters were approved via AEM (inclusive of Derby, Nottingham, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire).
 - Between February 2022 and February 2023, 34 Placement Orders were granted in Nottinghamshire.
 - Between February 2022 and February 2023, 37 children were placed with adopters and 24 Adoption Orders were granted for Nottinghamshire children.
11. Nottinghamshire County Council is currently the lowest County within AEM in terms of number of days from the Court giving authority for a child to be placed for adoption to a match being identified.
12. There is a target for confirming a match with an adoptive family within 121 days of a Placement Order being made. This is challenging for some children who may be older or have complex needs, or where siblings need to be placed together. In addition, there can be more legal challenges to Placement Orders at the point of the match and this causes delay whilst the Court hears the challenge. The latest data shows the national average to be 199 days.
13. As of 31 March 2023, there were 18 children with a Placement Order waiting to be matched with adopters.
14. A Permanence Plan has historically often been considered only within the context of an Adoption Order but, over more recent years, as has been the case nationally, there has been a shift towards other ways of achieving permanence for children, including via Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs).
15. This change in approach is demonstrated through the Department for Education's decision to close the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board at the end of 2022 in order to deliver the recommendations of the independent Care Review, which includes a greater focus on kinship carers.
16. The number of children adopted within Nottinghamshire has dropped since 2015. In 2017, 64 children were no longer considered Looked After as they had been adopted, whereas in 2022 this was 33.

17. Nationally, the number of Adoption Orders has dropped from 3,850 in 2017/18 to 2,950 in 2021/22. In contrast there has been an increase in the numbers of SGOs nationally from 3,470 in 2017/18 to 3,870 in 2021/22. Children are being placed in permanent arrangements, either with family and friends or adopters. The total for both SGO and adoption would indicate no reduction in the numbers of young children leaving looked after care to permanent arrangements.
18. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care (Department for Education, May 2022) has considered a change in the way in which kinship arrangements for children and their families are considered, with much more focus being placed on how to strengthen and support arrangements long term for children within their own wider families.
19. The review considers that "*children who leave care through a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).....achieve better outcomes and make better progress than children in care. In 2021, the average Attainment 8 score for those who left care on a Special Guardianship Order was 33.5 compared to 22.2 for looked after children....kinship care also helps to preserve important sibling relationships.....*"
20. In Nottinghamshire, between April 2022 and March 2023, 43 children were the subject of an SGO. Of these, 40 children were residing with a grandparent or other relative. This has remained consistent since 2019.
21. The Council has introduced a Kinship Service which was established in 2022 and is fully staffed. The team is a mix of Social Workers, Family Workers and Social Work Support Officers. There is great demand for support from the team, with some families having been unable to access support for some time. It is reassuring for families to know that they can receive support and to have a team to contact for advice and signposting. The Team continues to develop the support offer as the range of needs becomes clear. Kinship carers can now have the benefit of attending preparation seminars with other kinship carers in the region. The team is also developing peer support networks through a Department for Education grant to a Kinship charity to support this.

Other Options Considered

22. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

23. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability

and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there is any feedback that it wishes to give and any actions that it recommends in relation to the information contained in the report.

Amanda Collinson
Service Director, Care, Help and Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LPW 26/06/23)

26. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel by virtue of its terms of reference. Any further actions recommended by the Corporate Parenting Panel will be subject to obtaining the relevant approvals.

Financial Comments (VC 27/06/23)

27. There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

28. 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.

- [Independent Review of Children's Social Care, Department for Education, May 2022](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.

CF0087



18 July 2023

Agenda Item 11

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES**

**PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE
COUNCIL 2022/23**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview of the work of the Children and Young People's Participation team in relation to the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), situated within the Youth Service. The team is responsible for:
 - the CiCC structure, which ensures that young people who are looked after are represented at all levels in the Nottinghamshire system of Youth Participation
 - encouraging and enabling young people who are looked after, adopted or living in residential care, to engage in positive activities provided by the Children and Young People's Participation team and to independently access mainstream provision
 - engaging with at least 250 unique children and young people in care, with a total of at least 1,200 attendances in various youth work sessions and activity throughout the year
 - working in partnership with a range of stakeholders including Children's Social Care, the Virtual School, the Strength-Based Practice team, and Adoption East Midlands.

Information

2. The Children and Young People's Participation team is responsible for the planning and delivery of a range of positive activities outside of the school day for looked after and adopted young people. This is to enable young people to come together to participate and have fun in events throughout the year as well as to have a voice about their life in care through the work of the CiCC. The structure includes several sub-groups, which provide a mechanism for a range of groups of looked after young people to be involved in Nottinghamshire's system of Youth Participation. Representatives from each sub-group then meet as the formal CiCC Board (also known as No Labels). The opportunities on offer for young people to engage in are designed to promote and support them to build their confidence and self-esteem as well as to develop new experiences.

3. Young people who are looked after are signposted to universal services across the County, as well as being encouraged to participate in group work activities. This enables young people to develop positive relationships with other young people and youth workers to help broaden their horizons and help to raise their aspirations. Young people who are looked after have participated in a wide range of activities throughout 2022/23, which are detailed in **paragraph 9**.
4. Activities are designed to help support a holistic assessment of children and young people's needs and to help, for instance, to close the gap in educational attainment through joining in activities outside of the school environment. The positive activities young people participate in provide a platform for them to share their views about life in care, which helps to promote placement stability as young people are actively involved, have trusted youth workers to talk to, have a safe space to meet and have fun and engaging things to do. A number of these young people will go on to be members of the sub-groups of the CiCC and attend No Labels meetings. This is where sub-group representatives come together with a range of senior officers and elected Members to design and shape services available to them.
5. The CiCC provides the Council and key stakeholders with an opportunity to listen to what children and young people are saying, consequently these views are taken forward and acted upon. There is also an expectation that the membership of the CiCC will be encouraged to have an active role in the Young People's Board.
6. The CiCC has direct links to Nottinghamshire's Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2022-25 and sets out the ambition of the Council and wider partnership as corporate parents. The CiCC took an active role in designing the strategy and partnership pledge through co-production, consultation with children and young people, creating featured artwork within the strategy and in writing the foreword.
7. Nottinghamshire has an established Young People's Voice Expression of Interest (Eofl), which is a mechanism that enables services both internal and external to the Council to engage with young people and hear their views about the provision they receive, or are affected by, and provides an opportunity for young people to offer insight into how changes can be made to better meet their needs.
8. Each Eofl submitted is reviewed by the Young People's Board (made up of 8 Members of the Youth Parliament, the Chair of the Children in Care Council and a representative from the D2N2 Voice of Adoption), allowing the Board to take ownership of the agenda, establish the information required and the time needed to enable their active involvement, they then determine the next steps of engagement. From April 2022, the CiCC has received 11 Eofls, allowing young people to actively shape services and positively influence change.
9. The CiCC sub-groups and No Labels met 30 times from April 2022 to March 2023. To date young people have been actively involved in several events and/or participated in sharing their views and making decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
 - The Chair of No Labels has been an ambassador for looked after children and young people in Nottinghamshire, speaking at the designated teachers conference about their experiences to help shape future practice. This took place on 18 April 2022 at

Eastwood Hall. It raised awareness of the CiCC and resulted in new members. Positive feedback was received from the event organisers and attendees.

- Involvement in creating the 'keeping you safe whilst in our care' film. The Independent Reviewing Officer submitted an expression of interest form to develop a film project with the premise of care experienced young people explaining to children and young people new to care who the professionals keeping them safe are and what support they offer.
- The Chair attends Nottinghamshire Young People's Board to represent looked after young people. This ensures that the voices and views of looked after children and young people are heard.
- Young people created artwork to promote health, wellbeing and friendships. This was displayed at the NottAlone event on 10 February 2023 at Nottingham Racecourse along with being promoted on the Virtual School website. The art was created as a vehicle of self-expression and enabled the group to talk openly about relationships. Featuring the art pieces at events and on the website promoted the work of the CiCC and highlighted the importance of positive relationships to other children and young people.
- Members of the CiCC delivered training to first year social work students after an expression of interest was submitted by the University of Nottingham. Feedback was very positive with one social work student saying *"Today I learned the importance of language, choice of words matters a lot to children and young people."*
- The Leaving Care team, in consultation with young people, looked at how health services are supporting the needs of young people and made recommendations for further development. Members gave audio recordings of their experiences in accessing healthcare with their GP.
- The CiCC also worked alongside the Fostering Recruitment team in developing questions that would help panel members to decide on the suitability of potential foster carers, making the young person's voice and perspective part of the recruitment and selection process.
- Young people have taken part in the training of foster carers who were attending the pre-approval foster care training to help them (as adults) see things from the perspective of children and young people who have been fostered.
- The CiCC collaborated with the Virtual School on planning and delivering the Achievement Day on 25 June 2022 at the Albert Hall, Nottingham. Members of the CiCC were ambassadors on the day, welcoming and signing in guests, introducing the event and supporting other young people accessing the stage.
- Young people have been involved in shaping the new Partnership pledge, ensuring that the promises made in the pledge are relevant to the lives of children and young people and that the artwork used is engaging.

- Young people have had the opportunity to identify two themes from the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy. This is a rolling piece of work, with two themes selected each year. The themes identified this year are preparation for adulthood and health and wellbeing. Subgroup activities and planned discussion will be focused on these topics.
- Representation at the monthly Mind of My Own regional consultation meeting, providing feedback on the app's development, working with the Mind of My Own team and its software developers to ensure the app is child friendly and continually progresses in meeting the needs of young people.

Other Options Considered

10. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there is any feedback that it wishes to give and any actions that it recommends in relation to the information contained in the report.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 22/06/23)

13. The report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Financial Comments (VC 22/06/23)

14. There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

15. 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.

- Nottinghamshire's Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2022-25

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.

CF0084



**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES**

HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Purpose of the Report

1. To set out the health needs of children and young people who are in the Council's care.

Information

Background

2. Most children and young people become looked after because of abuse and neglect. Although they have many of the same health needs as their peers, they may also have additional health care needs and the extent of these is often greater because of the impact of their past adverse experiences. They are also more likely to have not been taken to health appointments or screenings, or supported with medication.
3. Effective close work between partner agencies is required to ensure that the health needs of children in care are met. This is part of a holistic Public Health approach for prevention and reducing health inequity, recognising that adverse childhood experiences have a negative impact on future physical and mental health.
4. The NHS has a key role in ensuring effective delivery of health services for children and young people in care (and, by extension, to care leavers). The NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), Public Health and NHS England commission services for children and young people in care until their eighteenth birthday.

Statutory Responsibilities

5. Initial Health Assessments (IHA) must be completed (with a report sent) within 20 working days of the child entering care. The achievement of the statutory timescales requires joint and cross-organisational processes between the health providers and the Council. Good performance would be where more than 90% of children in care health assessments are done within the required timescales.
6. The aim of the Review Health Assessment (RHA) is to provide a holistic review of health, development and to gather information about emotional and physical health, engaging the child or young person in their own healthcare, and to provide information and advice to the

child, their social worker and carers regarding their specific health needs. This is provided via a written report including health recommendations and an action plan, which is then discussed at each child's statutory looked after review. Good performance would constitute more than 90% of children in care health assessments happening within the required timescales.

IHA and RHA System Performance

7. Currently, the local system is not able to respond consistently within the statutory timeframe. Three IHA health providers cover the Council's footprint. Two providers report that there is sufficient capacity to meet demand and one is more challenged. The RHA provider has also raised capacity challenges.
8. Partnership investigation work has been undertaken between the health providers and local authorities that has identified several factors that are impacting on the collective ability to ensure children and young people receive timely health assessments. There are many contributing factors and the primary root causes are as follows:
 - insufficient capacity to meet the demand across some of the Health Teams
 - sickness and vacancies within the Health Teams
 - variance in service model across the Health Teams
 - increased referrals for children and young people originating within and placed within the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
 - late referrals from social care, which significantly impact on the provider's ability to undertake assessments within the 20-day timeframe
 - referrals do not always provide the complete information required as per the standard referral template, and
 - medical appointments not utilised (young people not brought).

Recovery Workshops and Next Steps

9. The ICB convened partnership workshops on 5 June 2023 to ensure that a system approach is undertaken to address the current 'backlog' of RHAs and IHAs. These workshops agreed the root causes of performance challenges and identified further immediate recovery actions, in addition to understanding system partners' interests in wider integration to implement alternative models of care that provide a more resilient and joined-up service model for the medium and long-term. The workshops also identified a number of areas that could support immediate improvement, alongside further opportunities for transformation, which are being taken to the ICB's Quality and People Committee for endorsement.
10. Partners will continue to liaise to agree recovery actions and cross-organisational recovery timeframes, where required.

Other Options Considered

11. To not participate in the system approach to achieve recovery following the identification of the root causes and immediate actions to address the current backlog of RHAs and

IHAs: this option is discounted because effective close work between partner agencies is required to ensure that the health needs of children in care are met fully and effectively.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. To ensure that the agreed recovery actions to address the current backlog of RHAs and IHAs are carried out effectively within the cross-organisational recovery timeframes.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, and sustainability 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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel notes the recovery work underway in relation to the completion of Initial Health Assessments and Review Health Assessments (relating to children and young people) within the statutory timeframes, and provides any feedback in relation the information contained within the report.

Laurence Jones

Service Director for Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report, please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CD 04/07/23)

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

Financial Comments (CDS 04/07/23)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

17. 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 Divisions and Members Affected

- All.

CF0089



REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Corporate Parenting Panel's work programme, as set out in **Appendix 1** to the report.

Information

2. The maintenance of a work programme assists the Panel in the management of its agenda, the scheduling of its business, and its forward planning.
3. The work programme is developed using suggestions submitted by Panel members, the relevant Cabinet Member and senior officers. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda and Panel meeting, where any member of the Panel will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

Other Options Considered

4. To not maintain a work plan for the Panel: this option is discounted as it is important for the Panel to plan its work effectively in carrying out its remit to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. To assist the Panel in preparing its future work effectively, to carry out its responsibilities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, and sustainability 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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

1) Note the work programme, attached as **Appendix 1** to the report.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director for Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report, please contact:

- Adrian Mann, Democratic Services Officer
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- Phillippa Milbourne, Business Support Administrator
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Constitutional Comments (CEH)

8. The Panel has the authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its Terms of Reference.

Financial Comments (SES)

9. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

10. 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 Divisions and Members Affected

- All.

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

Title	Sponsor/ Report Author
Standing items for each meeting:	
Foster Care (FLAG) items	Amanda Collinson
Children in Care Council items	Laurence Jones
Visits schedule and observations from visits	Laurence Jones
Update on Nottinghamshire Children's Residential Homes	Laurence Jones
Inspection gradings of Children's Residential Homes commissioned solely for Council use (verbal update + reports every 6 months)	Laurence Jones
Government response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care	Amanda Collinson
18 July 2023	
Performance of Adoption Services	Zoe Millar
Health of Children in Care	Katharine Browne
Children in Care Council – provision, achievements and progress 2022/23	Laurence Jones/ Pom Bhogal
17 October 2023	
Independent Reviewing Officer annual report	Laurence Jones/ Izzy Martin
Report of the Head of the Virtual School (termly plus annual reports)	Peter McConnochie/ Charles Savage
Sufficiency Strategy – Looked After Children	Laurence Jones
Fostering Service annual report	Amanda Collinson/ Sophie Eadsforth
Reports from Districts on their corporate parenting responsibilities and how they are meeting them	Laurence Jones
To be placed	
Harmful Sexual Behaviour by children – annual report	Laurence Jones/ Claire Sampson
Child Sexual Exploitation & Children Missing from Home & Care - annual report	Laurence Jones/ Hannah Johnson

