



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	Block Contract for Children’s Residential Services for Looked after Children
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	<u>The proposals set out in this report relate to how the Council secures appropriate residential provision that meets the needs of children and young people in the care of Southampton City Council.</u>
Summary of Impact and Issues	<u>This impact assessment identifies a range of potential impacts, sensitivities and issues that are present in relation to the population of children and young people in the care of Southampton City Council who require placements in residential children’s homes. Most of the impacts identified relate to a particularly vulnerable group of children and young people, but the overall impact of the proposal is to achieve a net improvement in provision that will better meet their needs than current</u>

	<u>arrangements for securing provision that meets their needs.</u>
Potential Positive Impacts	<p><u>The overall positive impacts of this proposal include arrangements for securing residential provision that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Achieves better placement stability for Southampton children and young people in care.</u> • <u>Ensures that more Southampton children and young people in care access residential placements that are nearer to home, and that keeps them closer to their friends and family networks.</u> • <u>Makes it more likely that Southampton children and young people in residential care placements are able to maintain their existing health and education provision.</u>
Responsible Service Manager	<u>Tim Davis</u> <u>Senior Commissioner, Integrated Commissioning Unit</u>
Date	<u>25 October 2019</u>

Approved by Senior Manager	<u>Donna Chapman</u>
Signature	
Date	

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	<p>This intervention will apply only to children and young people in the care of Southampton City Council, mainly in the 7-18 age range. Through entering into block commissioning arrangements with specific providers the Council will be better placed to secure access to provision that meets the care and development needs of these children safely, with better provision for placement stability</p>	<p>No mitigation necessary. The intervention is intended to be an improvement on current situation whereby arrangements for securing residential placements for Southampton children and young people in care are dependent upon less secure access to market provision than is proposed</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	and more locally than is currently the case.	through these arrangements.
Disability	Children and young people in care are more likely than their peers to have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities. Through entering into block commissioning arrangements with specific providers the Council will be better placed to secure access to provision that meets the care and development needs of these children safely, with better provision for placement stability and more locally than is currently the case.	No mitigation necessary. The intervention is intended to be an improvement on current situation whereby arrangements for securing residential placements for Southampton children and young people in care are dependent upon less secure access to market provision than is proposed through these arrangements.
Gender Reassignment	No impact anticipated.	No mitigation necessary.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact anticipated.	No mitigation necessary.
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact anticipated.	No mitigation necessary.
Race	No impact anticipated.	No mitigation necessary.
Religion or Belief	No impact anticipated	No mitigation necessary.
Sex / Gender identity	No impact anticipated.	No mitigation necessary.
Sexual Orientation	No impact anticipated.	No mitigation necessary.
Community Safety	Children and young people in care, and in residential care are more likely than their peers to be involved in the criminal justice system. They are also more likely to be targeted for criminal or sexual exploitation. Through entering into block commissioning arrangements with specific providers the Council will be better	No mitigation necessary. The intervention is intended to be an improvement on current situation whereby arrangements for securing residential placements for Southampton children and young people in care are dependent upon less secure access to market

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	<p>placed to secure access to provision that meets the care and development needs of these children safely, with better provision for placement stability and more locally than is currently the case.</p>	<p>provision than is proposed through these arrangements.</p>
Poverty	<p>Children and young people in care are more likely than their peers to have come into care from an area of deprivation and a household of poverty. Through entering into block commissioning arrangements with specific providers the Council will be better placed to secure access to provision that meets the care and development needs of these children safely, with better provision for placement stability and more locally than is currently the case.</p>	<p>No mitigation necessary. The intervention is intended to be an improvement on current situation whereby arrangements for securing residential placements for Southampton children and young people in care are dependent upon less secure access to market provision than is proposed through these arrangements.</p>
Other Significant Impacts	<p>Children and young people in care are more likely than their peers to have suffered from, and / or be suffering from mental health problems, poor emotional wellbeing or historic trauma, domestic and/or sexual abuse that affects their relationships with others. Through entering into block commissioning arrangements with specific providers the Council will be better placed to secure access to provision that meets the care and development needs of these children safely, with better provision for placement stability and more locally than is currently the case.</p>	<p>No mitigation necessary. The intervention is intended to be an improvement on current situation whereby arrangements for securing residential placements for Southampton children and young people in care are dependent upon less secure access to market provision than is proposed through these arrangements.</p>

