

Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Monday 14 March 2016 at 1.00 pm

To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Nasima Akther, John Booker, Katie Condliffe, Sheila Constance, Aodan Marken, Mohammad Maroof, Karen McGowan, Pat Midgley, Chris Peace, Lynn Rooney, Colin Ross, Ian Saunders, Jack Scott and Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair)

Education Non-Council Members

Gillian Foster, Jules Jones, Joan Stratford and Alison Warner

Healthwatch Sheffield

Alice Riddell (Observer)

Substitute Members

In accordance with the Constitution, Substitute Members may be provided for the above Committee Members as and when required.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee exercises an overview and scrutiny function in respect of the planning, policy development and monitoring of service performance and other general issues relating to learning and attainment and the care of children and young people within the Children's Services area of Council activity. It also scrutinises as appropriate the various local Health Services functions, with particular reference to those relating to the care of children.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Scrutiny Committee meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Scrutiny Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information about this Scrutiny Committee, please contact Diane Owens, Policy and Improvement Officer on 0114 27 35065 or [email diane.owens@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:diane.owens@sheffield.gov.uk)

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SCRUTINY AND POLICY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
14 MARCH 2016**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 1 - 4)
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)
To approve the minutes of the meetings of Committee held on 25th January, 2016, and to note the attached Actions Update
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
- 7. Adoption Service - Annual Report** (Pages 13 - 22)
Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families
- 8. Fostering Service - Annual Report** (Pages 23 - 28)
Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families
- 9. Independent Advocacy Service, Children in Care and Independent Visitor Service - Annual Report** (Pages 29 - 36)
Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families
- 10. Youth Services in Sheffield** (Pages 37 - 62)
Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families
- 11. Work Programme 2015/16** (Pages 63 - 64)
Report of the Policy and Improvement Officer
- 12. Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on date to

be arranged

ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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**Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 25 January 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), John Booker, Katie Condliffe, Sheila Constance, Aodan Marken, Mohammad Maroof, Karen McGowan, Pat Midgley, Chris Peace, Lynn Rooney, Colin Ross, Ian Saunders, Jack Scott and Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair)

Non-Council Members in attendance:-

Gillian Foster (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Jules Jones (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Joan Stratford (Diocese Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Alison Warner (School Governor Representative - Non-Council Non-Voting Member)
Alice Riddell (Healthwatch Sheffield - Observer)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nasima Akther.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th November 2015, were approved as a correct record and, arising from their consideration, it was noted that, in relation to the first bullet point at paragraph 8.3 (Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service – Annual Report 2014-15), Councillor Chris Peace had contacted Phil Ashford, Service Manager, Sheffield Futures, for guidance on further action with regard to the rejection of criminal injuries compensation claims in connection with the Operation Alphabet case.

4.2 The Committee also noted the Actions Update and responses to public questions which were attached to the minutes.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no questions raised or petitions submitted by members of the public.

6. 2015 CITY-WIDE ATTAINMENT OUTCOMES IN SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES AND LEARN SHEFFIELD

6.1 The Committee received a presentation, a copy of which had been circulated, from Antony Hughes, Children's Commissioner and Director of Inclusion and Learning, which provided the Committee with further detail on attainment and performance outcomes from Foundation Stage to A-Level in Sheffield's schools and academies. This followed on from information provided at the previous Committee meeting. The presentation included comparisons to national performance and to other local authorities.

6.2 Also in attendance for this item were Stephen Betts, Interim Chief Executive, Learn Sheffield, Pam Smith, Head of Primary and Targeted Intervention and Kate Wilkinson, Service Manager, Performance and Analysis Service.

6.3 The following responses were provided to Members' questions:-

- Parkwood was the only secondary school in the City which was below floor targets.
- Government investment in the form of the London Challenge had helped the London Boroughs in improving their performance and enquiry visits were being planned to other authorities, including some of these London Boroughs, to see if anything could be learned from this.

6.4 Stephen Betts then addressed the Committee on actions taken by Learn Sheffield to raise standards in 2016. He also circulated a briefing note which contained information on Partnership Working, School Outcomes, Pupil Outcomes and Vulnerable Groups, and also provided details of further proposals and next steps in relation to Partnership Working.

6.5 Stephen Betts went on to inform the Committee that London, the North West and the North East were parts of the country from which lessons could be learned and that enquiry visits were planned to each of these areas. He also explained that the School Improvement Strategy (2016-18) would be circulated in draft form for consultation by the end of January 2016, and would hopefully be in place from Easter. In conclusion, Stephen Betts explained that Learn Sheffield was building towards a system with collective aspiration, with a refusal to tolerate poor performance and to celebrate success. He felt that Learn Sheffield could do this in the existing landscape and offered the ability to work together irrespective of the status of the school.

6.6 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- In relation to the Pupil Referral Unit, a major piece of work was being

undertaken with secondary schools, with permanent exclusion being seen as a last resort. It should also be noted that the inclusion programme involved different strategies in this regard.

- In relation to inclusion, the focus was on working with Heads in the secondary sector, with the aim being to prevent exclusion in the first place and to get the pupil back in the mainstream as soon as possible. There were safeguards on quality and level of attendance at the Sheffield Inclusion Centre and it was felt that the strategies were going in the right direction. Learn Sheffield was also working closely with the Sheffield Inclusion Centre on attendance.
- The presentation reported on the 158 schools which had received Ofsted outcomes.
- Key Stage 5 data had only just been finalised and this showed that overall, Sheffield compared well to national performance coming in at 56th out of all local authorities in relation to average score per entry and 40th in relation to the percentage achieving grade A, B or better in facilitating subjects. A-level performance was slightly above the national average.

6.7 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks those attending for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation and the responses to questions; and
- (c) looks forward to continued improvements in attainment next year and beyond.

7. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SCRUTINY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - PREVENT TASK GROUP

7.1 Councillor Cliff Woodcraft, Deputy Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Prevent Task Group, presented the Group's draft report, a copy of which had been circulated. He took the Committee through the report, paying particular attention to its membership, purpose, approach, findings and recommendations. Councillor Woodcraft also circulated a copy of an additional recommendation for the Committee's consideration, regarding referrals to the Safeguarding Service.

7.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- Whilst there was no statutory requirement to monitor voluntary youth provision, the Council would investigate if there were any safeguarding issues. Members would have the opportunity, at the Committee's March meeting, to raise any issues with representatives of Youth Services in the City.

- Recommendation 7 in the draft report referred to looking at opportunities for funding to support work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors and local communities with regard to the Prevent agenda.
- It was acknowledged that monitoring young people's internet use was difficult and Recommendation 4 in the draft report made reference to ensuring that e-safety training and best practice materials were shared more broadly within the City. There were obvious parallels here with the Child Sexual Exploitation cases.
- Recommendation 5 in the draft report reflected the need to ensure that community relations in the City were not adversely affected by the Prevent agenda. Councillor Woodcraft reported that he had attended a training event, organised by the Council for local schools, and that this had covered all forms of extremism, including the far right. It was emphasised that there was no desire to stigmatise particular communities and it was noted that the training materials, seen by the Task Group members who attended the training sessions, were felt to be balanced. The importance of ensuring that vulnerable individuals were supported appropriately was also highlighted.

7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Councillor Cliff Woodcraft and the members of the Prevent Task Group for their excellent work in producing the draft report;
- (b) accepts the draft report, including the recommendations and additional recommendation; and
- (c) recommends that the report be shared with the Council's Cabinet Members and local Members of Parliament.

8. SHEFFIELD PARENT CARER FORUM, STATE OF SHEFFIELD REPORT AND FAMILY COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SINGLE ASSESSMENT

8.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, State of Sheffield Report and Family Common Assessment Framework and the Children's Social Care Single Assessment report; and
- (b) requests that Members with any questions on the report send these by e-mail to the Policy and Improvement Officer.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

9.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) receives and notes the draft Work Programme 2015-16; and
- (b) requests that Members with any ideas for a topic for discussion at the Committee's meeting on 25th April 2016 (Annual Meeting with Young Carers and Young People), e-mail these to the Policy and Improvement Officer.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday, 14th March 2016, at 1.00pm, in the Town Hall.

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Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee
Actions update for meeting on 14th March 2016

Action	Minutes	Update	R A G
<p>CYP&FS Scrutiny Committee – Prevent Task Group That the Committee: (c.) recommends that the report be shared with the Council’s Cabinet and local Members of Parliament.</p>	<p>Monday 25th January 2016</p>	<p>The Prevent Task Group Report is being shared with Cabinet on 9th Wednesday March and will be sent to local MP’s.</p>	
<p>Work Programme That the Committee: (b) requests that Members with any ideas for a topic for discussion at the Committee’s meeting on 20th April 2016 (Annual Meeting with Young Carers and Young People), e-mail these to the Policy and Improvement Officer.</p>	<p>Monday 25th January 2016</p>		

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Report to CYP & FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 14 March 2016

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

Subject: Adoption Service

Author of Report: Suzanne Whiteley, Adoption & Fostering Service Manager, Tel: 35155

Summary:

- Update on the Adoption Service in line with adoption services statutory regulations and guidance

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report and its contents

Background Papers:

List any background documents (e.g. research studies, reports) used to write the report. Remember that by listing documents people could request a copy.

- Adoption Service Dataset 2014/15
- An Action Plan for Adoption: tackling delay
- Further Action for Adoption: Finding More Loving Homes
- Adoption Scorecard Data
- Yorkshire & Humber Adoption Consortium Reform Plan
- Yorkshire & Humber Adoption Consortium Performance Reports
- Adoption Passport: a support guide for adopters

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

1. Introduction/Context

- 1.1 In line with statutory guidance and regulation, all Adoption Services have to report to the executive side of the local authority in regard to the outcomes of the adoption service. The Senior Leadership Team and other Boards within Children, Young Peoples and Families Service have received regular updates in relation to adoption performance.
- 1.2 This report will provide an overview of the main developments and priorities relating to the Adoption Service during the period April 2015 to February 2016 and sits in the context of changes within adoption services over the last four years.

2. The National Adoption Agenda and Sheffield Adoption Service

2.1 National Agenda

- 2.1.1 Adoption has seen a number of central government initiatives and policy changes over the last four years aimed to improving timeliness of adoption assessments and performance in relation to Adoption Scorecard.
- 2.1.2 The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) became available nationwide in May 2015 following a pilot run with 10 local authorities. The intention of the Adoption Support Fund is to provide greater access to services for adopted children who often have complex needs. The ASF is available for children up to and including the age of 18 (or 25 with an Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health & Care Plan) who have been placed with their adoptive family and were previously in Local Authority care in England (or from Local Authority care in Wales but living in England).
- 2.1.3 In June 2015 the Department for Education published a Regionalising Adoption paper which set out the proposals to move to regional adoption agencies with the intention of speeding up matching and 'markedly improving the life chances of neglected and damaged children; improve adopter recruitment and adoption support; and reduce costs'. The Department for Education supports local authorities in the regionalisation agenda. Further Action for Adoption: Finding More Loving Homes set out that fewer organisations recruiting and assessing adopters were needed with most of them operating at a much greater scale. Since that time there has been a growth in regional consortia and more collaborative working relationships between local authorities. The Regionalising Adoption paper strives for these steps to become more innovative and on a larger scale and sets down that by the end of this Parliament they want to see all local authorities being part of regional agencies. It also sets out that the pace of change is to be accelerated to ensure those children, for whom adoption is the right

path, are given the best chance of finding a loving, forever family as quickly as possible.

2.1.4 In July 2015 The Department for Education (DfE) implemented a £30 million scheme to reimburse the money Local Authorities spend on inter-agency fees for the following categories of 'hard-to-place' children:

- children who waited 18 months or longer to be placed with a family
- children who are aged five or older at the time they are placed with a family
- children who are in a sibling group of two or more children, and are placed with a family as siblings
- black or minority ethnic children
- disabled children

The scheme runs for placements Local Authorities make between 8 July 2015 and 31 July 2016. The grant is intended to encourage Local Authorities to consider all possible matches for across the whole country for children who are 'hard to place' with a family.

2.1.5 In January 2016 Nicky Morgan, Education Secretary announced an additional £200 million investment in the adoption system over the next four years. This investment was implemented due to the number of adoptions and the number of children being placed falling. In addition this funding will support the development of regional adoption agencies, strengthen voluntary adoption agencies and increase the number of adoptions for harder to place children by continuing to pay the inter-agency fee and to increase funding for the Adoption Support Fund each year.

2.2 Sheffield Response

2.2.1 Sheffield has continued to take a number of actions to ensure that the agency has the ability to meet the challenges ahead in improving timeliness, respond to the regionalisation agenda and improve adoption support provision. This has been balanced with continuing to ensure quality for each child and maintain the number of children being placed for adoption. Regular tracking meetings take place on each of the fieldwork sites and these utilise the adoption milestones forms to enable tracking and monitoring of individual cases and in turn inform performance monitoring and projections in relation to the Adoption Scorecard.

2.2.2 As of 29th February 2016 65 children have been adopted and a further 36 children are placed with adoptive families but do not as yet have the Adoption Order in place.

2.2.3 In regard to the assessment of adopters, 34 new adopters have been approved as of 29th February 2016. One family was not approved at panel and the applicants have taken this decision to the IRM (Independent Review Mechanism). This will be heard in May 2016. Two further families have been deferred from panel, with

further information having been requested, these cases will be again heard at panel.

- 2.2.4 The Adoption Service continues to work in partnership with Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium. The Consortium consists of 15 local authorities across the region and a number of voluntary adoption agencies. The Consortium continues to use funds, from the Adoption Reform Grant, at a regional and sub-regional level over a 3 year period using the regional adoption consortium contract and network as the framework; the regionalisation agenda will reframe this contract. The purpose of this is to improve the quality of service for children and adopters through faster delivery, sharing best practice, development of processes, for example early permanence placements and improved performance management and data reporting.
- 2.2.5 The Yorkshire and Humber region submitted a Regionalisation expression of interest to the Department of Education in September 2015; the proposal includes the development of a centre of excellence, providing a specialist facility for clinical and therapeutic interventions, a centre of 'permanence' learning and focal point for advice and support. This was accepted. The aims identified in the expression of interest are to place more children in a more timely way, recruit more of the right families for the children waiting, and prepare those families consistently and to a high standard across the region.
- 2.2.6 The structure of the regional bid is for three sub-regional adoption agencies with a central coordinating regional framework which will be jointly owned by local authorities, voluntary adoption agencies and adoption support agencies. Within the South region which includes Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley and Rotherham there are on-going consultation around the constitution of a regional adoption agency however it is anticipated that Doncaster Children's Trust will be utilised as a vehicle for change due to their unique position as an existing Children's Trust and the adoption service being delivered as a voluntary adoption agency.
- 2.2.7 A regional transitional plan is due for submission to the Department for Education by the 31st March 2016 which will set out the aims and objectives for the regional adoption agency over the next two years; this will also include timescales for delivery.
- 2.2.8 A sub-regional project board is in place and meets on a monthly basis. A project lead has been appointed who will undertake a presentation across the sub-region to elected members regarding the regional plan to enable a final decision is made about the model for implementation.
- 2.2.9 Sheffield Adoption Service has accessed the adoption support fund to support the delivery of adoption support to families where therapeutic support is required. Up to December 2015 Sheffield City Council has claimed and received £180,445, which is expenditure that is committed or incurred in respect of therapeutic intervention.

- 2.2.10 The Adoption Support Fund has a list of approved providers nationwide. The Yorkshire and Humber Consortium also completed a tendering process and there is a local list of providers.
- 2.2.11 The application process involves a FACT (Families, Adopters and Carers Team) assessment which focusses on the adoption support needs of the therapeutic needs of the children. Where therapeutic needs are identified either by the worker or the adopters (but agreed by the worker) a provider is approached and an application submitted to the Adoption Support Fund, work does not commence until approval is granted from the Fund and applications are approved or declined in a timely manner. Application can now be made for funding prior to an Adoption order being made to ensure that any package of support is in place from the point of placement. Funding for additional Multi-Agency Psychological Support (MAPS) for children with a plan of adoption has been agreed for a further 12 months; this includes advice and consultations for professionals in the linking process and for adopters in relation to the specific needs of individual children, delivery of training to adopters and staff and programmed group work intervention.
- 2.2.12 Sheffield Adoption Service has applied for funding for a number of groups run for children and adopters as well as individual work with children adopters. The types of support that come under the remit of the Adoption Support Fund include training for adoptive parents (e.g. therapeutic parenting courses), further complex assessments, direct work for children including drama therapy, dyadic developmental psychotherapy and therapeutic life story work. In addition to these applications we have sought funding for four workers to complete the level one course run by the Theraplay Institute in April 2016. The Adoption Support Fund is available until 2020.
- 2.2.13 The Family, Adopters and Carers Team (FACT) continue to provide extensive support to families. This support includes direct work with children and their families, Theraplay group work and individual sessions. The group work is a ten week Theraplay programme which is delivered twice a year. Theraplay is aimed at promoting the attachment between adopters and their children. The provision delivered by FACT also includes children who have been placed on alternative permanence court orders, for example, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's). There is on-going consultation with adopters to further enhance the service provision.
- 2.2.14 Robust tracking and monitoring systems continue to be developed and reviewed in regard to children that have an adoption plan or a permanence plan. This includes city wide tracking meetings at each area site and agency prioritisation meetings that include the medical advisors to the local authority. There is on-going work with Fieldwork Service Managers to improve the timeliness of adoption with the aim of a positive impact on the Adoption Scorecard.
- 2.2.15 Work has been undertaken to enable the use of Early Permanence Placements (EPP) can be used for children where the local authority's permanence plan is likely to be adoption but where other

outcomes such as rehabilitation to birth family are still under consideration.

- 2.2.16 In such cases, the Local Authority will place the child with foster carers who are also temporarily approved as adopters. The carers may be dually approved as foster carers and adopters from the outset or might be approved prospective adopters who have been temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child under Regulation 25A of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 ("2010 Regulations").
- 2.2.17 Early Permanency Placements are without doubt more risky for adopters. Some prospective adoptive parents positively choose this as a possible route to adoption. There are a number of advantages of EPP for children which are linked to the stability of the one placement for the child for the duration of care proceedings and then if adoption is agreed by the courts, for life.
- 2.2.18 In relation to inter agency fees in respect of adoption placements Sheffield City Council has submitted claims for £410,000 in relation to children who have been placed for adoption with other Local Authority and Voluntary Adoption Agencies.
- 2.2.19 For the current financial year it is projected that a further claim of £135,000 will be submitted with a total claim for the inter-agency adoption fee: grant for local authorities of £545,000 for 2015/16.
- 2.2.20 Once the funding ceases these costs will again sit with local authorities and impact on spending in relation to adoption provision moving forward. Having access to the fund has meant that we are able to look at all potential adoptive families whether they have been assessed by the local authority or not in a relatively short timescale.

2.3 Statistics

- 2.3.1 Children made subject to a 'Should Be Placed for Adoption' (SHOBPA) decision and outcomes.

Year	Total no of children with SHOBPA	Children linked/placed with adopters	No of SHOBPA rescinds	No of children disrupted	No of children adopted
2008/09	48	41	9	0	55
2009/10	44	45	5	3	41
2010/11	55	37	7	2	45
2011/12	60	40	11	0	45
2012/13	102	40	15	0	50
2013/14	165	101	15	0	53
2014/15	136	57	18	0	43

In relation to SHOBPA, the 136 figure includes the children that are already placed with adopters.

- 2.3.2 Children may have SHOBPA decision/link/adoption in different years the figures above are taken as at end of March each year and will fluctuate throughout the year as the plan for children may change

from adoption for various reasons, for example, family rehabilitation or Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) with extended family or foster carers, long term foster placement.

- 2.3.3 The figures outlined above include 2 relinquished babies, where SHOBPA decisions have been made. Both of these children have been placed with our EPP (Early Permanence placements) carers, this has enabled an early decision to be made and adoption applications have been submitted following ADM at linking panel.
- 2.3.4 The monthly panel prioritisation meetings to ensure timely decision making in relation to SHOBPA decisions and adoption panel submissions.
- 2.3.5 During the current year there has been one placement that disrupted (a siblings group of 2), in line with procedures where an agency adoptive placement breaks down prior to the granting of an Adoption Order, a Disruption Meeting must be held to identify the reasons for the breakdown and to inform lessons learned from the events surrounding the breakdown. This has been commissioned independently and we are currently awaiting the analysis in relation to disruption. The outcome of this will be used to inform practice and enable the agency to implement the lessons learned.
- 2.3.6 The service has two well established adoption panels which aim to meet monthly. Both panels have the same independent chair who has significant knowledge and experience of adoption issues. All panels have been quorate which reflects the excellent commitment of the panel members.
- 2.3.7 A dedicated Agency Advisor has been in place since February 2013. This provides consistency across both panels and provides independence to the post. The Agency Advisor plays a key role in the quality assurance of all documents that are to be presented to panel and manages activity in regard to prioritisation of the panel agenda and SHOBPA decisions.

2.3.8 Adoption Panels held each month

Month	Number of Panels	Link	Approval
April 2015	2	5	4
May 2015	2	4	5
June 2015	2	5	2
July 2015	2	2	6
August 2015	2	8	2
September 2015	3	10	3
October 2015	2	7	2
November 2015	2	5	2
December 2015	2	9	0
January 2016	2	1	5
February 2016	1	3	0
March 2016	1	4	0

2.3.7 A total of 22 panels have been held to date this year, in September 2015 an additional panel was put in place due to the high demand. In February 2016 only one panel took place each month due to a reduction in demand. One panel will sit in March 2016.

2.3.8 It is expected that at the end of March 2016, 59 links will have been approved and presented to panel. This includes a number of sibling groups, and older children, 23 of these are interagency links.

2.3.9 From April 2015 – February 2016 the Agency Decision Makers (ADM) have been Jon Banwell, Assistant Director, Provider Services, Trevor Owen, Head of Safeguarding Children Service and Debbie Mercer, Assistant Director, Fieldwork. Trevor Owen undertakes the ADM role in regard to SHOBPA's on a monthly basis. Trevor Owen is due to retire at the end of March 2016 and a replacement is currently being identified. The ADM's role is to consider the adoption panel's recommendation to make the final decision. The ADM is a nominated person within the adoption agency who has the legal responsibility to make an approval decision. In most circumstances this ADM accepts the adoption panel's recommendation and is supported by advice from the Agency Advisor.

2.4 Adoption Scorecard

2.4.1 The two main indicators in the adoption scorecard are both published as a three year average. The Adoption Leadership Board has continued to collect information on a quarterly basis; however, adoption scorecard indicators have not been published for any adoptions since March 2014.

- 2.4.2 Indicator A1 – Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days).
- 2.4.3 65 children have so far been adopted in 2015/16 with an average of 519 days between entering care and being matched to an adoptive family; this should mean a three year average of around 543 days which is very close to the projection of 540 days set in July 2015. Going forward the DfE threshold for this indicator is 426 days, we expect to achieve this performance each year from 2016/17 onwards, however, as this indicator is calculated by performance over a three year period we don't expect to achieve the DfE target until March 2019.
- 2.4.4 Indicator A2 – Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days).
- 2.4.5 So far 62 children have been adopted and are included in this indicator for 2015/16 with an average of 289 days between placement order and matching with prospective adopters; this should mean a three year average of around 282 days which is very close to the projection of 280 days set in July 2015. Going forward the DfE threshold for this indicator is 121 days, we expect to achieve this performance each year from 2016/17 onwards, however, as this indicator is calculated over a three year period we don't expect to achieve the DfE target until March 2019.
- 2.4.6 The reports below outline the adoption scorecard outturns and projections for A1 and A2



Adoption Scorecard -
Outturns and Projecti

3. What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 Sheffield continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to permanence placements for children through adoption. Children thrive in stable and loving families. Sometimes birth parents are unable to care for their children themselves. Getting the best possible care for these children is one of the Local Authority's most important corporate parent responsibilities.
- 3.2 The Local Authority has responded to the Government's changes and initiatives for adoption and continues to do so. The Local Authority will continue to drive forward the adoption agenda to ensure that the child's journey is undertaken in a timely manner whilst ensuring the best outcome. The priority for all children is to secure permanence. Adoption is therefore a key and vital choice in any decision making that secures a child's future within a stable family environment.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and provide challenge to the service in respect of service activity.



Report to CYP & FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 14 March 2016

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

Subject: Fostering Service

Author of Report: Suzanne Whiteley, Adoption & Fostering Service Manager, Tel: 35155

Summary: Update on Fostering Service in line with fostering services statutory regulations and guidance

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report and its contents

Background Papers:

List any background documents (e.g. research studies, reports) used to write the report. Remember that by listing documents people could request a copy.

- Fostering Service Dataset 2014/15
- Fostering Service Business Case 2010
- Fostering Service Key Campaign 2014/15
- Fostering Capital Investment Report

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

Sheffield City Council Fostering Service

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In line with statutory guidance and regulation, all Fostering Services have to report to the executive side of the local authority in regard to the outcomes of the service. The Senior Leadership Team and other Boards within Children, Young Peoples and Families Service have received regular updates in relation to fostering performance.
- 1.2. Under the Ofsted Inspection Framework for 'the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers', fostering services are now incorporated in to the single framework inspection process.

2. Sheffield Fostering Service

- 2.1. The Corporate Plan 2015 - 2018 highlights the importance of the right permanent placement for children, including foster care. The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015 - 2017 outlines the need to progress the fostering recruitment and retention business case to maximise the range of in house foster placements with a focus on developing/supporting existing foster carers for older children/young people. The Communications Plan supports the Business Case 2010 and continues to support the Fostering Service in the recruitment of foster carers and the retention of its current foster carers. The Fostering Recruitment Campaign was launched in January 2011 and continues to date. This has included TV and radio advertising, web activity, bus and train station, JCD sites and attendance at community events across the city. Key marketing recruitment campaigns have focused on the recruitment of foster carers for teenagers and sibling groups. Information Evenings continue to be scheduled every 6 weeks.
- 2.2. The retention of foster carers is crucial for the Business Case to continue to be successful. Various retention initiatives have been in place over the last 4 years and continue. These being:
 - Priority housing initiatives
 - Increase in 'refer a friend' fee
 - Skill Level progression
 - Learning & developments opportunities for foster carers
 - Events for children in care, foster carers and birth children
 - Increased Support Groups
 - Foster Forum web based communication tool
 - Voices Of Foster Carers Group
 - Foster Carers Open Forums

- Kids of Foster Carers 'R' Us Group
- Involvement of foster carers in strategic initiatives
- Foster carers involvement in recruitment to staff to SCC
- Foster carers involvement in training for staff and prospective foster carers
- Experienced foster carers are mentors to newly approved foster carers.

2.3 The Fostering Service and its foster carers continue to provide a high level of care and promote the health, welfare and safety of children and young people. Foster carers receive a good level of support from qualified workers in line with statutory regulations and guidance. A robust training and development package enables foster carers to develop their understanding and skills in supporting children and young people and promote positive outcomes for them.

The core training programme is in the process of being reviewed and updated. The main areas of focus of the Learning and development core training include:

- Principles and values
- Roles and responsibilities
- Recording
- Safe caring
- Equality and diversity
- Effective communication

The training and development officer post is currently vacant and the recruitment process is being undertaken. This has impacted on the in house delivery of training service and there are plans in place to address this. Other training outside the core training is available to foster carers and this includes training on managing difficult behaviour, introduction to safeguarding, introduction to child development and attachment, further CAMHS training. Support from the Multi-Agency Psychological Service (MAPS) is also available for foster carers who provide advice in relation to regarding individual children to enable the foster carers in their caring role and training packages, for example transition to adoption. Foster carers are also given support to complete the Training and Development Standards portfolio

2.4 The service has two established fostering panels which aim to meet monthly. There is a single Panel Chair to ensure a consistent approach in line with a proven way of working with Adoption Panels. All panels have been quorate which reflects the excellent commitment of the panel members.

2.5 In February 2013 a dedicated Agency Advisor was appointed to the Adoption Service Panel. This has provided consistency across adoption panels as well as answering the independence of the post. During 2014/15, this post took on the responsibility of Agency Advisor to the Fostering Panel. The post is filled by two part time staff where

each has a primary role for each of the Fostering and Adoption Panel's and will allow for appropriate agency advice for all Fostering and Adoption Panel's.

2.6 Fostering Panels held each month

April 2015	1
May 2015	2
June 2015	1
July 2015	2
August 2015	2
September 2015	2
October 2015	0
November 2015	2
December 2015	1

2.7 From April 2015 – February 2016 the Agency Decision Makers (ADM) have been Jon Banwell, Assistant Director, Provider Services, and Debbie Mercer Assistant Director, Fieldwork Services. The ADM's role is to consider the fostering panel's recommendation to make the final decision. The ADM is a nominated person within the fostering agency who has the legal responsibility to make an approval decision. In most circumstances this ADM accepts the fostering panel's recommendation; the Panel Advisor offers advice and support to enable this process.

2.8 The Fostering Service continues to have an experienced staff group however there has been a small number of new staff recruited due to vacancies through retirement and staff securing opportunities elsewhere. The new staff within the service have been recruited primarily from fieldwork social work teams and they have brought with them a wealth of experience. The management team is an experienced team and has provided stability and consistency within the Service to foster carers and children and young people.

2.9 Statistics

As at 31 st March of each year	Number of newly approved foster carers	Number of new placements	Total number of approved foster carers
2009/10	27	35	223
2010/11	37	45	250
2011/12	39	47	272
2012/13	37	48	282
2013/2014	31	46	280
2014/2015	32	49	280
As at 31 st March of each year	Number of LAC in placement		
2009/10	233		
2010/11	256		
2011/12	271		
2012/13	280		
2013/14	280		
2014/2015	272		

- 2.10 It is anticipated that at the end of 2015/16 the number of new approvals will be 24 foster carers providing 29 new placements. There are currently 17 approved foster carers, providing 22 placements with 2 further approvals recommended by fostering panel and currently awaiting ADM approval.
- 2.11 As at the 29th February 2016, 268 registered foster families provided 275 placements. The number of children in care in placements includes 126 with permanence (long term permanent placements) foster carers, 127 task (shorter term placements) placements, 6 family and friends carer placements, 3 out of hours placements and 13 young people aged 18 years and over.
- 2.12 Where appropriate young people remain living with their foster carers after the age of 18 years. This is known as 'Staying Put', and seeks to extend the young person's placement in a way that allows them to progress to more independent living at a time, and pace, that is based both on their assessed needs, as detailed within their Pathway Plan, and in accordance with their wishes and feelings. 13 young people aged 18 years older remain in placement with their foster carer.
- 2.13 At present the area of highest demand for placements is for older children and we are currently reviewing the package of support available for foster carers in this area as this is also the most challenging area of recruitment of foster carers. We are working closely with the communications team to inform the recruitment strategy.
- 2.13 During 2014/2015 14 foster carers either withdrew from fostering or were deregistered.

Number of Foster Carers	Type	Reason for withdrawal or resignations or deregistration
3	Deregistration	Concerns regarding care
2	Withdrawal	Health
1	Withdrawal	Work commitments
1	Withdrawal	Moved to other fostering agency
2	Withdrawal	Change in family circumstances
1	Withdrawal	Allegation
1	Withdrawal	Carer deceased
3	Withdrawal	Adopted

The Assessment and approval of foster carers: Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations: Volume 4: Fostering Services July 2013 changed practice regarding the resignation of foster carers, meaning where a foster carer gives their resignation in writing this becomes final 28 days later without exception. In

circumstances where there were concerns or an allegation in respect of a foster carer where this may have led to deregistration, this is reported to panel and information retained on file. This may prevent the carer being registered as foster carer in the future.

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 It is important that Sheffield children in care are cared for within the city. Local Authorities have a legislative requirement to ensure that children are placed locally and there is, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the city which meets the needs of children.
- 3.2 The sufficiency duty requires local authorities to do more than simply ensure that accommodation be 'sufficient' in terms of the number of beds provided. They must have regard to the benefits of securing a range of accommodation through a number of providers. The accommodation must also meet the needs of children.
- 3.3 Increasing and retaining the number of foster carers within the city ensure that outcomes for children in care are enhanced and it ensures that the local authority is complying with its statutory duties. It is essential that the continued recruitment strategy reflects the changing needs of placement requirements for children and young people.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee are being asked to note the content of the report and provide challenge to the service in respect of service activity to ensure the needs of children and being best met.



Report to CYP & FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 14 March 2016

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families.

Subject: Independent Advocacy Service, Children in Care Council and Independent Visitor Service

Author of Report: Clare Humberstone, Children's Involvement Team Manager.

Summary: Annual report of the Independent Advocacy Service, Children in Care Council and Independent Visitor Service.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to: Note the report and its contents.

Background Papers:

List any background documents (e.g. research studies, reports) used to write the report. Remember that by listing documents people could request a copy.

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

Sheffield City Council, Children's Involvement Team

1. Introduction

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that, "all children and young people have a right to a say in any matter affecting them and for their view to be taken seriously".

Within Social Care, statutory guidance states that all children should be involved in individual decisions about their own care plans and also in influencing service design, delivery and evaluation. This duty to consider the wishes and feelings of children in care is highlighted as a priority throughout recent legislation. The Children's Act (1989 and 2004) states that:

"before making any decision with respect to a child whom the local authority are looking after or proposing to look after, the authority must, so far as reasonably practicable, ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child"

It continues by stating that:

"in making any decision in relation to the child, it [the local authority] should give due consideration to those wishes and feelings, having regard to the child's age and understanding...children should feel that they are active participants and engaged in the process when adults are trying to solve problems and make decisions about them.

The Children's Act continues by stating that:

"Where a child has difficulty in expressing his/her wishes and feelings about any decisions being made about him/her, consideration must be given to securing the support of an advocate".

This report will highlight the work that has been done by the Children's involvement Team under this agenda in the year 2015-16.

2. Sheffield Children's Involvement Team

The Children's Involvement Team in Sheffield consists of one manager and 2.5 officers and has worked since 2001 to promote the voice of children and young people in Sheffield in decision making processes. Since 2008 the work of the

team has focussed on Social Care and the independent voice of children in social care contexts.

The team's work includes:

- Commissioned consultations with children using engaging techniques.
- Developing creative tools and techniques for direct work with children. These resources are sold across the country to other local authorities.
- Delivering training to those in Sheffield working with children to give them the tools, skills and knowledge to carry out effective direct work. The team also delivers this training nationally and internationally.
- Providing advocacy for children aged 5 to 17 years for children in initial child protection conferences.
- Providing independent issue-based advocacy for all children in and leaving care.
- Facilitating the Children in Care Council.
- Managing the Independent Visitor Service.

For the purposes of this report, the work highlighted will focus on:

- The Children in Care Council
- Independent advocacy for children in care and care leavers
- Independent Visitor Service.

3. Children in Care Council

In April 2015, the Children's Involvement Team took over the contract to facilitate the Children in Care Council (CiCC). At the time that the Children's Involvement Team took over the group there were three existing members who decided that they no longer wished to be part of the CiCC. One member has since moved to the Care Leavers' Council. The focus during 2015-6 has been to recruit to and establish a new group, write a work programme and consider the best approach to link with Corporate Parenting Board.

The key achievements of the CiCC during 2015-16 are:

- The group have 8 members who meet every fortnight for 2 hours.
- 20 young people have expressed an interest in becoming a member of CiCC and have received a visit from the CiCC coordinator.
- The group have established an identity and have commissioned branded products to promote the group to other children and young people in care in the city.
- The group have written a programme of work based on the findings of the 2014 Tell Us What You Think survey and their own experiences of being in care.

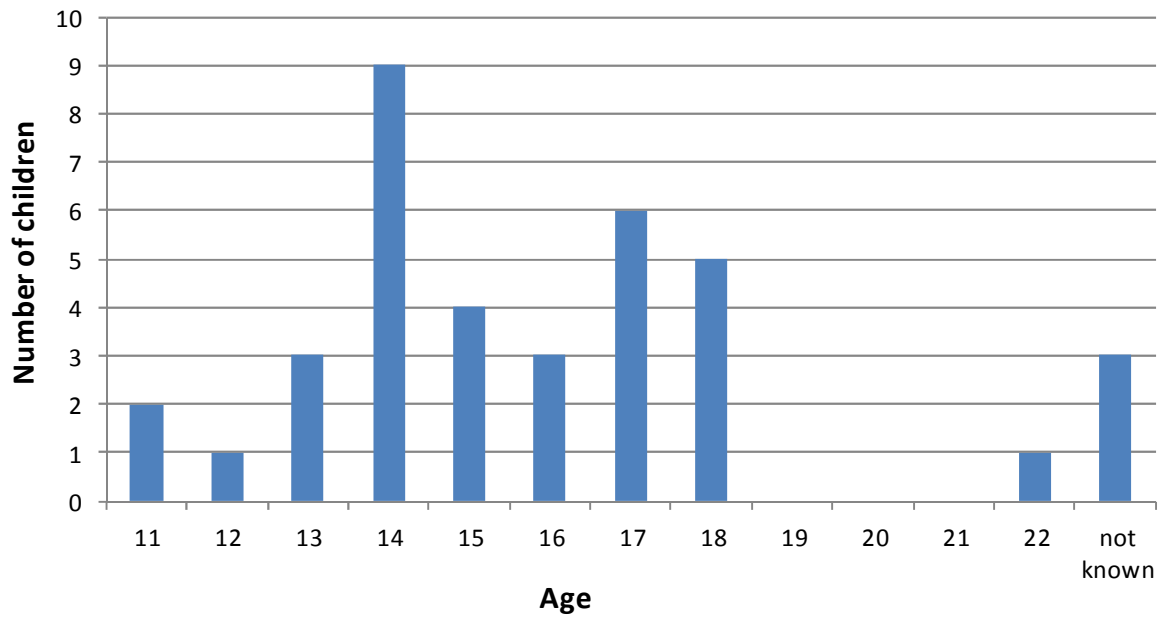
- The group have published their first newsletter which will be distributed in March 2016 with the Tell Us What You Think survey to all Sheffield's young people in care over 13 years of age.
- The group have started work on a website to tell other young people in care what they are doing and as a platform for them to gather the views of others who do not wish to be part of the group but wish to have their say about the topics the CiCC are working on.
- The CiCC facilitator sits on Corporate Parenting Board as a link between the two groups.
- The group have worked hard on their first focus area of 'relationships with social workers'. They have:
 - Produced a personal profile booklet for Social Workers (SWs) to complete and give to young people in their initial visit. This is being trialled in one team in Permanence & Throughcare with a view to rolling it out to all SWs.
 - Been involved in delivering training to SWs in the city.
 - Made a film of their experiences of relationships with social workers during their time in care to be embedded into training programmes in Sheffield for SWs.
 - Planned a 'Let's Talk About Social Workers' session for a reduced Corporate Parenting Board session.
- The group planned age-appropriate activities and attended the annual Bag A Book event to consult with younger children in care and fed their views into the work they are doing on 'relationships with Social Workers'.
- Members of the group have visited a national celebration event in London to showcase the work they have been doing.
- CiCC coordinators have attended training to support the CiCC members through an ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) peer tutoring short course.

4. Advocacy for children in care and care leavers

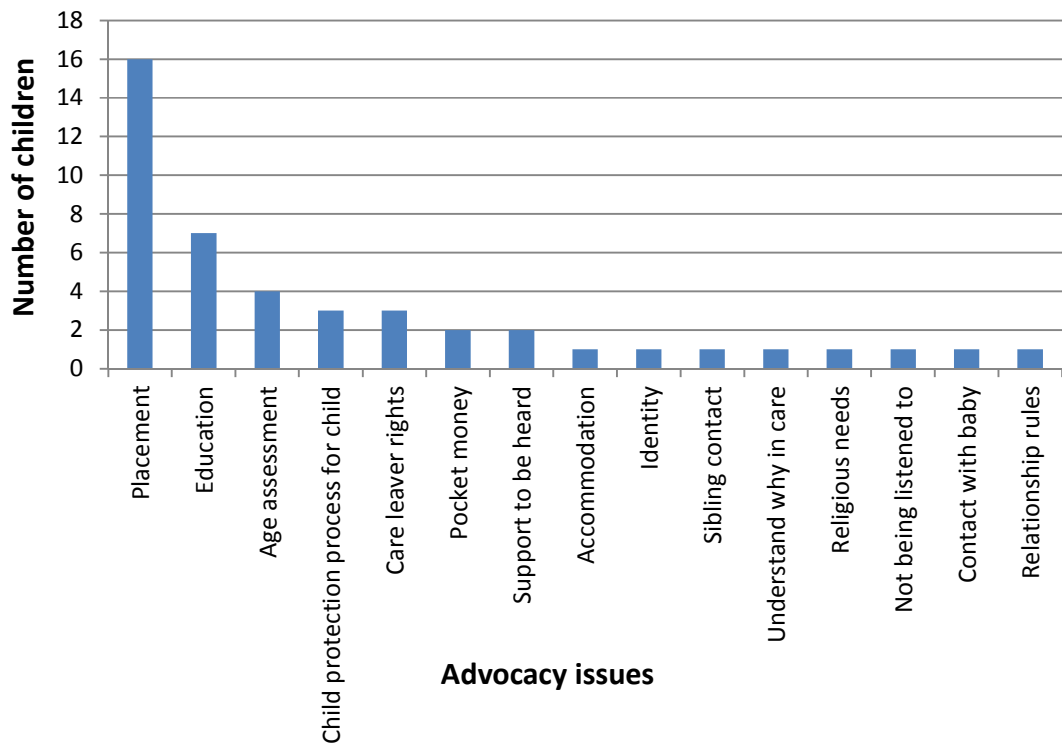
In April 2015, the Children's Involvement Team took over the contract to deliver independent issue-based advocacy for children and young people in and leaving care. During 2015-16 a total of 37 children and young people, 22 female and 15 male, have received advocacy support.

The details of these cases are as follows:

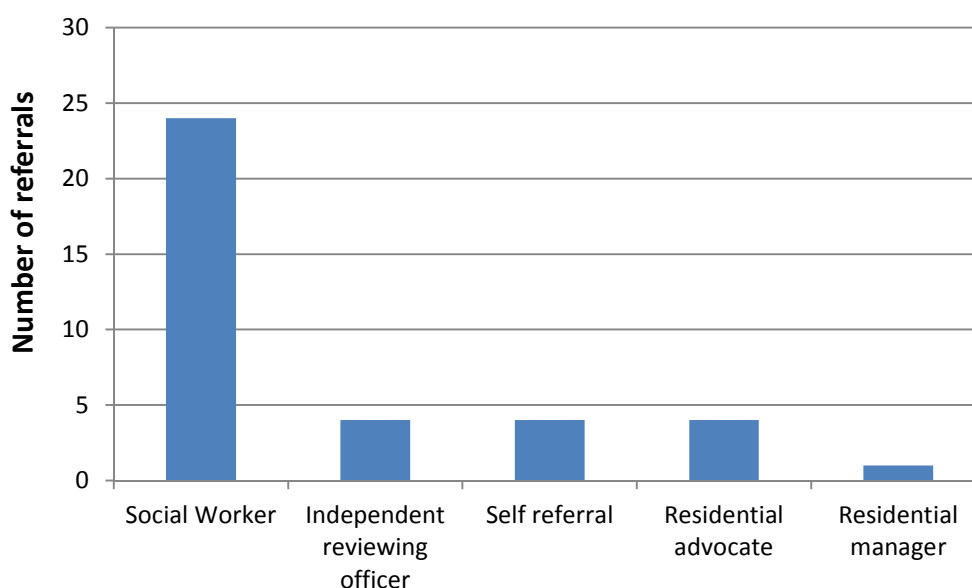
Age of children



Advocacy issues



Referral routes



During 2015-16, other activity has included:

- Establishing branding for the advocacy service
- Promoting the advocacy service widely, including regular flyers and posters sent to social workers, support workers, foster carers, schools and out of city providers.
- Informing professionals and others about what the advocacy service will (and won't) provide
- Each childrens home in the city has been allocated a named advocate who has visited regularly throughout the year since September 2015. As a result of this, the number of referrals received from young people in children's homes through their named advocate and through residential workers has increased.

Feedback received from young people about the independent advocacy service has been very positive:

“Good, [my advocate] listens to me more than anyone else”

“[Your advocate] listens to you and what you say and then things get sorted. It would have been harder if I was on my own, I would not have known how to complain”

“[My advocate] helped me more than anyone. They listen to you even more than your family does and understand where you're coming from”

“It has been good and given me ideas on how to address issues I have”

“I think I needed [an advocate] because I wasn’t able to feel confident to say what I needed and I wasn’t able to show that in a way that I or anyone else could understand. Having an advocate has helped me with that”

“I feel comfortable with my advocate and that they have helped me with issues I have in a way I am very happy with”

“I loved it! When I felt like my social worker wasn’t listening she stepped in and made sure she was. Things got done a lot quicker with [my advocate]. She also helped me to understand my rights. My social worker wasn’t telling me anything but when [my advocate] stepped in I found out a lot”

“[My advocate] was an absolute life saver for me”

“[My advocate] is at the top of the scale. She was great!”

5. Independent Visitor Scheme

All children in care have a statutory right to an Independent Visitor (IV) if it is considered to be in their best interests (Children’s Act, 2004). An IV is an adult volunteer who is matched with a child in care and takes a befriending role to participate in fun activities of the child’s choice. In Sheffield, an IV must be over 21 years of age and commit to taking the young person out on an activity once a month for a minimum of two years.

In April 2015, the Children’s Involvement Team (CIT) took over the contract to deliver the IV service for children in care. At the time that CIT took over the group there were 12 existing matches between young people and IVs and 22 young people waiting to be matched.

Over the course of the year, other activity has included:

- Retaining the existing matches and transferring them to Sheffield City Council’s policies and procedures
- Provided ongoing support to the volunteers, including additional training sessions
- Advertising across the city for new volunteers. This has included Voluntary Action Sheffield, Sheffield University, School Point and distributing posters across the city.

As at 1st March 2016, the situation is as follows:

- 16 matches between young people and IVs.
- The matched young people are aged between 11 and 17 years.
- 3 matched young people live out of city.
- Matched IVs are aged from 21 to 54 years.
- 5 out of the 16 Independent Visitors are male and 11 are female.

All new volunteers are required to submit an application, attend two days of training delivered by Children’s Involvement Team, successfully complete an

online safeguarding certificate awarded by the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board, attend training delivered by the Sheffield Child Sexual Exploitation Service and undergo a DBS check. Following successful completion of these aspects, they are then required to attend an interview, the panel for which includes a young person who is in care and currently has an IV.

There have been two rounds of recruitment this year. In November 2015, five volunteers successfully completed the full recruitment process and are currently in the process of being matched with young people. In February 2016, 13 volunteers attended two days of training and are currently part way through the process. Once they have completed the full process, they will be ready to be matched from April 2016 onwards.

There are currently 15 young people waiting to be matched with an IV:

- All are aged between 9 and 17 years old; the average age is 15 years.
- Four young people are out of city.

One requires a Pashto speaking IV.

6. What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

It is important that Sheffield's children in and leaving care have a voice, both at an individual, personal level and in order to influence service development and delivery. Through the Children in Care Council, the independent advocacy service and the independent visitor scheme, children in and leaving care in Sheffield are able to access different structures, independent from Social Care, to make their voices heard.

7. Recommendation

The Committee are being asked to note the report and its contents.



Report to Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director of Children, Family and Young People Services

Subject: Youth Services in Sheffield

Author of Report: Sam Martin, Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities. Sam.martin@sheffield.gov.uk

Summary:

The Committee has requested an update on Youth Services in Sheffield. This report describes the current provision of youth services, as commissioned and organised by the Local Authority, and sets out the changes that have taken place since 2010 with the start of the Coalition Government's austerity programme. It sets out the future challenges facing youth services and explains a proposal that the council is developing with partners for the creation of a Youth Trust for Sheffield from 2017.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	x
Informing the development of new policy	x
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Note the contents of the report
- Consider the proposal to develop a Youth Trust and Youth Pledge, and provide advice, suggestions and thoughts on the concept, the suggested principles, to help steer the next steps in consultation for this project.
- Take a further report in early 2017 to update on progress in developing the Youth Trust.

Background Papers:

None

Category of Report: OPEN

Youth Services in Sheffield

Introduction and Summary

1. This report provides an update on Youth Services in Sheffield. It describes the current provision of youth services, as commissioned by the Local Authority, and sets out the changes that have taken place since 2010 and the start of the Coalition Government's austerity programme. It sets out the future challenges facing youth services and explains a proposal that the council is developing with partners for the creation of a Youth Trust for Sheffield from 2017.

Current Youth Services Provision in Sheffield

2. Youth services in Sheffield can be categorised as consisting of the following:
 - a) Activities for young people delivered outside of the school day which contribute to their health and wellbeing, develop skills and character, and provide positive peer interactions. These can be sporting, artistic, cultural or environmental activities, or less structured activities delivered, for example, via a 'youth club' led by trusted adults (youth workers, sports leaders, or volunteers).
 - b) Services that support young people in volunteering, getting involved in social action and having a voice and influencing the decisions that affect them
 - c) Services that provide support to young people who need extra help to stop them falling out of education or training, help them make the right career choices, help them make healthy life choices and stop them getting involved in crime or antisocial behaviour
 - d) Providing young people with access to a range of other public services which are outside the scope of the traditional definition of 'youth services', including specialist services such as health and mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, youth justice, child protection and family support, child sexual exploitation and housing and homelessness support
3. Sheffield has not had a council-run 'youth service' since 2002, when the functions of the youth service were contracted out to Sheffield Futures, a local independent charity, under a 15 year agreement that ends in 2017. The council currently invests in the following youth provision:
 - a) **Community Youth Teams (CYTs)** - linked broadly to three areas of the city, these teams bring together youth workers, youth crime prevention worker, specialist careers advisors, police officers and some health workers under the overall management of Sheffield Futures to provide a range of engagement and support activities for young people. CYTs deliver a range of open access youth activities each week in areas of need across the city and provide 1:1 support and small group interventions to young people at risk of crime, antisocial behaviour or of disengaging from education or training. The

current structure and outputs of the Community Youth Teams is set out in a diagram at Appendix 2. Appendix 3 contains some case examples to give a flavour of the prevention work CYTs undertake with young people, as individual or group referrals.

- b) **Young People's Involvement** - Sheffield Futures' youth workers run a range of activities and forums for young people to get involved in public life in the city and have their voices heard by key decision makers. This includes running annual elections for, and supporting representatives to, the Sheffield UK Youth Parliament, the Young People's Cabinet, and local youth forums linked to Local Area Partnerships
- c) **The Sexual Exploitation Service** - this service is hosted and managed by Sheffield Futures, and consists of youth workers, plus police officers and child protection, health workers and social workers from the council
- d) **The Sheffieldr project** – this provides support to volunteers, community groups and promotes young people's social action, where young people get involved in doing something to improve life in their local community.

In addition, Sheffield Futures provides a **full traded service in careers guidance** support to three quarters of the city's secondary schools and the council provides financial support to the **Sheena Amos Trust** to provide youth work support and activities to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young people in Sheffield.

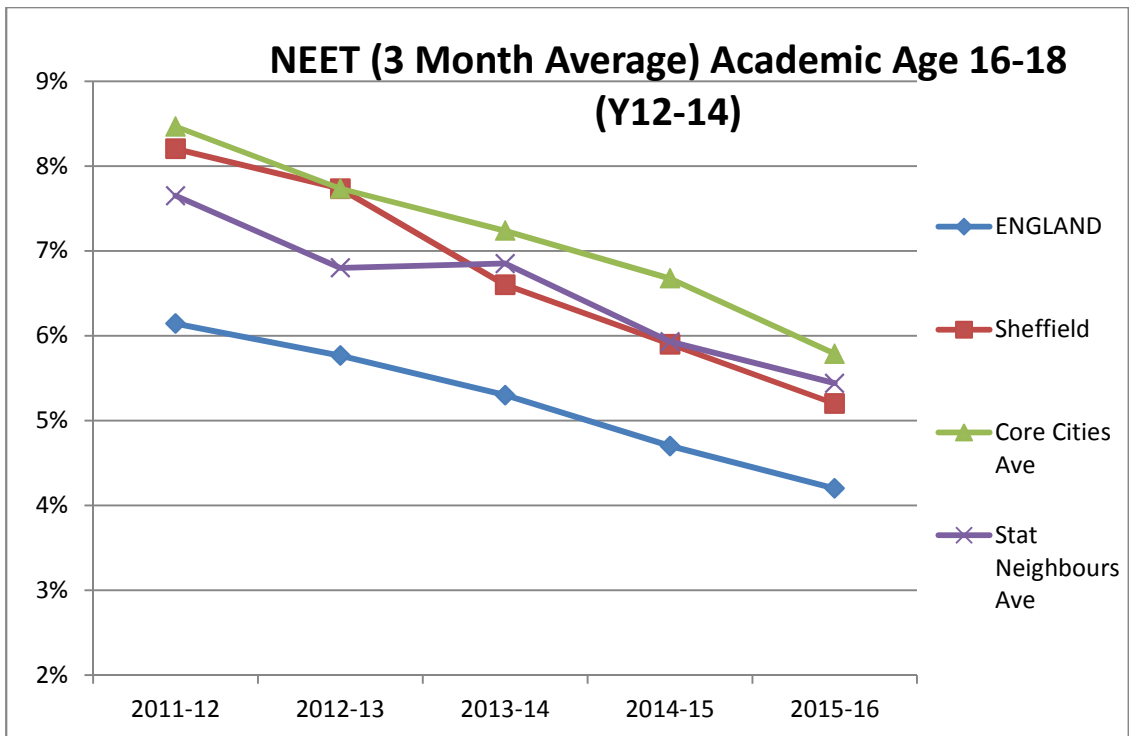
Outcomes for Young People

- 4. A challenge for all youth services across the UK has been the requirement to evidence impact and show improved outcomes for young people. In Sheffield, faced with reductions that have seen the youth budget fall from £14.1m in 2010 to £4.7m in 2015, we have focused our attention on improving outcomes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged including teenagers at risk of disengagement or behaviours that harm themselves and communities in which they live. Our key measures have therefore been the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) and number of young people who are first time entrants to the justice system.
- 5. Youth Services in Sheffield were completely redesigned and reorganised under the management of Sheffield Futures following the acute austerity budgets reductions of 2010-11. Since then and with a focus on the three key objectives of securing the positive progression in education, employment and training of all teenagers, of diverting young people from anti-social behaviour and of preventing their entry into the criminal justice system, youth services have shown the following performance against the three key indicators:
 - a) **NEETs**
As table 1 below shows, the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment and training has fallen consistently since 2011 and now stands at an historic low for the city. Although Sheffield now outperforms core city and statistical neighbour averages and whilst the gap with national average is falling, there is still some way to go

before Sheffield closes this completely. As the proportion of disengaged teenagers has fallen, it is the most vulnerable groups and the most challenged of young people who have become disproportionately represented in the NEETs cohort. This includes teen parents, care leavers, young offenders and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The Youth Trust proposals set out below are designed to reorganise services for the most vulnerable teenagers so that we can create the bespoke packages of support that these young people need if we are to improve their life chances.

It is also worth noting that the quarterly reporting to DfE of NEETs by local authorities is not entirely consistent. Sheffield is confident that it tracks young people who disengage and records them accordingly. The fact that all schools and colleges in the city subscribe to UCAS-Progress, our post-16 electronic applications process facilitates this, as does the work of the CYTS which hold caseloads and make contact with all NEET young people. In many local authorities these arrangements no longer pertain. As a result, a different, but better measure of the young people's participation in post-16 education, employment and training is the 16-17 Participation reports published by DfE and drawn from data submitted by all publicly-funded providers of education and training alongside employment data drawn from other official sources. The latest Participation report for December 2015 shows that Sheffield has 91.6% of 16 and 17 year olds in provision against a national average of 90.9% and ranks 87th out of 153 local authorities. Data is not yet published by DfE for 18 year olds, but we are aware that NEETs numbers rise steeply for young adults. It is for this reason that the Youth Trust proposes a focus on young adults as well as teenagers.

3 Month Average NEET Academic Age 16 -18 (year 12-14)					
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
ENGLAND	6.14%	5.77%	5.30%	4.70%	4.20%
Sheffield	8.20%	7.73%	6.60%	5.90%	5.20%
Core Cities Ave	8.47%	7.73%	7.24%	6.68%	5.79%
Stat Neighbours Ave	7.65%	6.80%	6.85%	5.93%	5.44%

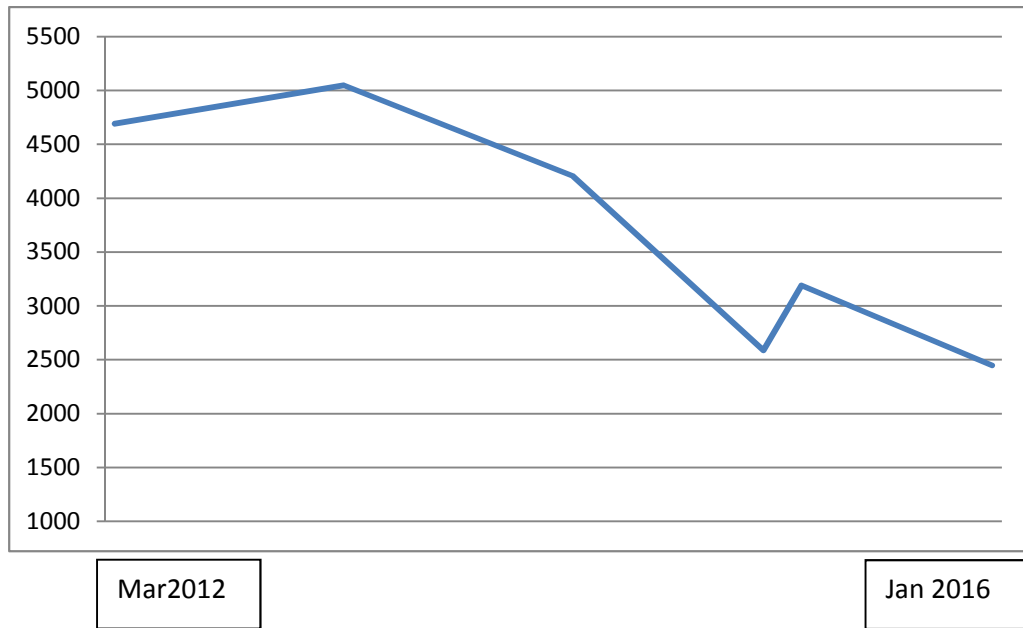


b) Number of Youth Related incidents of anti-social behaviour

There is close working between the CYTS and South Yorkshire Police to ensure that diversionary youth provision is directed to areas of greatest need based upon police data. The CYTs include Community Support Officers and organise street-based rapid response teams. In addition, the regular, community-based work of the CYTs and the provision by Sheffield Futures of open access youth provision in areas of greatest needs is designed to use diminishing resources to greatest effect. The result is that incidents of youth-related ASB reported to the police have fallen significantly, if erratically since 2012 as table 2 demonstrates:

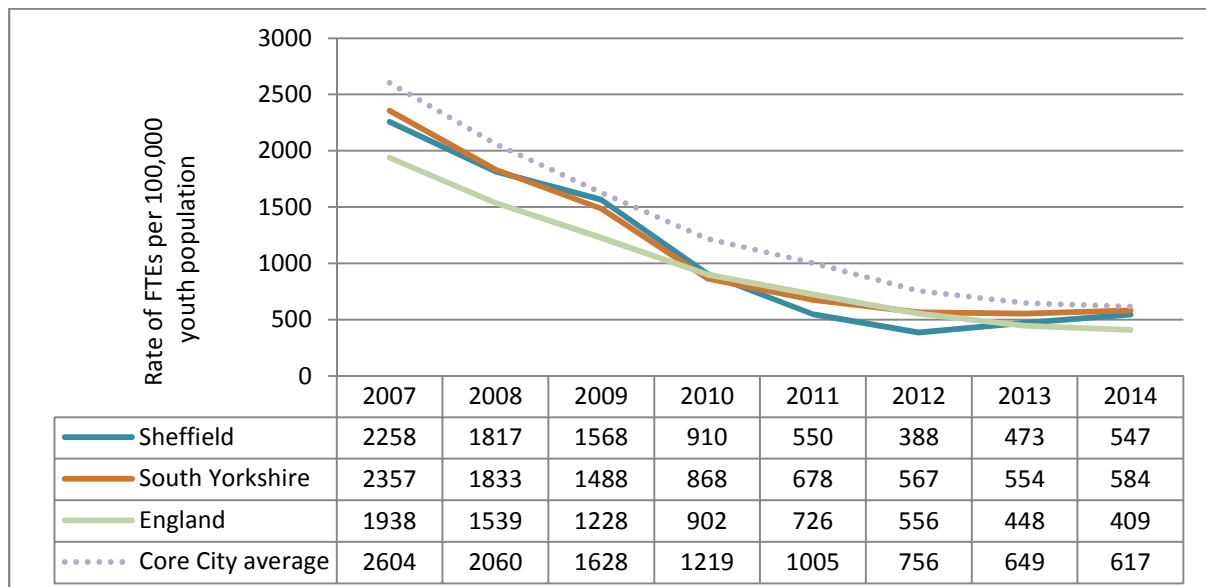
Mar 2012	Mar 2013	Mar 2014	Jan 2015	Mar 2015	Jan 2016
4691	5046	4205	2588	3191	2449

Number of Youth Related Incidents of antisocial behaviour 2012-2016



c) Young People entering the criminal justice system for the first time

The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time has risen slightly in both of the last two years after a sustained significant downward trend for 8 years. Data for 2015-16 suggests an improvement and return to a downward trajectory but full year data is not yet available. The latest trend data (2014) shows Sheffield ranked 3rd out of the 8t Core Cities, 8th out of the 11 statistical neighbours and 126th out of 152 authorities nationally. Continuing budget pressures mean and the recent rise in first time young offenders will require a new, integrated approach that will be explored as part of the design proposals for the Youth Trust.



How Have Youth Services Changed since 2010?

6. The dramatic and continuing reduction in resources for youth services since 2010 has required the council to adopt a very different approach to the way that it has prioritised and commissioned services for teenagers. The radical redesign that this has entailed has been encompassed by a series of three-year business plans that have consistently delivered the following:
- a) the creation of CYTS, bringing together into a single management structure staff from the Council, Sheffield Futures, the police and health services. This has enabled significant efficiencies in premises, management and back office costs, as well as provide a more consistent and joined up approach to the needs of individual young people and communities. The council has removed ten management posts since 2009 and now funds only an Assistant Director who has responsibility for representing the interests of the local authority through the commissioning, strategic development and performance management of youth provision
 - b) Significantly reduced costs related to the maintenance and upkeep of youth buildings. In 2010 many of our youth buildings had high maintenance costs and were in locations no longer serving the needs of young people. We have, after a process of extensive review, delivered a programme of premises consolidation and disposal. We have reduced core youth costs by transferring a number of youth buildings to community control, increased the shared use of existing buildings to spread running costs, and disposed of buildings that are no longer safe or fit for purpose. This has freed up resources to be spent on young people rather than buildings and has allowed for a more flexible delivery of youth services with provision being moved quickly to different areas to respond to need rather than being tied to particular buildings
 - c) Focused resources on those young people that need them most and, as a result, made significant savings by reducing the 'universal' offer. In 2012 we ended the Kids Can Do programme, which provided grants to organisations running activities for 8-13 year olds. This programme was funded by a government grant which ended that year. In consolidating our youth delivery, we have used a resourcing model which takes account of ward level data on deprivation, numbers of young people and levels of antisocial behaviour, school exclusion, NEET and offending to determine where diminishing youth provision is best located
 - d) In reducing the council's direct commissioning of universal open access youth activities, we have sought to support voluntary group's social action and volunteering through the *Sheffielddr* project. Over the last 2 years support has been provided to over 100 new community groups to set up positive activities for young people. Over 3,000 young people have benefited from new provision and getting involved in social action projects in their communities.
 - e) In line with the change in government policy on Careers Guidance which, in 2010, transferred responsibility for this function from local authorities to schools and colleges, we have ended the commissioning of universal careers advice and moved to a traded

model with schools, as organised by Sheffield Futures. A majority of the city's secondary schools now buy this service from Sheffield Futures

- f) we have actively pursued a financial strategy which through which Sheffield Futures has addressed an annual tapering of council funding for the youth services that it delivers by securing external funding to which the local authority is denied access, including the Big Lottery. As a result, whilst Sheffield Futures was reliant on the City Council for 95% of its total funding in 2011, this had reduced to 46% by 2015 with the gap made up from other sources. The most innovative means by which substantial external resources have been attracted in support of services for vulnerable young people has been the development of a social impact bond combining funds from the City Council and DWP that have been used to attract investment from social investors creating a total funding package of £3m over three years to the benefit of Sheffield Futures as the delivery agent. The *Futureshapers* programme will deliver tailored support via a mentor to 1500 young people to help them make a successful transition from school into further education, training and employment.

The Activity of Sheffield Futures

7. Sheffield Futures delivers the majority of council funded youth services in the city. It also, increasingly in recent years, has used its position as an independent charity to draw in resources for young people that otherwise might be denied to the council. Examples of these projects include:
- a. A partnership with the Dame Kelly Homes Trust leading to a project called *Get on Track*. Now in its fourth year, this project uses mentors from the world of professional sport to deliver an inspirational and aspirational group work and coaching programme to vulnerable young people. The latest course started this month, and a range of young people who have experience of being in care, homelessness, mental health issues and crime have started the programme.
 - b. A project funded by the Department for Education focusing on support for young people in custody with special educational needs or disabilities. The project has trained all youth secure estate staff, and community youth justice workers across South and West Yorkshire, enabled Education, Health and Care plans to be developed for young people in custody, and supported young people back into the community at the end of their sentences to ensure they get back to a positive path.
 - c. A Child Sexual Exploitation *Hub and Spoke* project, which has developed a city region coordinated approach to the problem by bringing together services from across the region to share good practice and develop policy. This project has set up a regional CSE Survivors Voice group which has influence at local and national level, and has had regular briefings with the Home Office minister with a remit for CSE.

The Council's Duties regarding Youth Services

8. The policy landscape regarding youth services nationally has changed considerably since 2010. 'Youth Services' were historically run through Local Education Authorities as an adjunct to school based education. However, in 2013 the DfE, with its exclusive focus on early years, academisation, school improvement, and safeguarding, transferred lead responsibility for youth policy to Cabinet Office, where it sits alongside other programmes relating to social action, volunteering and support to charities and social enterprise, and the National Citizen Service.
9. Despite these changes the council continues to have a number of statutory duties relating to its effective delivery of youth support and services. These are:
 - a) a duty to support young people who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) to enable them to access and remain in appropriate education and training provision up to the age of 18, and to track their progress in regard to this.
 - b) A duty to facilitate access by young people aged 13-19 to out of school leisure and recreational activities to improve their health and wellbeing (Education and Skill Act, 1996). Local authorities are not required to directly deliver or commission these activities under the Act.
 - c) A duty to take steps to prevent young people getting involved in crime and antisocial behaviour (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998) and to protect them from the harms presented from sexual exploitation and violence.
10. Alongside these core statutory duties, effective youth support services working as part of a wider system of early help alongside MAST, schools, and health services, contribute to improving school engagement, attendance and attainment, young people's emotional health and wellbeing, support families in staying together, and provide an important role in bringing communities together, especially at times of community tension.

Changes to Youth Services Budget Since 2010

Year on Year Summary

	Total	Futures Contract	SCC Activity
2010-11 budget	£14,166,444	£8,226,252	£5,940,192
2010-11 revised budget (coalition emergency budget)	£13,146,143	£7,744,271	£5,401,872
2011-12 budget	£9,616,166	£5,238,525	£4,377,641
2012-13 budget	£9,146,004	£4,577,461	£4,568,543
2013-14 budget	£8,001,531	£4,551,461	£3,450,070
2014-15 budget	£5,602,000	£3,276,461	£2,325,539
2015-16 budget	£4,762,000	£3,082,638	£1,679,362

Overall Six Year Summary

	Total	Futures Contract	SCC Activity
2010-11 Budget	£14,166,444	£8,226,252	£5,940,192
2015-16 Budget	£4,762,000	£3,082,628	£1,679,362
Total Savings 2010-14 (£)	£9,404,444	£5,143,624	£4,260,830
Total Savings 2010-16(%)	66.4%	62.5%	71.7%

The Future of Youth Services in Sheffield: proposal for a Youth Trust

11. Young People represent the future of Sheffield. As a council we want every young person to have the opportunity to be happy and healthy, to grow up ready to meet the challenges of adult life and to progress to post-16 learning and well-paid employment. To achieve this we are proposing to create a Youth Trust that is sustainable in the long-term, that integrates services for vulnerable young people and which helps all teenagers and young adults by ensuring they are active, engaged and informed in the choices they make and the lives they lead.
12. The Council cannot achieve these ambitions on its own. We are determined to increase access to opportunity and to improve the life chances of all young people at a time of continuing reductions in public sector funding that affects all services. To do this, the council needs to forge a strong partnership with those agencies that help shape the lives of teenagers and young adults including schools and colleges, employers, health services, the police and the voluntary and community sector; and we need to make full use of the city's sports, cultural and community assets to enrich the lives of all our young people.
13. Sheffield, in common with all of the core cities, still faces specific challenges in improving the life chances of vulnerable and disadvantaged teenagers and young adults. Young people have told us what they need most from youth services are good careers advice & support, help in securing access to good quality training and jobs, someone to talk to when things go wrong, and things to do in their local area.

14. The proposal to explore options for the creation of a Youth Trust for the city is the subject of a members' working group and exploratory discussions with key stakeholders in the context of the service redesign necessary to achieve a step change in outcomes for vulnerable teenagers and young adults and to create a sustainable model of enrichment activities for all young people at a time of considerable and continuing budget pressures as experienced by all stakeholders. The proposal to bring forward to Cabinet by late summer a detailed proposals and a business plan for a Youth Trust for has been endorsed by CMT/EMT.

15. The design principles for the Youth Trust will be:

Outcomes-focused: we will organise our diminishing resources around key outcomes for vulnerable teenagers and young adults, as expressed in the Corporate Plan, including improved and sustained engagement in education, employment and training, better attainment that will give access to the well paid jobs of the future, improved indicators for emotional health and wellbeing, sexual health, alcohol and substance misuse and teenage pregnancy, reduced contacts with the police and the criminal justice system and evidence of improving social mobility, such improvements in the equality gaps in attainment at 16 and 19, and in access to Higher Education and the professions.

Intelligence-driven: we will use the data that we already have across our partners about which teenagers and young adults are most at risk and we will use this information to inform our service delivery. This means that we will be driven by need rather than presenting factors alone.

Preventative not reactive: we will use our information to target resources to improve outcomes and thereby reduce demand on higher cost interventions later in life, by addressing problems before they get worse (for example, mental health, housing, crime). As part of this, we will seek to ensure universal access to good quality, leisure time enrichment activities in all parts of the city. The Youth Trust delivery will form a key strand of a wider *Early Help* strategy for the city, working alongside early years, MAST and other services to ensure a streamlined offer to children, young people and their families across the life-span.

Genuinely transformative: we need to do much more than just working better together. We will engage a broader range of commissioners and stakeholders, including young people themselves, to integrate services and co-invest resources so that we secure optimal efficiency and are capable of supplying the coordinated, personalised packages of support that are needed by young people facing what are often multi-faceted challenges. We propose a risk and reward model to drive service improvement and better performance.

16. The success of the financial strategy described above, including the social impact bond and the confidence that it has inspired among social investors in the ability of the Sheffield partnership to improve outcomes for young people who are NEET, forms the basis of our proposed financial model for a Youth Trust. A project team, including officers from finance, legal and commercial services, will bring forward for members' consideration a business plan

detailing how this new financial model can work and how it can be used to secure the sustainability of services for vulnerable teenagers and young adults.

17. It is proposed that the city's Youth Trust will focus on progression to well-paid work, lifelong learning and successful, healthy adult lives for those facing the greatest barriers and for those to whom social mobility is too often denied. In pursuit of these goals, it is proposed that the Youth Trust will bring together within a formal partnership those local agencies, including the City Council, and external social investors that:
 - a) share a common determination to improve outcomes for teenagers and young adults, particularly the most vulnerable
 - b) recognise the need and the value of adopting innovative, integrated and persistent support if the city is to improve the life chances of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
 - c) seek to offer effective, engaging and coherent programmes that prepare young people for adult life and work
 - d) understand the value of enriching leisure time activities and seek to make these accessible to all young people
 - e) Are prepared to invest their resources in the trust for these purposes.

18. It is proposed that the Youth Trust will have an organisational structure external to the council, but through which the local authority can collaborate strategically with other key partners to commission, deliver and coordinate a range of services for the young people of Sheffield. The council would expect to put some resources into the Trust, but it is anticipated that the Trust would also draw in resources from charitable funds, social investment and other statutory partners.

19. The social investment model is based on the use of a risk and reward mechanism that requires the Trust to achieve measurable outcomes that demonstrably improve the life chances of teenagers and young adults. It is therefore imperative that the Trust is established with clear and agreed objectives, an effective governance and performance management model, an outcome agreement with stretching, but achievable targets and the integrated and focused services required to deliver these.

A Youth Pledge for Sheffield

20. The Trust would be designed as the main delivery vehicle for the city's Youth Pledge through which we are seeking support from all parts of the public sector, the voluntary and community sector and local businesses. The draft pledge makes the following commitment from the city to young people :

21. We will help you:
- to prepare for adult life and work
 - to make the right course and career choices
 - to pursue your ambitions, talents and interests
 - to play an active part in your school, college and community – and to have a say in the decisions that affect you
 - to be healthy and feel safe – and to know where to turn to for help and advice when you need it
 - To be proud of your heritage and your achievements – and to help others to do the same.
22. In support of the Youth Pledge, the council would seek to work with its partners to maximise the use of the city's sports, cultural and community assets and to ensure that these resources are made available to all young people, particularly those who live in parts of the city where there are few leisure time activities for teenagers. In this way, we will, with our partners seek to create a diverse and relevant activity programme for the city that is accessible to all our young people.
23. For young people in Sheffield, it is intended that the Youth Trust would provide a more streamlined and effective response to their needs. It will, for example, seek to intervene as early as possible before issues become acute and behaviours become entrenched. It will reduce the number of different assessments and workers that young people see by providing a single, trusted keyworker to act as the advocate of the young person, to connect them to the services they need, to co-construct with them a progression plan with high aspirations and to challenge them accordingly when this is needed.

What alternatives to the Youth Trust concept have we considered?

Do nothing

24. This option is not recommended because:
- a) the current Youth Service contract held with Sheffield Futures ends in 2017 and the council will need to establish a new arrangement for the commissioning and delivery of youth services
 - b) continuing budget pressures are likely to make the current model financially unsustainable in the near future
 - c) the council and its partners are unlikely to achieve the continuing improvement in outcomes for vulnerable teenagers and young adults without a radical redesign and better integration of those youth services needed to address the multi-faceted issues faced by our target groups
 - d) To go further, faster in improving outcomes for vulnerable young people and to develop the model of community-led enrichment activities, the council and its partners require

access to additional, external resources that can be best secured through innovative funding arrangements.

Re-commission existing services within a reduced budget

25. This option is not recommended because:

- a) a budget management strategy that relies simply on the 'salami slicing' of available resources is unsustainable and will make it even harder to achieve our ambitions of both improving outcomes for vulnerable young people and enhancing the enrichment offer for all
- b) our ambitions in these respects will require more, not less resources and it is incumbent on us to develop new partnership arrangements that allow us to access external resources available for the benefit of young people
- c) The issue of an invitation to tender for the existing contracted services on the basis of an ever diminishing budget is unlikely to attract the innovative and effective market solutions that our ambitions for young people demand.

Relocate to the City Council those youth services currently contracted out

26. This option is not recommended because:

- a) Even though there are likely to be some economies of scale to be achieved by bringing these services in-house, the savings made are unlikely to be sufficient to close the gap in youth services funding that will continue to widen as long as the pressures of Council budgets pertain. The problem will be exacerbated by wind down costs, TUPE arrangements and the pension liabilities that are likely to be associated with this change
- b) This arrangement denies youth services access to the substantial resources that the government, charities and social investors continue to make available for targeted youth support because in most cases local authorities are deemed ineligible. A sustainable financial model for youth services that allows us to properly meet the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged requires new partnership arrangements providing access to these external resources e.g. in recent years, Sheffield Futures has secured in excess of £6m of external funding that would be unavailable to the local authority.

Conclusion and Recommendations

27. Despite significant changes to youth services in Sheffield, and an ongoing financial challenge to public finances, youth services have been maintained, refocused and continue to deliver successful outcomes for young people. However, challenges remain, and as public funding

continues to reduce into the foreseeable future a more innovative and collaborative approach is required to enable the council, and the city, to continue to effectively support young people as they approach the adult world of life and work. It is proposed to achieve this by developing more detailed proposals for a Youth Trust, an organisational arrangement external to the council, but through which the council can collaborate strategically with a range of partners and stakeholders, to organise effective and value for money services for young people.

Recommendations

28. That the scrutiny committee:

- Note the contents of the report
- Consider the proposal to develop a Youth Trust and Youth Pledge, and provide advice, suggestions and thoughts on the concept, the suggested principles, to help steer the next steps in consultation for this project.
- Take a further report in early 2017 to update on progress in developing the Youth Trust.

Appendix 1: Youth Work Delivery Schedule 2015-16

East Local Area Partnership - Base Line Provision					
Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Activity Name	Funding
Monday	6pm	8pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core
Monday	6pm	8pm	Darnall Education Centre	Youth Club	Core
Monday	6.30pm	9pm	Centre in the Park	LDD Youth Club	Core
Monday	6.30pm	8pm	Steel Inn	Youth Club	Core - Premises funding from Ward pot (originally a detached session)
Monday	6pm	8pm	Woodthorpe Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Beighton X	Youth Club - not currently running due to refurbishment. Reestablishment of club post refurb to be agreed	Beighton Village Trust
Tuesday	3.30pm	5.30pm	Westfield	Detached	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Com.unity	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Hackenthorpe	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Norfolk Park	Youth Club	Core
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Arbouthorne	Detached	Core
Wednesday	3.30pm	5.30pm	Arbourthorne	Detached	Core
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Wybourn Youth Trust	Youth Club	Core - Premises PCC funded (originally a detached session)
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Darnall Education Centre	Youth Club	Core

East Local Area Partnership - Base Line Provision					
Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Activity Name	Funding
Wednesday	3.30pm	5.30pm	Sky Edge Youth Club	Girls Youth Club	PCC Funded
Wednesday	6.30pm	8pm	Steel Inn, Manor	Youth Club	Core - Premises funding through Ward Pot (originally a detached session)
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Tinsley Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Manor	Detached	Core
Thursday	3.30pm	5.30pm	Darnall	Detached	Core
Thursday	6.30pm	9pm	Hackenthorpe Youth Club	LDD Hi-5's Youth Club	Funded through 'friends of Hi 5s'
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Centre in the Park, Norfolk Park	Youth Club	Core
Thursday	6.30pm	8pm	Philimore Youth Club	Youth Club	Core – run by volunteers at the school we support term time only and then reverts to detached over the summer period. No centre costs
Thursday	3.30pm	5.30pm	Woodthorpe/Richmond	Detached	Core
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Woodthorpe Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	Darnall	Detached	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	Com.Unity	Youth Club	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	Hackenthorpe Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Saturday	4pm	6pm	Darnall	Detached	Core
Saturday	6.30pm	8.30pm	Tinsley Youth Club	Youth Club	Core

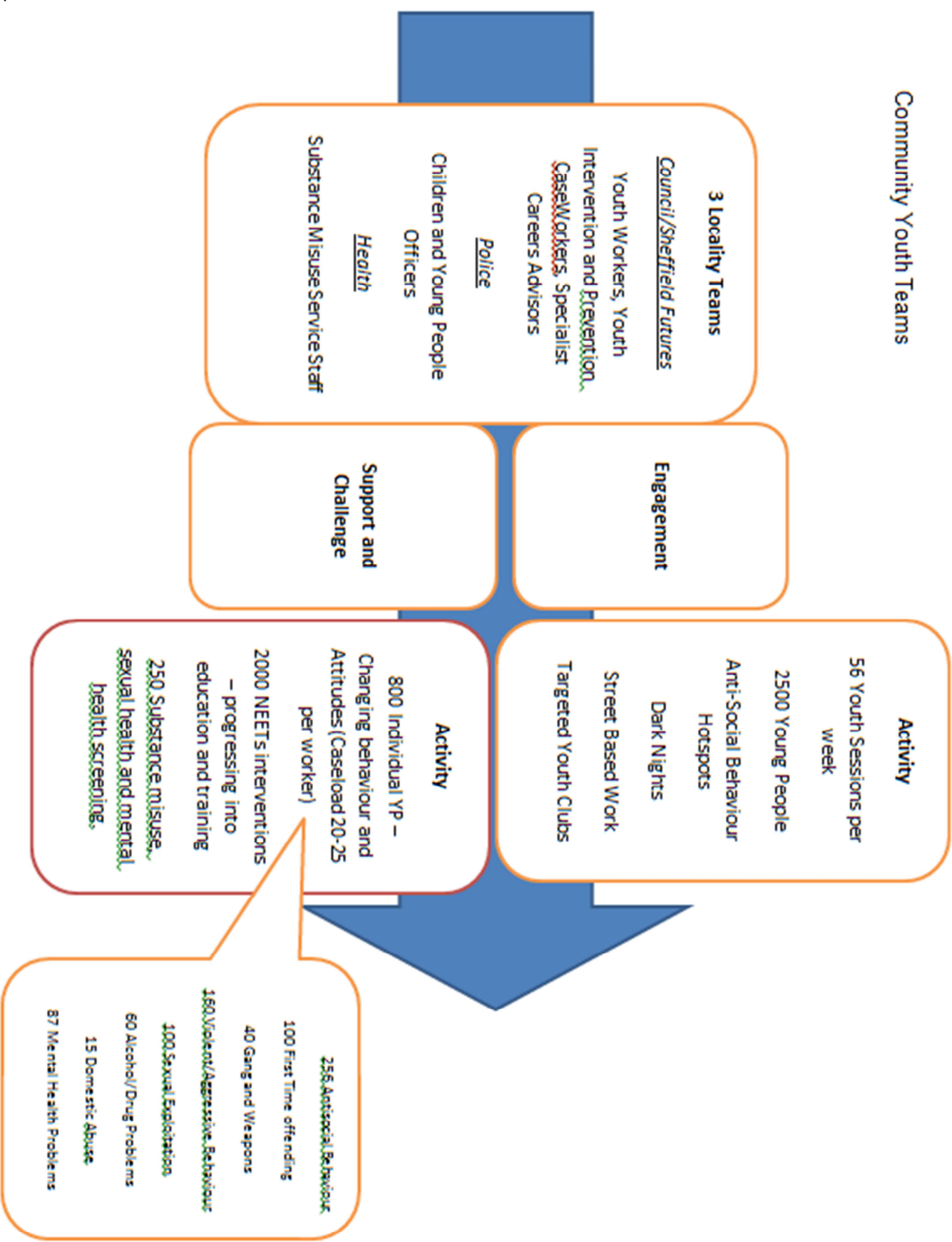
North Local Area Partnership - Base Line Provision					
Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Activity Name	Funding
Monday	6pm	8pm	Osgathorpe Pavilion, Burngreave	Youth Club	Core
Monday	6pm	8pm	Earl Marshall, Fir Vale	Youth Club	Core
Monday	6pm	8pm	Stocksbridge Youth Centre	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Milan Centre, Firth Park	LDD Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	All Saints, Burngreave	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Wincobank High Chapel	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	3.15pm	5.15pm	Parson Cross Youth Centre	Junior Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Parson Cross Youth Centre	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	Milan Centre	Intro to Youth Work	Funded by Firth Park ward to March 2016
Wednesday	4pm	6pm	Firth Park Library	Mini drop in youth club	Funded by Ward Councillors to March 2016
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Earl Marshall, Firvale	Youth Club	Core
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Millan Centre, Firth Park	Youth Club	Core
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Firth Park	Detached	Core
Thursday	3.15pm	5.15pm	Parson Cross	Intermediate Group	South Ward funded to March 2016
Thursday	6pm	8pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Earl Marshall, Fir Vale	Junior Youth Club	Core

North Local Area Partnership - Base Line Provision					
Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Activity Name	Funding
Thursday	6pm	8pm	All Saints, Burngreave	Youth Club	Core
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Parson Cross Youth Centre	Youth Club	Core
Friday	3pm	5pm	Earl Marshall, Fir Vale	Youth Club	additional session until 31.03.16 funded by equality and diversity money
Friday	6pm	8pm	Shiregreen Neighbourhood Centre	Youth Club	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	Earl Marshall, Fir Vale	Youth Club	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	Milan Centre, Firth Park	Youth Club	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core

West Local Area Partnership- Base Line Provision					
Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Activity Name	Funding
Monday	6pm	8pm	Herdings Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	6pm	8pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core
Tuesday	7pm	9pm	Umix, Lowfields	Youth Club	Core
Tuesday	7.30pm	9.30pm	Wesley Hall, Crookes	Youth Club	Core
Wednesday	2pm	6pm	City Wide	Vulnerability Project	PCC
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	Anns Road Youth Club, Heeley	Youth Club	Core
Wednesday	7:00pm	9:00pm	Herdings Youth Club	LDD Youth Club	Core

West Local Area Partnership- Base Line Provision					
Day	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Activity Name	Funding
Wednesday	6:00pm	9:00pm	Umix, Lowfields	Youth Club in Partnership with Kickz	Core
Wednesday	6pm	8pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core
Thursday	6pm	8pm	City Wide	RIITA	SSCP Small Grant Fund
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Winn Gardens	Youth Club	Core
Thursday	6pm	8pm	Greenhill/Bradway Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Thursday	7:00pm	9:00pm	Umix, Lowfields	Youth Club	Core
Friday	6pm	8pm	Herdings Youth Club	Youth Club	Core
Friday	7:00pm	9:00pm	Detached – Netheredge Area	Detached	Core
Friday	6.00pm	8.00pm	ASB Rapid Response	Detached	Core

Community Youth Teams



Appendix 3

Community Youth Team Group and Individual work Case Studies. All names have been changed.

Case Study 1

A school contacted the CYT as they had some concerns about a small group of teenage girls being at risk of grooming and sexual exploitation.

CYT Youth Workers and a CYTO (CYT Police Officer) devised a 6-week issue based programme, aimed at developing self-esteem and confidence and raising awareness of potential risky behaviours. The programme covered the following topics:

- Respect ourselves and others
- Healthy relationships / friendships / trust
- Drugs
- Grooming Process
- Sexual Exploitation

Through the programme CYT staff built up relationships and gained trust from the girls and through informal discussions and activities, the girls were able to explore and reflect on their own behaviour and the potential dangers they may find themselves in.

Through the sessions outlined above, the group explored issues such as trust, who and where young people can go to for help and advice, healthy relationships and the grooming process.

The girls are now aware of the risks they may have been taking and are better equipped to deal with certain situations. The group are more aware of CYT workers and attend their local youth club. They now have the confidence to ask workers for any help or advice they may need.

Case Study 2

Stacey (14) was referred to the Community Youth Team as she was at risk of being permanently excluded from school. She had been with a group of friends who were all playing with lighters. The result was a small fire in a local building which then spread to another building causing considerable damage. There was a lot of community tension in the area as a result of the fire and the subsequent police investigation.

Stacey worked with a Prevention worker from the Community Youth Team. The worker helped her work out how to make better decisions when with her friends, and how to better deal with her anger. She also put her on a course with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. She referred her to a local counselling service to help her deal with other problems in her life, and referred her to CAMHS. Stacey was diagnosed with ADHD and was prescribed medication and treatment, which has resulted in significant improvement in her behaviour at school.

Since the work with the CYT Stacey has stayed in mainstream school and has not reoffended. Her relationship with her parents has improved. She says she can now concentrate better at school and do things she could not do before.

Case Study 3

Shaben was referred to a Prevention CYT worker after being involved in a fight at school and having the police involved. She was at risk of permanent exclusion. Her family relationships were very difficult, with a family history of domestic violence and substance misuse. Shaben found it difficult to express her feelings and didn't trust adults and organisations because of previous negative experiences.

The worker helped Shaben with her literacy and handwriting, and helped her understand better how to deal with her anger. She completed a course understanding the consequences of offending behaviour and victim awareness. She was referred for more formal counselling with counselling services, and got help from the local Young Carers service.

As a result, Shaben has stayed in school, and shows much greater awareness of how her actions impact upon others. The family have been supported by a housing support service and Shaben has become engaged in out of school activities (including finding out she is a talented footballer!) run by the community youth team, making new friends and building her confidence. As a result her mum has also referred a younger sibling for support.

Case Study 4

Tegan (16) was referred to the CYT after getting involved in a serious fight at school. Tegan referred herself after talking to the CYT Police officer – she realised that in the fight she could have seriously hurt someone and decided she needed help. She has big problems trusting people and found it very difficult making friends. She had also gone missing from home on a number of occasions, putting her at risk of abuse or sexual exploitation.

The CYT worker spent a long time getting to know the Tegan, and building up a trusting relationship which couldn't be done overnight. They worked on understanding her feelings, especially her anger, and did some creative activities like baking, arts and crafts etc. Tegan also did a course with SY Fire and Rescue called Achieving Respect and Confidence. It took great bravery to do this because she was very nervous about it. She learned to break down her worries into small steps that could be managed without being overwhelmed. She has also started counselling, and will be starting college.

Tegans feedback at the end of her programme was: "I can't thank you enough. I have enjoyed working well with you all and seeing all those pretty smiling faces. You have taught me well and now it is time for me to move on. I will come to visit you soon." She has developed a belief in herself, and is more confident about growing up and being independent.

Case Study 5

Adele was referred to Community Youth Team due to multiple issues, including anti-social behaviour and risk of sexual exploitation. She was going missing from home on a number of occasions and

school attendance was low. The family was at risk of breaking down as Adele's Dad was in crisis and was signed off work suffering from depression.

A CYT prevention worker was allocated for Adele. An assessment was completed and an individual support plan was agreed by Adele and her parents. The prevention worker kept all the other agencies informed of Adele's progress.

One-to-one and, after time, group sessions were completed. Since Adele was engaging really well, she was asked to attend The (ARC) Achieving Respect and Confidence project with the Fire Service, Police and Community Youth Teams. Adele went on to finish all intervention sessions offered to her, including anti-social behaviour, victim awareness, drugs and alcohol awareness. She also attended a girls' group on sexual health.

Adele was one of a group of young people chosen by CYTs to attend a course on performance poetry, facilitated and delivered by the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. The group were then invited to watch Benjamin Zephaniah perform at the Lyceum Theatre. The young people also performed their own pieces as part of the Off the Shelf festival. This led to a visit to London where the group were interviewed on radio. Adele also successfully applied to be a panel member for Ending Gang and Youth Violence Advisory Group.

During her time with the Community Youth Team, Adele has been an active member of the group and has always contributed her opinions. She grew in confidence, showed enthusiasm and commitment and was able in the end to demonstrate her learning to a captive audience. She was respectful towards other young people and also towards staff facilitating the sessions/courses. Adele's school attendance and attitude towards learning have greatly improved. She now attends school on a fulltime basis and has a part time job. Her CYT worker says ***'Adele has chosen to become an advocate for other young people and hopes to change their ways of thinking and support them into a more positive future'***.

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**Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Work Programme 2015-16 – Draft**

Chair: Cllr Chris Rosling-Josephs

Vice Chair: Cllr Cliff Woodcraft

Meeting papers: [click here](#)

Meeting day/ time: Monday 1-4pm

Please note: the Work Programme is a live document and so is subject to change.

Wednesday 20th April, 5-6.30pm Reception Room A, Town Hall		Lead Officer	
Annual meeting with Young Carers & Young People	Annual event - closed meeting for the scrutiny committee - not open to the public The session will run as a series of short workshops focussing on 3 topics, 2 will be selected by the young people and 1 by the scrutiny committee.	Diane Owens , Policy & Improvement Officer, SCC Emma Hinchcliffe (Sheffield Futures) and other attendees tbc	Wednesday 20 th April

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