

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment



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 the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	ECSC 4: Review of Looked After Children Services.
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	<p>There are 57,600 children and young people living in Southampton, and this is predicted to rise 10% by 2021. There are currently 2,046 school aged children in Southampton registered as having special education needs or disabilities.</p> <p>The Children’s and Families team provides a range of services within the council, including both universal services (services for anyone in the city) and specialist services for individuals and families who need more support. This includes education, schools, early help, children’s safeguarding, adoption and fostering services, support for care leavers and services for children who come into the council’s care, who we call ‘looked after children’. As of the 18th January 2016, 593 children and young people were ‘looked after’ in the city.</p> <p>We are transforming the way we work so that we can deliver more efficient services across our children’s services, enabling to do more with less, and focus the resources we have on the children, young people and families that really need our help.</p>

Summary of Impact and Issues	<p>The proposals in this area are about doing things in a more efficient and cost effective way so that we can continue to offer high quality services to children and services who need our help.</p> <p><u>Review of Looked After Children Services</u></p> <p>We are reviewing the cases of our looked after children to ensure that only those children who need to be in our care are, and those children who require support from the Local Authority need get the best quality and most appropriate care placement. We will focus on making sure that children are provided with secure, permanent homes as swiftly as possible. We will also be focusing on offering more prevention and early intervention support to reduce the numbers of children needing to move into our care.</p> <p>In order to support more children to move into permanent homes we will be increasing the amount that we spend on adoption and special guardianship allowances, as well as increasing the number of young people that we support to live independently through the Independent Living Provision. Moving our looked after children into the right permanent homes as quickly as possible is not only better for our children's welfare, but will save money in the longer term.</p> <p>We are also proposing to review the types of care provision that we place our children in, to make sure that children are not only in the most suitable but also the most cost effective placement. We will recruit more 'in-house' foster carers to provide high quality, value for money care for our looked after children.</p>
Potential Positive Impacts	<p>We are reviewing the cases of our looked after children to ensure that only those children who need to be in our care are, and those children who require support from the Local Authority need get the best quality and most appropriate care placement.</p> <p>We will focus on making sure that children are provided with secure, permanent homes as swiftly as possible. We will also be focusing on focus on offering more prevention and early intervention support to reduce the numbers of children needing to move into our care.</p>
Responsible Service Manager	Robert South, Interim Principal Officer, LAC and Resources
Date	18/01/2016

Approved by Senior	Christine Robinson, Principal Officer – Quality Assurance
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Manager	
Date	29/01/2016

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	The transformation of our looked after children services will have positive impacts on the children we look after, making sure that more children are moved as quickly as possible to the right permanent home.	N/A
Disability	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Gender Reassignment	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	Preventative services increasingly provide the best possible service to support children, parents and carers to look after children appropriately within their family. Where this is not possible alternative forms of permanence will be arranged for children without any unnecessary delay.	N/A
Race	No identified negative impacts identified at this stage but will require close and routine monitoring of data with regards to cases open to children's services and developments with the children looked after profile.	Preventative and Looked after Children's services will take full account of the individual and unique needs of each child by ensuring that assessments meet with legislative and best practice requirements.
Religion or Belief	No identified negative impacts identified at this stage but will require close and routine monitoring of data with regards to cases open to children's services and developments with	Preventative and Looked after Children's services will take full account of the individual and unique needs of each child by ensuring that assessments meet with

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	the children looked after profile.	legislative and best practice requirements.
Sex	No identified negative impacts identified at this stage but will require close and routine monitoring of data with regards to cases open to children's services and developments with the children looked after profile.	Preventative and Looked after Children's services will take full account of the individual and unique needs of each child by ensuring that assessments meet with legislative and best practice requirements.
Sexual Orientation	No identified negative impacts identified at this stage but will require close and routine monitoring of data with regards to cases open to children's services and developments with the children looked after profile.	Preventative and Looked after Children's services will take full account of the individual and unique needs of each child by ensuring that assessments meet with legislative and best practice requirements.
Community Safety	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Poverty	No identified negative impacts identified at this stage but will require close and routine monitoring of data with regards to cases open to children's services and developments with the children looked after profile.	Preventative and Looked after Children's services will take full account of the individual and unique needs of each child by ensuring that assessments meet with legislative and best practice requirements.
Other Significant Impacts	None	N/A