

**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Children, Young People and Education**

29 September 2020

Report of the Assistant Director Children’s Services

Sufficiency Strategy 2020 – 2023

Summary

1. City of York Sufficiency Strategy sets out how the local authority and its partners will work together to provide the best environments for children in care and care leavers over the next three years. This includes ensuring that there are enough alternatives to care, through for example supporting families to stay together or finding alternative permanent homes for children and sets out how we ensuring that there is a choice of high-quality provision for all children.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to agree the Sufficiency Strategy as set out in Annex A.

Reason: In order to meet the requirement for the delivery of the Sufficiency Duty Strategy.

Background

3. The duty to provide or procure placements for Children and Young People in Care is explicit in the Children Act 1989. These regulations require a strategy to be in place that describes how local authorities intend to provide sufficient care placements for its children in care. The introduction of Sufficiency Statutory Guidance (2010) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (implementation April 2011) has provided further clarity on the implementation of section 22G of the Act.
4. The Statutory Guidance also sets out a requirement for local authorities to work with key partners to be in a position to secure,

where reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care which meets the needs of children and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area.

5. This strategy coincides with the Covid 19 pandemic and which has impacted on our ability to deliver some aspects of our sufficiency, in particular, the creation of local residential and semi-independent living provision. Due to this we recognise that our plans to develop care provision locally are more likely to be achieved over the second half of the strategy.
6. The Strategy sets out some of the particular sufficiency challenges in York, notably the historical issues in the recruitment of mainstream foster carers and the provision of residential care in the city and arrangements to address this.
7. The Sufficiency Duty Strategy also sets out our vision for children in care. Progress against this strategy will be monitored by the Strategic Partnership for Children in Care and Care Leavers and the Corporate Parenting Board.

Consultation

8. Consultation has been undertaken internally including Commissioners and managers.

Options

9. There are no options associated with this report.

Council Plan

10. This links to the key outcome in the Council Plan "A Better Start for Children".

Implications

- **Financial**
There are no financial implications.
- **Human Resources (HR)**
There are no HR implications.

- **Equalities**
There are no equalities implications.
- **Legal**
There are no legal implications.
- **Crime and Disorder**
There are no crime and disorder implications.
- **Information Technology (IT)**
There are no IT implications.
- **Property**
There are no property implications.

Risk Management

11. Failure to deliver on the Sufficiency Duty Strategy could have implications for children who may need to be placed in care away from York. This in turn is likely to have cost implications for CYC placements budget.

Contact Details

Author:

Simon Fisher
Interim Group Manager
Achieved Permanence
Childrens Services
01904 552397

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Sophie Wales
Assistant Director Childrens Services
01904 552203

Report Date 21 July 2020
Approved

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 - City of York Sufficiency Strategy 2020 to 2023