

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Southampton Children and Learning Service Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021 / 22
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>Overview of Children and Learning Service and number of looked after children</p> <p>Southampton Children and Learning Service provides care and support for looked after children in the city, within a statutory framework centred around the Children Act and associated legislation and regulations.</p> <p>Local authorities and their partners have corporate parenting responsibilities towards looked after children in their care. Corporate Parenting principles were set out by the Department for Education in 2018 and can be found here.</p> <p>On 1 September 2021 SCC cared for 509 children, rising to 552 on 1 September 2022. Based on Financial year data (April 2021 – March 2022), the rate of children in our care per 10k was 108. Between September 2021 and August 2022, 237 children came into the care of Southampton City Council (SCC) and 197 left our care.</p>	
Summary of Impact and Issues	
<p>The annual corporate parenting report sets out how the local authority and partners have discharged their corporate parenting responsibilities during the 2021 / 22 period and sets out how the following priorities are being addressed, alongside plans for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve children and young people’s participation giving them a stronger voice in all aspects of their care, pathway planning, and service delivery. • Supporting children in care to return to their birth families (reunification) via specialist assessments and bespoke packages of support, reducing care costs and freeing up placements for other children 	

- Improve the stability, consistency, performance, and permanence of the Pathways Through Care service through recruitment and sickness/performance management
- Promote the stability of placements through proactive and timely support of children and carers.
- Ensure that the physical and emotional health of all our children and young people is well assessed, understood, and properly supported.
- Assertively pursue permanence plans for all children. Regularly review the possibility of reunification, assertively assessing and supporting to make it possible for children to live permanently within their own families where this is the right plan for them.
- Continue to reduce the number of children who live in a residential children's home, supporting most to live within a family instead.
- Build a clear savings policy and process is in place to ensure all our children and young people in care have enough money to put towards additional things they wish to purchase or to support them with independence as they leave our care.
- Increase the number of our young adults leaving our care receive education, training, and employment opportunities, including increasing the opportunities across the council for our care leavers to obtain important work training experience by becoming an apprentice with us.
- Help young people to build their skills and confidence at the right pace, supporting them to live independently and with pride in their ability to support themselves.
- Develop the 'Staying Close' project, supporting our young people to make confident, safe steps from residential care to community placements

Potential Positive Impacts

Short term placement stability has gone up 1% to 15% in comparison to previous year and second highest since 2017-2018.

Our data shows that during 2020-21, 60 children and young people went missing during this reporting year. This is a reduction on the previous year.

Our data for 2020-21 shows that at year end the percentage of our care leavers who are in touch with the service and in suitable accommodation remains quite strong.

We continue with 100% performance with developmental assessments for under 5s, above statistical neighbours and England.

Figures for financial year 2021-2022 show that 44% of our care leavers were in education, employment, or training (EET). That is a 8% increase compared to 2020-2021 and 1% increase from 2019-20 when the value was 43%. The highest value since 2016-2017 being 45% in 2018-2019. 5% of care leavers were in higher education compared to 4% in 2020-2021 and 0% in 2019-2020.

Education:

- Early Years Foundation Stage Good level of Development is better than national looked after children.
- Phonics screen, Year 1 working at standard is above national looked after children.
- KS1 attainment, is on an upward trajectory in Writing and Maths.
- KS2 average attainment is better than national looked after children.
- At KS4 we have seen the following increases:
 - o 11.2% increase in 9-5 English measure
 - o 15.8% increase in 9-4 English measure
 - o 10.9% increase in 9-5 Maths measure
 - o 10.4% increase in 9-4 English measure
 - o 6.9% increase in 9-5 English and Maths measure
 - o 12.6% increase in 9-4 English and Maths measure

Responsible Service Manager	Anisha Reed Head of Service – Pathways Through Care
Date	22 nd February 2023
Approved by Senior Manager	Steph Murray Deputy Director – Children’s Social Care
Date	22 nd February 2023

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	The document takes into consideration the ages of our children and young people	We provide a through care service for children and young people of all ages
Disability	The report takes into account disability of all of our children	SCC have a good understanding of disability needs for each child and young person
Gender Reassignment	The service takes all gender needs into consideration	Access to appropriate support services including health and therapeutic support
Marriage and Civil Partnership	The service would support care leavers in their personal relationships through their allocated personal advisor or via a request for support.	Support for care leavers has been extended to young adults aged up to 25 years.
Pregnancy and Maternity	The service would support looked after children and care leavers in their personal relationships and in response to their physical and emotional health needs through their allocated personal advisor or via a request for support.	Physical and emotional health and relationship support is a strong focus in the corporate parenting report.
Race	The report provides detailed information about our demographic population of CLA and CL	Informs local needs and resources for CLA and CL
Religion or Belief	The document takes into consideration wishes and feelings in this area	Development of participation to ensure that needs are met
Sex	The report provides detailed information about our demographic population of CLA and CL	Informs local needs and resources for CLA and CL
Sexual Orientation	The document takes into consideration wishes and feelings in this area	Development of participation to ensure that needs are met
Community Safety	This is considered within the report and outlines the support available to children and young people	Development of services to consider exploitation and use of MET

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Poverty	Children and young people do not experience high levels of poverty and the council ensure that needs are met under corporate parenting responsibility	Resources, services and financial support provided to ensure that all needs are met
Health & Wellbeing	This is covered within the report with clear understanding of services available for children and young people	Joined up working with partner agencies such as health and access to therapeutic and direct work intervention
Other Significant Impacts	Not applicable	Not applicable