

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.

<p>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</p>	<p><u>Consortia Commissioning of Independent Fostering Agency Placements</u> – award of providers to the South Central Framework agreement for Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements following the completion of a procurement process led by Southampton City Council on behalf of a sub-regional consortia comprising fourteen local authorities.</p>
<p>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</p>	<p>Looked After Children requiring fostering that cannot be accommodated using in-house provision. Currently there are 591 Looked After Children of which 201 children in IFA placements.</p>
<p>Summary of Impact and Issues</p>	<p>Effective and appropriate use of the Framework Agreement will give Southampton City Council and participating Authorities assurance of quality in the provision of independently provided foster care and price stability in what will otherwise be a market characterised by variable and escalating costs over the next 4 years.</p>
<p>Potential Positive Impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best value and quality assurance in the purchase of independently provide foster care • Improved outcomes for children placed in independently provided foster care • Access to a greater pool of providers • Standardised individual contracts for each placement made under an overarching contract • Fixed prices for placements based on specific

	<p>ages/client need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives to residential care options for children who would otherwise go into institutional care setting • Permanency as a care outcome for children at the earliest reasonably practicable point • Shared contract performance and management responsibility across the consortia • Adherence with legislation and standards • Capacity assurance for various need groups and geographical areas
Responsible Service Manager	<u>Chris Pelletier</u>
Date	

Approved by Senior Manager	
Signature	
Date	

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	There are no changes to the age of child eligible to access an IFA placement as a result of this tender.	N/A
Disability	There is a separate 'Lot' for Disabled Children under this Framework. The number of providers has increased under this Lot from 17 to 43, offering greater choice in placements for Disabled Children.	N/A
Gender Reassignment	N/A	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	N/A
Race	A greater pool of providers means increased potential for better matching when making a	N/A

	placement .	
Religion or Belief	A greater pool of providers means increased potential for better matching when making a placement.	N/A
Sex	N/A	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A	N/A
Community Safety	N/A	N/A
Poverty	N/A	N/A
Other Significant Impacts	Whilst there are no substantive changes to how this Framework operates, ther	