

Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Monday, 07 March 2016 at 14:00

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

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th January 2016 | 3 - 8 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Performance Reporting (Quarter 3 2015-16) Services for Looked After Children & Care Leavers | 9 - 16 |
| 5 | Spring Term Report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children | 17 - 22 |
| 6 | Provision Achievement & Progress of the Children in Care Council & Participation of Children & Young People Looked After 2015-16 | 23 - 26 |
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Notes

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

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

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

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Julie Brailsford (Tel. 0115 977 4694) 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 SUB-COMMITTEE
Date	Monday 11 th January 2016 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Liz Plant (Chairman)

A	Maureen Dobson	Philip Owen
	Boyd Elliott	Sue Saddington
	Kate Foale	Andy Sissons
	Colleen Harwood	A Jacky Williams

Foster Carer

Sarah Maiden

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Julie Brailsford	-	Assistant Democratic Service Officer, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services
Beth Cundy	-	Service Manager, Supported Accommodation
Sue Denholm	-	Virtual School Co-ordinator
Steve Edwards	-	Service Director, Children's Social Care
Linda Foster	-	Acting Group Manager, Education Standards & Inclusion
Dawn Godfrey	-	Group Manager, Children's Social Care
Izzy Martin	-	Service Manager, Independent Chair Service
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services.
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Group Manager, Children's Social Care

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2015, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Maureen Dobson and Councillor Jacky Williams.

MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that Councillor Andy Sissons had been appointed in place of Councillor Gail Turner on a permanent basis.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2015/16) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The report provided a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1st July and 30th September 2015.

The following point was raised:

- It was good practise for a Looked After child to meet with their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to their review meeting, it helped to develop the relationship between them.

RESOLVED 2016/01

That the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1st July to 30th September 2015 be noted.

AUTUMN TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The report provided an update on the virtual school for the autumn term 2015.

The following points were raised:

- The Key Stage 2 data was positive.
- It was intended to collate the feedback and information from the school data on an annual basis and share this so that schools can see what others are doing.
- A Data Officer had been appointed and would be working closely with the Looked After performance teams.
- No Key Stage 4 or 5 data had been included as the first statistical release by the Department for Education had been moved to March and therefore changed the reporting time.

- A future report on 'things that are working well' was requested by the committee.

RESOLVED 2016/02

That the update on the virtual school for the autumn term 2015 be noted.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2015-18 UPDATE

The report provided an update on the progress of the annual action plan for the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Concern regarding the increase in the average waiting time from 36 to 44 days for an initial Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) consultation with a social worker.
- With the 'Closing the Gap Strategy' better outcome results had been expected.
- Schools who had not returned their personal plan data were being targeted. The recently appointed Data Officer would be visiting each college and devising a system to help improve the recording of data. Also, looking to improve the number of Looked After children who continued with higher education.
- There were plans to share data with East Midlands school improvement group & visit the nearest higher performing neighbour to find out why.
- It was felt that the Local Authority should be more proactive and involved in gathering the data as school Governors did not always fully understand their role in respect of this. Schools had a statutory duty to report annually on Looked After children and it was a key focus when OFSTED visited schools.

RESOLVED 2016/03

That the update on the progress of the annual action plan for the Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2015-18 be noted.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE – SIX MONTH UPDATE

The report updated the committee about some of the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April to September 2015.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Independent Reviewing Officers regional group had chosen to look at different areas and share good practise.
- The 'alert process' had highlighted that Personal Education Plans were not being completed in a timely manner to progress the care plan.

RESOLVED 2016/04

That the update on the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April to September 2015 be noted.

PRESENTATION ON NEW ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR 16-21 YEAR OLDS

Beth Cundy, Service Manager Supported Accommodation, gave a presentation on the new accommodation provision for 16-21 year olds and the background to this. The Council looked to improve services for young people and undertook a review into the provision of supported and semi-independent accommodation. Funding of 2.6m from Children's Social Care, Family Service and Public Health was pooled and following a tendering process contracts commenced in August 2015. There were 257 beds across the County and it was estimated that 360 young people would access the service. Once a young person was in Emergency accommodation, mediation was undertaken to try and return the young person home. Any Safeguarding issues were reported to the MASH.

Following the presentation the following points were discussed:

- Nightstop was the preferred setting for emergency accommodation. This was a host accommodating the young person in a family environment in their own home. The young person was not allowed to stay when the host was not there and for a maximum of 10 consecutive nights. The young person must be low risk and not have used drugs or alcohol for this type of placement, a risk assessment was always done of the day of the referral.
- When moving in to their own accommodation, a young person received support tailored to their needs from the same support worker. Typically six week's support that tapered off to independence but with the option to return to the service for support when necessary.
- There was a five year contract with the option to extend for a further two years. This was to stop children being 'bounced' from one service to another and improve the provision of emergency accommodation.
- The new provision meant that the process for looked after children covered 16 to 21 years old. If they left at 21 they were still helped to gain a tenancy with follow up monitoring after 6 and 12 months.
- Providers do not push young people into independent living if they are not ready.

- All areas were up and running except the South which had to be retendered on 1st October.
- The new accommodation panel was up and running on a weekly basis. Councillor Foale had attended one of these meetings and found it to be very enlightening and a good example of partnership working.

The committee thanked Beth Cundy for her presentation and requested that monitoring of the outcomes from the new provision be reported back in due course.

WORK PROGRAMME

The updated work programme was discussed and considered by Members.

RESOLVED 2016/05

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

FOSTER CARERS ITEMS

The Foster Carer present at the meeting had nothing to report to the Sub-Committee.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm

CHAIRMAN

11 January 2016

7 March 2016

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

**PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 2015/16) – SERVICES FOR
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1 October and 31 December 2015.

Information and Advice

2. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee agreed to receive quarterly performance reports on key indicators for looked after children (LAC) and care leavers on 14 September 2015. This report provides an update of the regular set of performance information, whereby the most up-to-date information is reported for each measure, unless otherwise indicated.
3. Performance information is set out in **Appendix 1**. Key indicators are aligned against the outcome statements in the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18. This strategy identifies six outcomes to be achieved, and these are listed below:
 - 1) Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy
 - 2) Looked after children and care leavers are safe
 - 3) Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential
 - 4) Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood
 - 5) Looked after children and care leavers are listened to
 - 6) Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.

Key Operational Data

4. At the end of Quarter 3 2015/16, a total of 867 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which represents a slight drop since the end of Quarter 2. The rate per 10,000 of 53.3 remains lower than the rates for Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2014/15, which were 57.8 and 60 respectively.

	2014-15				2015-16		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Numbers of children in care (as at Quarter end)	866	851	856	851	855	875	867
LAC Rate per 10,000	53.2	52.3	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.8	53.3
Number of children admitted into care	119	82	94	100	103	100	79
Number of children discharged from care	86	90	95	109	92	82	76

+Care leavers data was only collected on a quarterly basis from 2015-16 onwards

Age Range	2014-15				2015-16		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Under 1	37	33	40	41	40	43	37
1-4 years	152	150	125	118	123	128	131
5-9 years	182	166	176	170	168	168	171
10-15 years	289	293	302	312	317	335	341
16+ years	206	209	213	210	207	201	187
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867

Gender	2014-15				2015-16		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Male	459	451	447	448	447	456	465
Female	407	400	409	403	408	419	402
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867

District	2014-15				2015-16		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Ashfield	218	211	213	212	214	214	211
Mansfield	184	175	166	175	168	182	186
Bassetlaw	164	160	156	156	158	160	154
Newark	123	125	124	129	127	130	133
Broxtowe	57	55	54	55	57	56	54
Gedling	47	52	56	56	55	67	62
Rushcliffe	23	23	28	22	23	17	18
Out of County/Unknown	50	50	58	46	53	49	49
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867

5. The volume of looked after children fluctuates only a little and has remained between 825 and 875 children for the last two years. Over the course of this year, the age profile of looked after children has altered slightly, with a slight increase in the proportion of children aged 10-15 and a decrease in the proportion aged 16 and over. The proportion of very young children has also dropped this quarter. Against the long term trend, Quarter 3 has seen a slight fall in the number of females amongst the looked after children. Males now make up 54% of all looked after children.

Other Options Considered

6. No other options have been considered as the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is required to have oversight of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The recommendations are made so that the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee can effectively fulfil the role required of it.

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 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.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

9. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded.

Implications for Service Users

10. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children and young people are in receipt of high quality services.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 October to 31 December 2015.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (LCJ 05/02/16)

12. 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 19.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

Developing arrangements for reporting performance to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 14 September 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0751

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee: Performance Update - March 2016

The key indicators identified below are aligned against the outcome statements in the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy. All indicators are updated with the most up-to-date information as at the time of writing the report. These six outcomes are: 1). Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy, 2). Looked after children and care leavers are safe, 3). Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential, 4). Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood, 5). Looked after children and care leavers are listened to, 6). Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.

Update	LAC & Care Leavers Strategy Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire				National Average	Statistical Neighbours
			Current Value	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance		
Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy	1.1	Average Strengths and Difficulties Question (SDQ) Score per LAC	15.4	2014/15	14.9	15.5 (2012/13)	13.9 (2014/15)	14.0 (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC with up to date immunisations	80.7%	2014/15	60.9%	67.8% (2012/13)	87.8% (2014/15)	81.1% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC who have had their teeth checked by a dentist	77.2%	2014/15	64.3%	53.0% (2012/13)	85.8% (2014/15)	78.6% (2014/15)
	1.5	Percentage of LAC who have had their annual health assessment	80.7%	2014/15	89.6%	71.3% (2012/13)	89.7% (2014/15)	86.1% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC whose development assessments are up to date	70.6%	2014/15	75.9%	75.9% (2013/14)	89.4% (2014/15)	77.2% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC identified as having a substance misuse problem	3%	2014/15	0%	0.9% (2012/13)	4.0% (2014/15)	4.4% (2014/15)
Looked after children and care leavers are safe	2.1	Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (No. of children)	75.2% (227/302)	2015/16 Q3	81.6% (169/207)	83.0% (2014/15)	80.7% (2014/15)	75.3% (2014/15)
	2.3	Percentage of Nottinghamshire LAC missing from placement by individual child	8.5%	2015/16 Q3	7.4%	11.0% (2014/15)	6% (2014/15)	7.2% (2014/15)
	N/A	Return Interviews completed within timescale	72%	2015/16 Q3	69%	73% (2013/14)	–	–
	N/A	Percentage of LAC convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand	1.0%	2014/15	3.9%	6.0% (2012/13)	4.9% (2014/15)	5.0% (2014/15)
Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential	3.1	Percentage of LAC achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English & Maths) at KS4	13.1%	2013/14	12.5%	NA	12% (2013/14)	10.8% (2013/14)
	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 2 at KS1 in Reading	76.0%	2013/14	77.0%	79.0% (2011/12)	71% (2013/14)	73.8% (2013/14)
	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 2 at KS1 in Writing	67.0%	2013/14	70.0%	67.0% (2011/12)	61% (2013/14)	64.1% (2013/14)
	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 2 at KS1 in Maths	76.0%	2013/14	73.0%	79.0% (2011/12)	72% (2013/14)	71.8% (2013/14)
	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Reading	69.0%	2013/14	48.0%	64.0% (2011/12)	68% (2013/14)	63.3% (2013/14)
	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Writing	51.0%	2013/14	39.0%	55.0% (2011/12)	59% (2013/14)	55.5% (2013/14)

Update	LAC & Care Leavers Strategy Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire				National Average	Statistical Neighbours
			Current Value	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Annual Performance		
Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential	3.2	Percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Maths	63.0%	2013/14	52.0%	50.0% (2011/12)	61% (2013/14)	56.5% (2013/14)
	3.3	Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training aged 19-21	47.7%	2015/16 Q3	54.1%	50.9% (2014/15)	47.8% (2014/15)	42.5% (2014/15)
	3.3	Percentage of care leavers in higher education aged 19-21	3.3%	2015/16 Q3	4.3%	3.0% (2013/14)	6.5% (2014/15)	6.9% (2014/15)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC permanently excluded	0.0%	2013/14	0.0%	0.0%	0.11% (2013/14)	0.0% (2013/14)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	12.7%	2013/14	13.1%	12.8% (2011/12)	9.8% (2013/14)	11% (2013/14)
	N/A	Percentage of LAC classed as persistent absentees*	4.2%	2013/14	3.9%	4.9% (2012/13)	5.0% (2012/13)	4.5% (2012/13)
Looked after children are prepared	5.3	Percentage of LAC with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan	52.7%	2015/16 Q3	45.3%	60.2% (2014/15)	-	-
	4.2	Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (No. of children)	75.2% (227/302)	2015/16 Q3	81.6% (169/207)	83.0% (2014/15)	80.7% (2014/15)	75.3% (2014/15)
Looked after children and care leavers are listened to	5.2	Percentage of LAC who got the chance to speak to their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to their LAC Review	38.5%	2015/16 Q3	40.1%	39.7% (2014/15)	-	-
	5.4	Percentage of LAC who felt their IRO involved them in the LAC Review they attended	100.0%	Nov-14	88%	-	-	-
	5.4	Percentage of LAC who felt listened to in the LAC Review they attended	92.0%	Nov-14	96%	-	-	-
	5.1	Percentage of LAC and care leavers who have completed a Listen to Me booklet	30.5%	2015/16 Q3	29.9%	29.0% (2014/15)	-	-
Looked after children and care leavers build	6.2	Percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year	9.0%	2015/16 Q3	8.3%	12% (2013/14)	11% (2013/14)	10% (2013/14)
	N/A	Percentage of looked after children placed 20 miles or more from home	13.3%	2015/16 Q3	12.8%	12.6% (2014/15)	14% (2014/15)	13.4% (2014/15)

*Data for 2013/14 is based on pupils attending a Nottinghamshire school only. Pupils attending out of county schools are not included.

† Values against this indicator may be underreported. More reliable performance indicators are being developed for future reporting

7 March 2016

Agenda Item: 5

**REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS
AND INCLUSION.**

**SPRING TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER
CHILDREN**

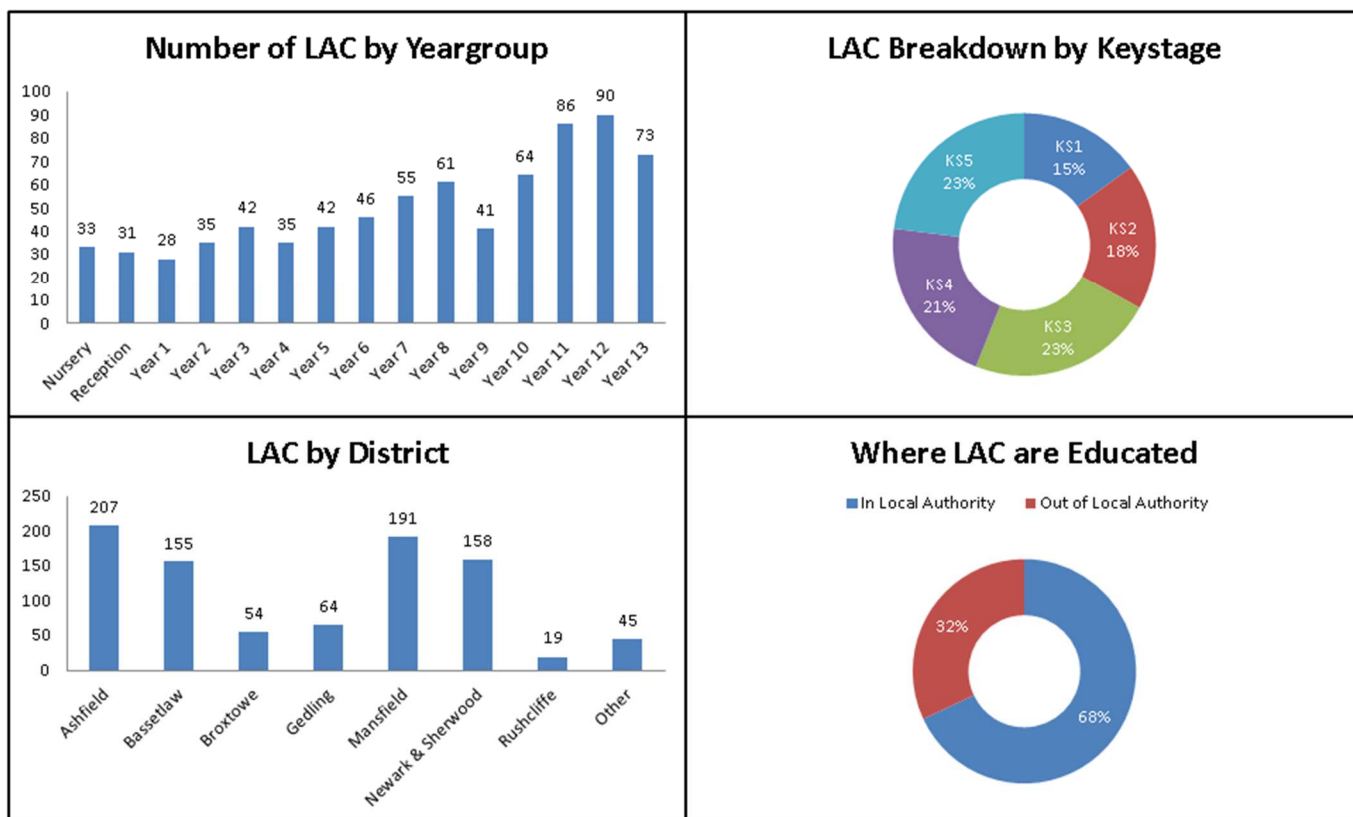
Purpose of the Report

- To update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on the virtual school for the Spring term 2016.

Information and Advice

Virtual School

- The number of looked after children (LAC) in each Key Stage, Year Group, Residence & Educational Location is shown below. Nursery and reception numbers are now included within the table.



Early Years Foundation Stage Pupil Premium

3. From the financial year 2016-17, the early years foundation stage (EYFS) pupil premium will be issued to schools, settings and providers who have eligible looked after children attending. To facilitate the issuing, tracking and monitoring of the impact of the EYFS pupil premium, a new personal education plan (PEP) has been developed. This will be issued to the relevant social work teams ready for the start of the new financial year.
4. Work has begun with the early years team to ensure strong working links are created with the early years specialist teachers working with settings and schools. These teachers will support virtual school achievement officers where necessary to ensure children receive the correct support to catch up in the areas of the foundation stage curriculum.
5. The training for EYFS settings, provided by the virtual school using this current financial year's pupil premium funding, has been very well attended with very positive feedback. The training has focussed on the impact of early experiences and how settings and schools can support children to engage in their learning.

Attachment Aware Schools

6. Further partnerships of schools continue to contact the virtual school to consider undertaking the attachment awareness training. This training aims to ensure that staff are confident in meeting the needs of all children with attachment difficulties.

East Midlands Network

7. The East Midlands regional group has been approached by the Ofsted lead for inspection of residential children's homes. Two representatives will meet with the lead inspector and work collaboratively to ensure residential homes inspected have a strong focus on education of looked after children in addition to the care provided.

Social Care Links

8. The co-ordinator of the virtual school will be attending a team manager meeting for the through care team. This will be looking at the new PEP format and ensuring managers are confident with the completion of the document in order to support social workers.

Floor Target Schools and schools not yet good

9. The virtual school continues to monitor looked after children in below floor target schools. The table overleaf shows the number of schools in each phase with LAC against the latest Ofsted judgements.
10. It is not the Local Authority's practice to move LAC from their schools if that school moves from outstanding or good judgements, as this is unsettling and detrimental to LAC's progress. Therefore the virtual school will ensure that, should there be the need, the children/young people will have input from the LAC Achievement Officers to ensure their educational needs are addressed.

LA	PHASE	NONE/ UNK*	OUTSTAND	GOOD	REQ IMPR	INADEQ
Nottinghamshire	Primary	6	17	64	23	1
	Secondary	4	7	23	10	1
	Other	8	2	8	0	0
Other authorities	Primary	1	3	16	3	0
	Secondary	0	4	26	4	0
	Other	10	3	4	1	1
TOTAL		29	36	141	41	3

**Unknown School or Alternative Provision or Academy Convertors with no Ofsted Judgment to date.*

Further Education

- The Data Officer for the virtual school has now begun meeting with data officers in further education colleges to discuss the collation of data from those providers with looked after children. It is intended that, for the next academic year, a tracking system will be developed to support the virtual school to monitor looked after children in further education settings. This will be used to identify those at risk of not achieving their potential.

Higher Education Event

- The Council's virtual school in conjunction with the Nottingham City virtual school is working with Nottingham Trent and Nottingham Universities to set up a higher education day for looked after young people in years 9 and 10.
- This will be held in July and hosted by Nottingham Trent University in their Newton Building. Workers from Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire will be present to support looked after young people to experience taster sessions in varying subjects, meet student ambassadors and receive advice and guidance around finance and student life. It is hoped the day will raise aspirations and confidence levels around aiming for higher education goals. Along with young people and their teachers the invitation will be extended to carers.
- In the Autumn term of the academic year 2016-17, a primary school day will be held by Nottingham University on their campus to begin to raise aspirations. The Children in Care Council has been involved in agreeing this day and will be asked to look at the programme once it is available.

Good News

- Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children for a host of reasons including gaining most house points, making outstanding progress and sporting achievements.

Other Options Considered

16. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. This report is for noting 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 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

1) That the update on the virtual school for the Spring term 2016 be noted.

Marion Clay

Acting Service Director, Education Standards and Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SH 01/02/16)

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.

Autumn term report of the virtual school for looked after children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 11th January 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0775

7 March 2016**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE
COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
LOOKED AFTER 2015/16****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the work of the Young People Looked After (YPLA) Youth Work team, situated within the Youth Service. The YPLA team is responsible for:
 - the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and ensuring that young people 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 YPLA team and to independently access mainstream provision
 - engaging with at least 250 unique individuals (children and young people looked after) in more than 1,200 sessions of activity with youth work staff
 - working in partnership with Children's Social Care and the Group Manager for the Access to Resources section.

Information and Advice

2. The YPLA 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 CiCC structure includes a number of sub-groups, which provide a mechanism for a range of groups of looked after young people to be involved in the Nottinghamshire 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 are designed to promote and support them to build their confidence and self-esteem as well as to develop new experiences.
3. Young people looked after are signposted to universal services across the County, as well as encouraged to participate in group work activities. This assists young people to develop positive relationships with other young people and youth workers to help broaden their horizons, learning new skills and experiences. Young people looked after have participated in a wide range of activities throughout 2015/16, with more events planned for the remaining financial year.

4. Activities are designed to help support a holistic assessment of children and young people's needs and to help 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 young people to share their views about life in care, which helps to promote placement stability as young people are actively engaged. A number of these young people will go on to be members of the sub-groups of the CiCC and attend No Labels meetings 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 listens to what children and young people are saying and 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 Board. The strategic development of the CiCC has direct links to the Looked After Children Strategy and is set within a vision for Children, Families and Cultural Services.
6. The work of the CiCC has direct links to the PLEDGE which is a set of promises (set within the Looked After Children Strategy) that Nottinghamshire County Council has made to young people looked after and has strategic commitment from senior management and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.
7. The CiCC sub-groups and No Labels have all met six times since April 2015 with further meetings planned in March 2016. To date young people have been actively involved in a number of events or participated in sharing their views and making decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
 - consultation with young people on the LAC strategy review, and influencing the key priorities and action plan
 - consultation with young people on a Health Leaflet for information and guidance for all LAC
 - care leavers consulted on costing up items required for basic independent living in relation to the Home Establishment Grant completed in May 2015
 - working with the Coordinator of the Virtual School on planning and delivering the Achievement Event in July 2015
 - Care Leavers sub-group has led on the due diligence project which included marking tenders replies and undertaking unannounced inspections of private residential providers, as a part of the block purchase of residential placements
 - young people participating in the training of foster carers attending foundation training
 - in November 2015 young people were involved in a radio interview, as well as BBC's the One Show in early January 2016. This positive promotion of young people's involvement in influencing the design and delivery of services, concentrated on young people in foster care, their involvement in the CiCC and in inspecting residential care
 - LAC consulted on their experience of accessing NHS services and the problems they may encounter. This is an on-going project; young people's experiences and recommendations will be captured on film. The film will be used to share young people's views and recommendations with professionals in order to improve the services available to them

- the CiCC has been approached by Waterways to develop a project led by young people to increase the participation, interest and involvement of young people in waterways across Nottinghamshire
 - LAC are being consulted on their Pathway plans to ensure they are understood by young people, and clear regarding actions, time scales and who is responsible in delivering actions (on-going project).
8. Expression of Interest forms (EOI) were introduced in April 2015, following a review of the process in how young people are invited to participate in shaping the services available to them. The CiCC has received 22 EOI forms since April, allowing young people to:
- take ownership of the agenda and their involvement in the design and delivery of services
 - identify how requests link to the PLEDGE
 - establishing the information required and the time needed to enable young people to actively participate
 - organise and keep track of individual projects they are involved in.

Other Options Considered:

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

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 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

- 1) That the overview of the work of the Young People Looked After team be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director Youth, Families and Culture

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (CDS 02/02/16)

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.

C0776

7 March 2016

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

ADOPTION SERVICE UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2015 TO FEBRUARY 2016

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from September 2015 to February 2016.

Information and Advice

2. The Government continues to drive improvement of performance in the adoption sector, with a range of legal, policy and organisational changes.
3. The National Adoption Leadership Board, chaired by Sir Martin Narey, with representatives from the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the voluntary sector and academics continues to monitor performance and drive change. There is a regional link to the national Board – Janice Spencer, Assistant Director in Lincolnshire, is the link for the East Midlands and she in turn links to Anthony Douglas, from Cafcass (Children and Family Court Advisory & Support Service) who sits on the national Board.
4. The quarterly survey reports on all significant dates for all children with an adoption plan, and from 2014, for all adults who have completed a Registration of Interest in adoption. Further reporting fields have been added in this quarter.
5. The data allows national and local analysis of number and demographic of children waiting for adoption, and adopters available to take placements of children and informs the scorecard.
6. The Government continues to stimulate growth in the voluntary sector by making available adoption grant monies. The most recent budget ring fenced £30m up to March 2017 to all local authorities to apply to the Department for Education (DfE) for reimbursement of inter-agency fees for hard to place children. Nottinghamshire has claimed £163,000 in fees so far with an anticipated £323,000 in the last quarter of the financial year.
7. There continues to be a mis-match between the children waiting: siblings, older children, those with complex backgrounds, developmental delay, and approved adopters. Nottinghamshire County Council has 17 adopters waiting at present. The adopters who continue to wait have a narrower matching profile than peers - for example only wanting a girl or a very young child or having birth children.

8. Nottinghamshire performance is as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-2015	April-Dec 2015	2015-2016 (Estimate)
Adult approvals	45	58	55	30	39
New adoption plans	104	67	66	60	75
Children placed	86	91	84	50	62
Children adopted	40	88	96	36	48

To contextualise the above performance, numbers of LAC increased significantly in 2010-2012 and as the Council progressed plans for these children, the majority have now been adopted.

9. Of the matches made in 2014-15, 48 children were placed with 40 Nottinghamshire families, and 36 children placed with 25 families from other agencies. It should be noted that the number of new plans is now steady, thus children placed and adopted in the coming years will fall correspondingly. In 2014-2015 one placement disrupted pre order (1.1% of all placements). In this reporting period the Council has seen the disruption of three children pre order and is in the process of assessing these disruptions. Over the last 11 years Nottinghamshire's pre order disruption rate is 3.5% which is slightly higher than the national average of 3.2% and reflects the fact that the Council places more complex children.
10. The number of adopters that the Council has approved reduced to coincide with the fact that there are very few children waiting - the Council has matched children who have waited a substantial period of time. Whilst this is a good outcome for these children it does reflect negatively on the adoption data. As an example, child B was with adopters and his placement disrupted after two years; it then took another ten months for another adoptive family to be identified. Child B is now placed which is an excellent outcome for an older boy but this has taken 34 months as opposed to the expected four months. Those children now waiting have complexities which make them harder to place. There are currently just two such children waiting - a baby with complex medical needs and a six year old boy who has experienced extreme neglect and physical abuse. The Council's current recruitment practice is to not recruit adopters who are only interested in the 0-2 years age range, adopters who have birth children aged five and under and adopters who already have a non-related adopted child aged seven and under. The recruitment strategy is constantly reviewed based on the needs of the service.
11. In addition, the Council is now able to place children from other local authorities with its adopters. Nine children were placed in the last financial year and seven children during this reporting period. This practice impacts positively on national performance on numbers of children waiting. Nottinghamshire County Council is able to recoup £27,000 for a single placement, £43,000 for a sibling group of two children and £60,000 for a sibling group of three children.

12. Adoption support continues to be an area of development for the Government. Since 1 May 2015 the Council has been applying to the Adoption Support Fund on behalf of adopters in order to purchase support packages; all applications have been successful with circa £52,000 awarded to fund support packages. The fund will continue into the next financial year. There is also a piece of research being undertaken to map existing services as the current choice and quality is variable. This is part of the challenge to ensure all adopters can access services.
13. The Council continues to utilise all home finding opportunities for children – publicity, adoption activity days, adoption register events, local profile sharing events and this consistent activity across the range does produce matches for most children. There is no one activity proving more successful than another. Local media continues to be utilised to publicise the need for adopters and videos of adopter stories have been added to the Council's web pages. Throughout the year there has been a sustained recruitment campaign for foster carers which also benefits the recruitment of adopters. Consistent partnership working with children's social care allows the Council to track children who may be in need of adoption and plan its recruitment strategy accordingly.
14. Changes to legislation in March 2014 allows children to be placed in a fostering placement which will become adoption. This is not the same as foster carers who may then choose to adopt (about 15% of all adoptions of children from care are by foster carers) but relates to approved adopters who are also temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child, to enable a child to be placed with them at an earlier point. This is then a foster placement until it becomes adoption.
15. There is an element of risk for the adopters in this type of placement, but the advantage is that the child is settled in a permanent placement at a much younger age, usually an adoption placement can only be made after a child is subject to a Placement Order, and the adoption panel has recommended a match which the agency decision maker approves. However, a foster to adopt placement can be made at any point in the time before the Placement Order.
16. Increasingly adopters are considering fostering for adoption. Nottinghamshire has seen one child placed at under three months of age and adopted at nine months of age. There are a further five placements in progress currently, with two babies placed straight from hospital.
17. The partnership with a local voluntary adoption agency, Adopt Together, continues to provide placements for Nottinghamshire children, 23 to date. In addition, joint provision of some adoption support services is being explored, such as groups for adopters, or children, and networks for adopters. Work is also being done together where capacity becomes an issue for either agency, directing potential adopters between the agencies as necessary.
18. In June 2015 the DfE set out proposals to move to regional adoption agencies. The belief is that regionalisation will speed up matching and markedly improve life chances alongside reducing costs. £4.3 million has been made available to stimulate initial changes in the sector. The East Midlands Adoption Consortium, which consists of Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City, Derbyshire, Derby City, Leicestershire, Leicester City, Lincolnshire, Peterborough Adopt Together, Faith in Families and Coram, has been awarded trailblazing funding of £100,000 to progress regionalisation of these eight local authorities and three

voluntary adoption agencies who placed a total of 390 children in the last financial year. By 2020 recruitment, assessment and support of adopters will be delivered by regional adoption agencies.

19. Future plans for the service include:

- consolidating learning and practice for fostering for adoption (ongoing)
- consolidating learning from Adoption Support Fund and expanding claims for support packages (ongoing and evidenced in increase in packages funded)
- exploring the possibility of specifically recruiting fostering for adoption carers, particularly for older children (ongoing and assessed on a monthly basis based on needs of children currently waiting)
- reviewing the process to identify any delay in the Placement Order to match process and highlighting the longer timescales to place Nottinghamshire's difficult to place children (in progress with a named officer leading on this project)
- building on the reputation of the Council when placing children to enable the Council's adopters to adopt children from other local authorities (ongoing)
- working with partner agencies to continue to drive proposals to move to regional adoption agencies (ongoing to 2020)
- moving staff from Chadburn house to the Council's accommodation (alternate accommodation and ways of working currently being assessed).

Other Options Considered

20. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. 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

1) That the six-monthly update on activity in the adoption service from September 2015 to February 2016 be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (LCJ 01/02/16)

24. 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.

Adoption Service update: March to August 2015 – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 14 September 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0773

7 March 2016**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide information about the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children.

Information and Advice

2. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 s.26A imposes a duty on the Local Authority to make arrangements for the provision of advocacy services.
3. Since 1 April 2014 the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children (LAC) in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City has been provided by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) as a joint contract. The contract was awarded to NYAS following a competitive tendering process. The NYAS bid was scored most highly by the Children in Care Council and the Commissioning Teams from City and County. The bid was favoured because in addition to having years of experience of delivering specialist advocacy services NYAS has a 24 hour helpline which can be accessed by all Nottinghamshire's LAC and young people.
4. The service specification requires NYAS to visit all young people placed in external and internal residential units no less than eight weekly. This is in addition to representing children and young people with specific concerns at Looked After Reviews and enabling them to use the complaints systems. NYAS also has responsibility for visiting and representing children and young people who are in secure accommodation at Clayfields House.
5. NYAS employs sessional advocates and, as a national organisation, is able to use staff from other regions where these are based closer to Nottinghamshire's young people. There are currently nine fully trained advocates working with Nottinghamshire young people.
6. There is additional provision, which can be spot-purchased, for young people involved in safeguarding processes and who may need support so their views can be heard in the conference or review conference; or who need advocacy in relation to other services such as special educational needs and disability (SEND) processes. There is currently a low take up for this service in the County.

7. NYAS has maintained a visiting schedule and all residential homes with Nottinghamshire young people placed are visited by an advocate. By visiting young people in residential settings regularly, relationships are established and young people are more likely to approach an advocate when they have a specific issue for which they require representation. To ensure that reporting and recording of visits by NYAS is consistent, a Commissioning Officer from Placements Team meets quarterly with NYAS to review performance. This process is conducted jointly with Nottingham City Social Care. Other more frequent local contact between the Placements Team and NYAS helps reconcile the Authority's lists of Looked After young people with their data and ensure young people are all receiving the service. Over the last quarter 113 visits were made by NYAS to Nottinghamshire young people in residential settings and 58 young people were seen.
8. In addition to the residential visiting advocacy, NYAS undertakes issues based advocacy when they represent young people with specific issues. During Quarter 3 the number of referrals for an advocate received by NYAS was 14. Requests may be for an advocate to attend a meeting with a young person (generally a Looked After Review) and support them to give their views. Advocates have also supported young people making complaints and applying for benefits. NYAS currently has 16 open cases of issue based advocacy for Nottinghamshire young people.
9. Annual reporting on delivery of the advocacy service in Clayfields House demonstrates that again young people confide in their advocates after a period of visiting has allowed a relationship to be established. The majority of young people placed at Clayfields House are from out of county and require support from advocates to represent their views about where they would like to live or services they would like to receive when they return home. An advocate has been into Clayfields House each week during the last quarter and 29 young people have been seen by the advocate in private and had the opportunity to express views on their care.
10. Finally NYAS has a contract to provide an Independent Visiting Service for Looked After Children. Independent Visitors are volunteers who visit Looked After young people to support and befriend them. NYAS continues to recruit and train volunteers. At the end of Quarter 3, three more volunteers had completed training taking the number of fully trained Independent Visitors to 7. There are currently 4 Nottinghamshire young people children matched and another nine awaiting a match with the newly trained volunteers. There has been a substantial increase this last quarter in the number of people contacting the service to express an interest in volunteering to be an Independent Visitor.

Progress of contract

11. The transition of the contract between the previous provider and NYAS, whilst in theory involving the same group of staff/volunteers moving between employers, resulted in the loss of some experienced workers. This left a shortfall in the organisations personnel and recruitment of sessional advocates, independent visitors and a project coordinator has been slower than anticipated.
12. A particular difficulty in monitoring performance has been the reconciliation of data provided by NYAS in respect of service delivery in the different aspects of the contract. NYAS has now amended their own data collection system to reflect not just the advocate visit to the young person but also the purpose of that visit (a residential advocacy visit as

opposed to an issue based advocacy visit for example) in line with contract expectations.

13. The Clayfields House aspect of the contract has been generally working well, however recently there was a delay in NYAS producing an evaluation of the feedback they take from exit interviews with young people who have been resident at Clayfields. The evaluation is used to demonstrate to Ofsted, regulatory visitors and placing authorities the work done by Clayfields. This matter was resolved and the evaluation completed.
14. Beyond simply the number and frequency of advocate visits to Nottinghamshire's Looked After young people, there is a move to improve the sharing of "soft" information gathered on these visits and improve understanding of the issues raised by our young people about their experience of the care system.
15. Current reasons for young people requesting the help of an advocate include wanting a change of social worker, wanting help and support to make their feelings clear in a Looked After Review, being unhappy at the rules in their care placement and challenging their care plan in terms of decisions about where they live or what family they see for contact. The advocate will work with the professionals involved to make sure the views of the young person are heard, understood and addressed in an appropriate manner.
16. The latest quarterly performance monitoring meeting was held on 3 February 2016. At this meeting the latest data for all aspects of the contract was reviewed and the figures in this report are taken from this meeting.

Other Options Considered

17. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. 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

- 1) That the information about the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 10/02/16)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0779

7 March 2016

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

CONTACT SERVICE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the Contact Service with regard to looked after children and the progress that has been achieved following the review of the Service.

Information and Advice

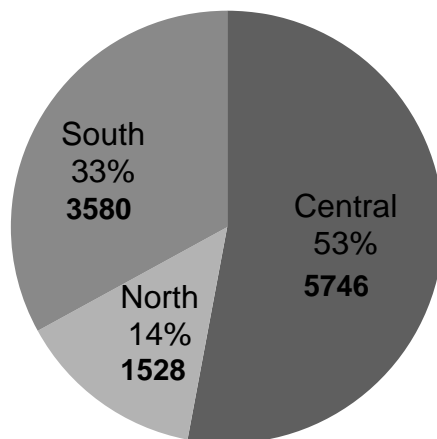
2. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide and promote contact – unless it is not in the best interests of the child.
3. The primary law and key reference documents emphasise the need for the child to be at the centre of planning contact arrangements. The Children Act 1989 and case law (decisions of the higher courts) identifies contact as 'a right of the child' - birth parents, relatives and others do not have a 'right' to contact, although local authorities must provide and promote contact, providing evidence to court if they are planning to change or withdraw contact.
4. The 'Good Practice Guidance Note ADCS/CAFCASS-2013' also emphasises the need for contact to be in the best interests of the child and, in particular, the level of contact must be based upon observation of the contact and the need to adjust the plan if contact is detrimental to the child. This is fundamental to the new service model.
5. The Contact Service provides a County-wide service and has been operational since June 2012, following an 18 month pilot project. In September 2013 a review of the service was initiated and the service is now working to revised practice guidance and procedures. The child has remained the focus of all decision making and key processes within the new service model.

Core Offer

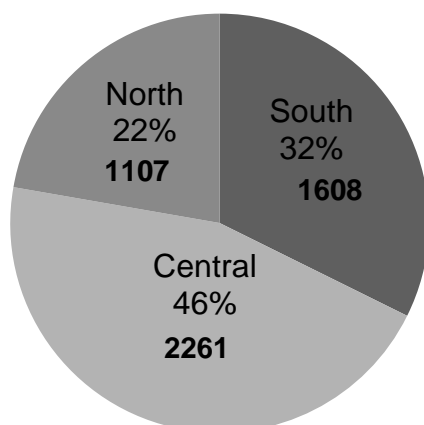
6. The Contact Service 'Core offer' is to 'provide supervised contact to children and young people who are looked after by the local authority to inform their permanency plan until this is agreed'.
7. Priority will be given to cases within the court arena and where there is a requirement to provide evidence to the proceedings.

8. Contact will be also be supervised where there continues to be evidence of 'significant risk' to a child/ young person and where no other alternative is appropriate. The Contact Service will also provide supervised contact for a time limited period to children who may be at risk and report to inform the future plan for the child with regard to contact arrangements.
9. The Contact Service provides an average of 794 contacts per month, or 185 per week, which is a small reduction on volume compared with 2014-15.

Contacts by District 2014-2015



Contacts by District 2015-2016 (inclusive of April-Sept only)



Venues

10. The greatest concern identified at the beginning of the review period was the lack of exclusive use of venues in each district. This created a reliance on ad hoc bookings of alternative venues which the service had no control over in terms of scheduling and ensuring rooms were age appropriate, safe and clean for children. The new service model has enabled:
- venues that are fit for purpose with age appropriate accommodation
 - children to access sessions outside of school times without being restricted by external venue opening times which has reduced the time pressures on staff
 - increased safety for Contact Support Workers (CSWs)
 - the ability to control infection and keep rooms clean
 - staff control over booking contact rooms
 - a reduction to changes and cancellations
 - better consistency of worker for the child, which contributes to safeguarding priorities and best outcomes for the child
 - a reduction in CSW travel time which leads to increased capacity to supervise more sessions and upload notes in a timely manner
 - a reduction in mileage spend by CSWs travelling between venues
11. The County is split into three areas: North, Central and South districts

North:

Ollerton Contact Centre – based on the Dukeries Academy School site. This venue continues to work well for all ages, there is a total of four rooms, which includes a recently adapted kitchen area which works well for older children. A Contact Support Worker works 18.5 hours over five afternoons to meet demand for after school contact.

Worksop – Priory Contact Centre – this has a total of six rooms suitable for all ages, and an outdoor play area. There are two kitchens which allow for activities similar to in a home setting, and is useful for assessed contact. This venue can also be used for contact which requires a lower level, or no supervision, but for which a private space is required. Again, a Contact Support Worker works afternoons only.

Retford Office at Chancery Lane – there are two to three rooms available here, and no outdoor play area. There will shortly be some major building work, which will cause disruption but may result in better use of the building longer term.

Central:

Sandy Bank – has 10 rooms available for contact, and three workers whose hours are afternoon only to meet demand. There are kitchen facilities and outdoor play areas, and the centre continues to be well used.

South:

Beeston Central Children's Centre – this venue has three rooms, kitchen facilities and an outdoor play area, and is easily accessible from the tram service. Staff in the South travel between venues which entails a high level of planning.

Sir John Robinson Way – one room is available at all times, and following current building work it is hoped to have the use of a second, larger room. There are no kitchen facilities or outdoor play, but there is an accessible local park for contact that can be safely managed. The venue is well used, especially after school.

Hawtonville – Newark – there are four rooms available here, an outdoor area and kitchen. These rooms are fully utilised.

Transport

12. It is now embedded practice for the foster carer to transport children to and from contact. In exceptional circumstances the Contact Service Workers will transport children. There is a continued increase in family and friends foster carers, and these carers are most likely to support with travel to contact.

Training

13. Training has recently been facilitated for Bassetlaw carers and it is planned to roll this out to all carers.
14. It is now a specification of the job role that children's contact workers hold a Level 3 City and Guilds Diploma in Children and Young People's Workforce. Training has recently started for all staff who do not have this.

Systems

15. The supervised contact episode is being updated to remove unnecessary information, and ensure that episode contains the necessary information for reporting purposes.
16. Onespace is used for planning and scheduling contact and this is effective and fit for purpose.
17. All staff have a Lenovo Think Pad which enables recording well within the seven days limit. Beeston and Sandybank now have Wi-Fi installed in the buildings which supports connectivity for staff.

Review

18. Contact arrangements are regularly revised to ensure the service maintains its care offer, and that this offer meets the needs of children and families.

Other Options Considered

19. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. 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

- 1) That the update on the changing role of the Contact Service with regard to looked after children and the progress that has been achieved throughout a review of the Service be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 17/02/16)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0786

11 January 2016**Agenda Item: 10**

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2015/16.

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 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.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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/S

- 1) 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: Assistant Democratic Services Officer -
Julie Brailsford
Tel: 0115 977 4694

Constitutional Comments (SLB)

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

Financial Comments (PS)

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

Background Papers

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
13 June 2016			
Performance reporting (Quarter 4 2015/16) – services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	For information	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Summer Term report for the Virtual School for Looked After Children	For information	Steve Edwards	Sue Denholm/ Linda Foster
End of year report for the Independent Reviewing Officer Service	For information	Steve Edwards	Izzy Martin
County CAMHS Looked After and Adoption Team – service provision and developments 2015/16	Annual information report	Steve Edwards	Vonny Senogles
Improving health outcomes for children and young people in the care of the Local Authority	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Amanda Edmunds/ Shelagh Mitchell
Children who run away or go missing from care		Steve Edwards	Terri Johnson
Block purchase of children’s residential placements contracts			Ty Yousaf/Shelagh Mitchell
Fostering Service annual report	Annual report for information	Steve Edwards	Jayne Austin
To be placed			
Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 – six-monthly progress reports	For information	Steve Edwards	Dawn Godfrey
Leaving Care Service update	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards	Michelle Lee
Members’ visits to independent children’s homes		Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
New accommodation provision for 16-21 year olds	Six-monthly update reports	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell/ Beth Cundy

