

NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER SIGNING

Thursday, 29th May, 2025, 3.30 pm - Alexandra House, 10 Station Road, London, N22 7TY (watch the live meeting [here](#))

Members: Councillor Zena Brabazon

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2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct

4. URGENT BUSINESS

5. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS / QUESTIONS

6. APPROVAL TO COMMISSION INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCIES VIA A DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN SERVICES (PAGES 1 - 24)

7. APPROVAL TO COMMISSION RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES PLACEMENTS VIA A DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM (DPS) FOR CHILDREN IN CARE (PAGES 25 - 52)

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Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Report for: May Cabinet member signing

Item number: 6

Title: Approval to Commission Independent Fostering Agencies via a Dynamic Purchasing System for Children Services

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Director: Children's Services

Lead Officer: Caroline Brain- Assistant Director, Children and Young People Commissioning and Programmes

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key Decision: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. The report seeks authority to undertake a procurement exercise to commission Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) placements for children looked after via Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) ensuring compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- 1.2. The Council has a statutory duty under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 to provide sufficient local accommodation for looked after children. This requires local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after.
- 1.3. The Council currently spot purchases foster care provision from a range of IFAs due to insufficient capacity within in- house foster carers. Setting up the Councils own Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) will support in budling a long-term arrangement with providers, focusing on developing closer relationships. This will assist Haringey in managing the market, controlling costs and working in partnership to increase the number of foster placements within the Borough to support children looked after.
- 1.4. In 2023/2024, 123 children looked after were placed with IFAs and £5.8 million was spent on this provision.
- 1.5. As of Feb 2025, 87 children looked after were placed in IFA placements
- 1.6. In FY 2024/2025, £5.1 million was spent on independent fostering
- 1.7. A new DPS will be established and the estimated spend up to 4 years term is estimated at £22.5 million this figure includes annual inflation of 4%
- 1.8. The new DPS will enable the Council to commission fostering placements for children and young people from IFAs until such time as the Procurement Act 2023 (Commencement and Transitional and Savings Arrangement Regulations 2024) permit, currently not being less than 4 years.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. As a Corporate Parent the Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of accommodation for our most vulnerable children and young people. Commissioning foster provision from external providers will ensure the council is meeting its duties and that the route to the market will ensure the Council is compliant with Public Contract Regulations.

- 2.2. It is vitally important that where possible children are given the opportunity to grow up in safe, nurturing family environment. This allows children to interact with other family members, develop essential social skills and feel valued and supported.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. For the reasons set in the report and its appendices, Cabinet is recommended to approve:

- 3.1.1. the estimated spend of up to £22.5 million on Independent Fostering Agencies over a period of 4 years via the DPS which is inclusive of annual inflation of 4%.

- 3.1.2. the commissioning fostering placements from Independent Fostering Agencies for Children looked after via the corporate DPS pursuant to Regulation 34 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

- 3.1.3. Where contracts valued at £500,000 or more that require approval by Cabinet as per Contract Standing Order (CSO) 9.07.1 d) or modified as per CSO 10.02.1 b) (variations and extensions to contracts of £500,000) or more; to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Lead member for Children's, Schools and families to award, vary or extend any individual call offs or block contract arrangements under the DPS to successful providers up to £1 million per award or any individual variation and extension.

4. Reason for decision

- 4.1. Services will be commissioned through Haringey's DPS and be aligned to the procurement regulations, ensuring compliance and flexibility in developing the provider market.

- 4.2. The Council has a statutory requirement to provide accommodation for children who are in its care and to improve outcomes and actively promote the life chances of children they look after. It is the responsibility of local authorities to act as the best possible parent for each child they look after.

- 4.3. Haringey's Looked After Children's Sufficiency 2022- 2026, as part of this strategy, the Council aims to place the majority of looked after children in high-quality, cost-effective, local, family-based placements. Commissioning Independent Fostering Agencies supports the Council in achieving this goal.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. **Do nothing:** This option was discounted: The Council has a statutory duty under section 22G of the Children Act 1989 to take steps that secure sufficient accommodation within its area for children in their care.

- 5.2. Doing nothing would mean continuing to spot purchasing without a framework in place which would mean a lack of purchasing control and the element of competition to drive cost efficiencies to secure better value for money. This would not be compliant with procurement regulations.

- 5.3. **Deliver in house:** The council already has its own in house fostering service and other arrangements such as kinship network. This would not meet the sufficiency requirements for all children looked after.

6. **Background information**

- 6.1. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a general duty on every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need within their area by providing services appropriate to those children's needs.

- 6.2. There is a significant challenge in recruiting and retaining foster carers faced by Local Authorities and IFAs. The number of approved fostering households has decreased, while the demand for placements has increased. The market is used on a national footprint and demand nationally is outstripping the supply meaning that providers can choose which children they match to – often this can be those with less complex needs.

- 6.3. The market to recruit foster carers is competitive and we know from the data in the report that the financial offer to in-house foster carers is lower compared to IFA placements which includes higher fees paid to carers and additional overheads.

- 6.4. Haringey's has seen a continual decrease in the number of children looked after over the last three years. An insufficient number and range of in-house foster carers means that the Council has to place children in independent fostering agency placements that are always more expensive and very often out of the Borough, or in residential placements that are sometimes not in line with the child's needs to be in a family and always at a high cost. In November 2024 the government announced that there will be a 3.55 per cent increase to the national minimum allowance (NMA) for foster carers in England.

- 6.5. While we appreciate the increase in the financial support for foster carers, this will impact the council's budget as the weekly average cost of Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) is expected to rise significantly.

7. **Current arrangements**

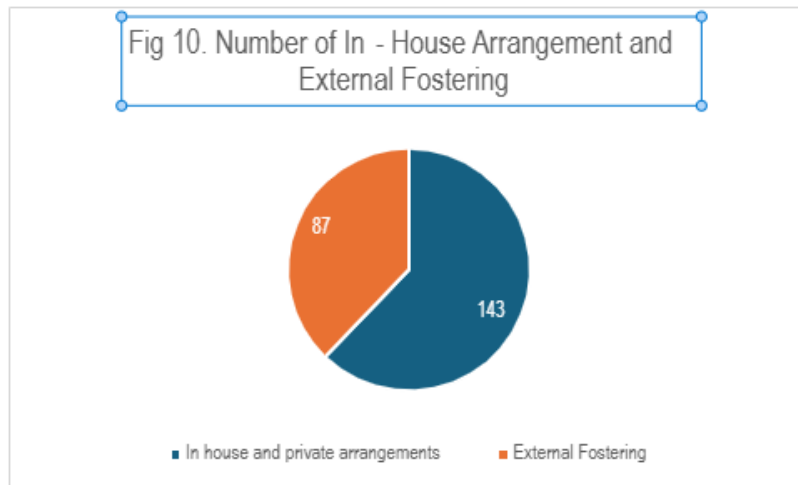
- 7.1. Foster care provision includes local authority foster carers, private foster care known as Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) and kinship arrangements which is when children looked after are placed with a relative or someone they know.

- 7.2. Haringey has a children looked after population of 318 (as of Feb 2025) across all placement types. 230 children looked after were placed with either IFAs, In-House Foster Carers or other fostering arrangement.

- 7.3. Currently fostering arrangements is the most common placement type for children looked after in Haringey with 72% of children looked after placed in some form of fostering arrangement.

- 7.4. In-house fostering placements are more common and make up 62% of fostering placements. Please refer to Fig 10 below.

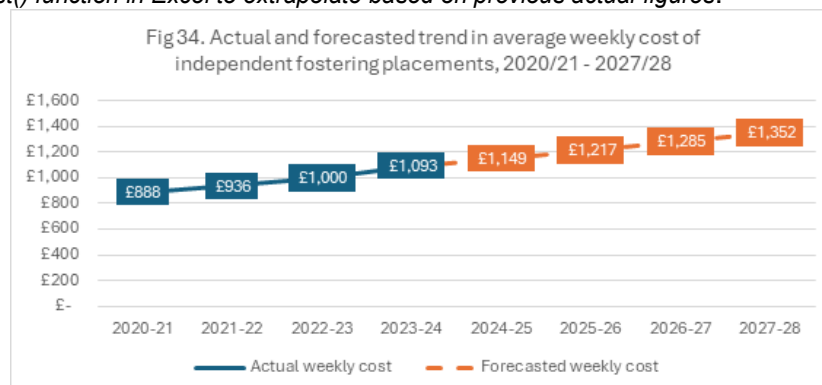
Fig 10. Number of In-House Arrangements and External Fostering



- 7.5. Placing children looked after with in-house foster carers is significantly more cost effective than IFAs with an estimated cost per annum of £22,308 per placement, compared to £56,624 through, an IFA.
- 7.6. As of Feb 2025, there were 28 kinship arrangements which has seen an increase of 40% compared to 2023/24 where there were 20 kinship arrangements.
- 7.7. Of the 87 children looked after placed in IFAs most are placed in and around Greater London, with a minority of placements scattered around other areas of Southeast England.
- 7.8. The majority of IFA placements are for children under the age of 18. Before turning 18 staying put arrangements are discussed with young people and IFA to remain with the foster carer after they turn 18. This will provide continuity and stability as they transition to adulthood. Young people can stay with their former carer until they are 21 or longer if they are still in education or training. As of February 2025, there were 27 young people in staying put arrangements.
- 7.9. The total number of IFA peaked in 2021/22 with a high of 195 placements during the financial year. For the last two financial years, this figure has been lower, dropping to 123 in 2023/24. Concurrently, there has been an increase in in-house foster placements and we are projecting that the number of IFAs will continue to decline with an increase in in-house fostering arrangements.
- 7.10. The average weekly cost of IFAs is almost double the cost of in-house fostering. Average weekly cost of an IFA placement is currently £1,149, while the in-house fostering placements cost £429 per week. The average weekly cost of an IFA placement is inclusive of management costs.
- 7.11. The average weekly cost is forecasted to rise each year, reaching an estimated average of £1,352 per week or more by 2027/2028 for an IFA placement. Please refer to Fig 34

Table 3 Actual and Forecasted Trend in Average Weekly Cost

Data source: MOSAIC and Controc. Please note that the forecasted figures are based on the use of the Forecast() function in Excel to extrapolate based on previous actual figures.



- 7.12. Haringey like most Local Authorities is keen to recruit more in-house foster carers which is of vital importance and is driven by Haringey's wider Adolescent, Fostering and Residential Strategy which sets out the plan to increase in house placement provision in Haringey. Haringey's target over the last 2 years was to increase in-house fostering placements by 30 and so far, we have recruited 21 new foster carers.
- 7.13. An insufficient number and range of in-house foster carers means that the Council has to place children in independent fostering agency placements that are always more expensive and very often out of Borough, or in residential placements that are sometimes not in line with the child's needs to be in a family.

8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1. We have held market engagement events and forums with providers to gather their views on joining Haringey DPS and on Haringey Quality Assurance Framework which will be the basis used to inform delivery of service and improvements needed. Haringey plans to continue with quarterly provider forums which will provide an opportunity to discuss any challenges and new developments
- 8.2. Care experienced children and young people have been engaged with and further engagement events will be planned during the contract period. Some of the key findings from engaging with care experienced children and young indicated the following:
- Most of the young people surveyed had lived in a foster family or residential home for a minimum of one year.
 - At minimum, half of the young people who responded voiced that when living in this accommodation, it was important for them to:
 - be close to family and friends and local links.
 - have preparation to live independently
 - be close to education, work, or training opportunities.
 - have good transport connections bus or train.

9. Activity to reduce the budget pressure

- 9.1. With the significant demand on the Councils budget several initiatives are in place for children at the edge of care and to reduce the need to bring care or supervision proceedings which might lead to children being placed in the Councils care.

10. Commissioning of Independent Foster Homes

10.1. The Independent Foster Homes requirement has been separated into the following categories:

- **Lot 1:** Core Fostering Placements
- **Lot 2:** Specialist Placements
- **Lot 3:** Parent and Child Placements -

11. Contract management

11.1. Contract management will be incorporated alongside key performance indicators and quality assurance visits as a method of measurement are integrated within the requirement and will be monitored through contract monitoring meetings and reports. Contract meetings will be held every quarter, and the purpose of the contract meetings will be to examine the service delivery and meeting the outcomes for children looked after and young people. Individual placements will be reviewed at the statutory reviews for children in care which is essential to ensure their well-being and progress. These reviews are guided by the Children Act 1989.

12. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes

12.1. The commissioning of Independent Fostering Services aligns with the priorities within Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026' specifically:

Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 1: Best Start in Life
- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures

13. Carbon and Climate Change

13.1. The Council has set the date for a zero-carbon deadline of 2027, including core council operational buildings and all transport-related activities undertaken by the Council in the delivery of core services.

13.2. Practises will be adopted where possible to reduce climate impacts. This includes encouraging staff and children and young people to use sustainable transport methods, encouraging foster homes to utilise energy saving measures and waste reduction measures.

14. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

14.1. Finance

14.1.1. The report seeks authority to undertake a procurement exercise to commission Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) for children looked after via Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) ensuring compliance with Public Contract Regulations.

14.1.2. The contract will be for 4 years with an estimated cost of £22.5m (annual costs of £5.1m) this figures includes an estimated annual inflation of 4%.

- 14.1.3. The cost of this contract will be fully funded and met from the approved general fund budgets allocated to cost centre S36400.

14.2. **Strategic Procurement**

- 14.2.1. Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and have been consulted in the preparation of this report and will be leading on the procurement process for setting up DPS for Independent Fostering Agencies.
- 14.2.2. The report relates to services which are subject to the Light Touch Regime under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR). As such they are required to be advertised and comply with the procedures laid out in the PCR's.
- 14.2.3. Strategic Procurement confirm Cabinet approved the establishment of the DPS's referenced in this report in November 2024. These will be established in accordance with the Regulation 34 of the PCR 2015 and Contract Standing Orders 9.04.
- 14.2.4. Commissioning fostering placement from Independent Fostering Agencies via DPS is considered the most suitable and efficient route to market, offering the Council the potential to rapidly access new service providers much sooner than traditional procurement approaches. Furthermore, the DPS allows suppliers to join at any time, ensuring it remains open to new businesses throughout its duration. This approach increases competition, choice, and innovation.
- 14.2.5. Strategic Procurement confirms there are no procurement related matters preventing Cabinet approving the Recommendations stated in in paragraph 3 above.

14.3. **Legal**

- 14.3.1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 14.3.2. Regulation 34 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR2015) permits the Council to procure certain services by way of a dynamic purchasing system (DPS). Usually, a DPS is subject to the full procurement rules, however the services being procured in this report are categorised as Schedule 3 services under the PCR 2015, which falls under the Light Touch Regime ("LTR") processes, allowing significant flexibility as to how the DPS can be set up. The proposal to set up a DPS is a compliant route to procure the services in the report.
- 14.3.3. Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 9.07.1(d) Cabinet has power to approve the award of a contract where the value of the contract is £500,000 or more.
- 14.3.4. Further to paragraph 9.3.3 above, the report recommendation in paragraph 3 to delegate authority to the Director of Children Services in consultation with the Lead member for Children's, Schools and families to award, vary or extend any individual call offs or block contract arrangements under the DPS to be established to successful providers up to £1million per award or any individual variation and extension is in line with law. Cabinet has power under the Local Government Act 2000 to delegate the discharge of any of its functions to an officer (S.9E (Discharge of Functions)).

- 14.3.5. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the approval of the recommendations in the report.

14.4. Equalities

- 14.4.1. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act,
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not,
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 14.4.2. The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex, and sexual orientation. The first part of the duty applies to marriage and civil partnership status only. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 14.4.3. The decision outlined in this report is to approve the procurement of independent fostering agency placements (IFA) via an e-sourcing called the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).
- 14.4.4. Section 149 requires public authorities to remove or minimise disadvantages affecting any particular equality group. This means that giving due regard to Equality will require the procurement process, tender specification, and award of the tender to consider the needs of children looked after where appropriate, commission specialist foster services or require main providers to respond to the specific support needs of children looked after.
- 14.4.5. Eligibility for IFA placements are subject to an assessment by the Council's Social Services Department and determined by the level of need, not any protected characteristic. While certain groups are overrepresented within the current cohort of IFA placements (namely children from ethnic minority backgrounds, particularly mixed or multiple-ethnic, black, black British, Caribbean and black African children), it is not anticipated that they will be impacted by this decision because the proposal does not alter the provision of the service.
- 14.4.6. The proposed commissioning of this service is not considered to have a negative impact on any group with a protected characteristic.
- 14.4.7. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the proposed, procurement of Independent Fostering Agencies and is included as Appendix One to this report.

15. Use of Appendices

- 15.1. Appendix One: Equalities Impact Assessment

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Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

1. Responsibility for the Equality Impact Assessment

Name of proposal:	Approval to commission independent fostering agency services via Dynamic Purchasing Service for Children's Services.
Service Area:	Children's Services
Officer Completing Assessment:	Cassie Harris
Equalities Advisor:	Guy Latham
Cabinet meeting date (if applicable):	Cabinet member signing – May 2025
Director/Assistant Director:	Caroline Brain, Assistant Director: CYP Commissioning & Programmes. Dionne Thomas, Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Social Care

2. Executive summary

The decision for this equality impact statement is the approval of the procurement of independent fostering agency (IFA) placements. As a corporate parent, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a range of IFA placements available, sufficient to meet the needs of the children looked after (CLA) by the local authority.

The council currently spot purchases IFA placements from external providers which is not compliant with Public Contract Regulations. This EqiA is for the proposal for the commissioning of IFA placements via an e-sourcing solution called the Axians Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

Haringey has a CLA population of 316 (Oct 2024). Of these, 224 were in fostering placements; two-thirds of fostering placements are in-house, the remaining third (75) are placed in IFAs placements. IFAs are used when there is insufficient capacity within our in-house placements.

Haringey will be working collaboratively with children's IFA providers to join the Council's DPS which is envisaged to have a positive impact on children in care as the aim will be for a Haringey first offer for vacant beds with registered IFA providers with a focus on placements close to Haringey. This will support children looked after where this meets their needs to live in the Borough and maintain relationships with family and friends where appropriate.

Haringey plans to embed regular consultation with CLA and Providers within commissioning practise. The aim will be to establish regular meetings with the Participation & Mentoring Practitioner for children social care, alongside young ambassadors to plan regular themed engagement events with care-experienced children and young people.

3. Consultation and engagement

3a. Haringey have held market engagement events and forums with providers to gather their views on joining Haringey DPS and on Haringey Quality Assurance Framework which will be basis used to inform delivery of service, any challenges and improvements needed. Haringey plans to continue with quarterly forums with providers which will provide an opportunity to discuss any challenges and new developments.

3b. Care experienced children and young people have been engaged with and further engagement events will be planned during the contract period. After consulting with the Service to find the best approach to capture young people's voices, we were invited to the YAS end of year celebratory event for care leavers on 13th December where we asked young people to complete a questionnaire which asked about their experience of living with a foster carer and what they would like to see change.

3c. Some of the key findings from engaging with care experienced children and young indicated the following:

Ten care experienced young people agreed to the complete the survey. Most of the young people surveyed had lived in a foster family or residential home for a minimum of one year.

Half of the young people who responded voiced that when living in this accommodation, it was important for them to:

- be close to family and friends and local links
- have preparation to live independently
- be close to education, work or training opportunities
- have good transport connections bus or train.

Key findings:

When the young people were asked about feeling safe and the standard of their accommodation, all the young people felt safe in their foster home and the majority found the standard of the foster home to be acceptable. All young people surveyed spoke highly of the support they received from their foster carer, including support to access activities of interest in the local community.

The proposal is anticipated to have a positive impact as it will support CLA to be placed in IFA placements in the Borough where this meets their needs.

4.1 Data has been sourced from the State of the Borough, found here:

Liquidlogic is a case management system covering social care, early help and Universal Services within Children's, Families and Adults services. Within Haringey Council, it is the framework within which records for are held, from the point of referral to closure.

Data

- 54,422: 0-17 (21%)
- 71,660: 18-34 (27%)
- 63,930: 35-49 (24%)
- 46,516: 50-64 (18%)
- 27,706: 65+ (10%)

- 75: 0-17 (0.14%)

Fig 1. Number of Haringey CLA in IFA placements by age group, as of 25/10/2024

Age Group	Number of CLA
0-4	10
5-9	18
10-15	26
16-17	21

Age	Total fostering	In house fostering	Private fostering
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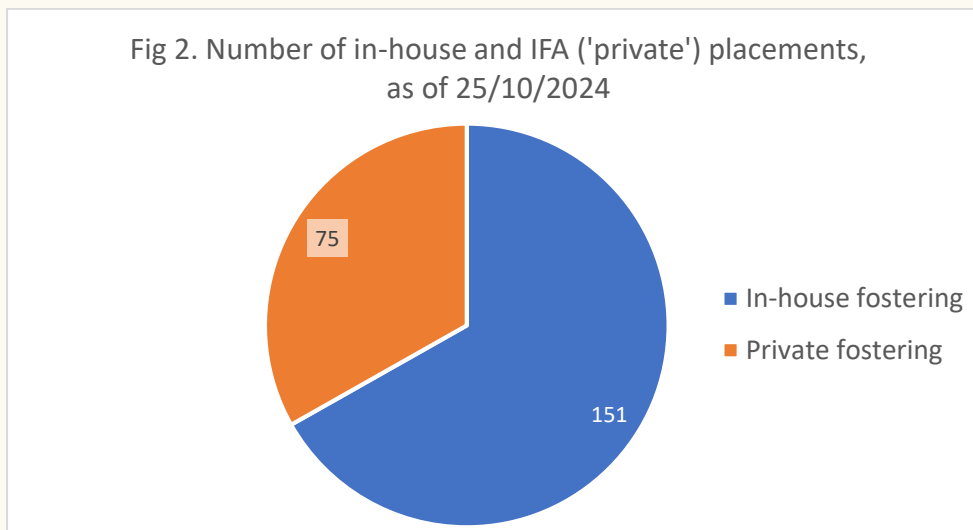
¹ Census, 2021 – [Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/population)

0-4 years	37 (16.4%)	27 (17.9%)	10 (13.3%)
5-9 years	52 (23.0%)	34 (22.5%)	18 (24.0%)
10 - 15 years	71 (31.4%)	45 (29.8%)	26 (34.7%)
16- 17 years	66 (29.2%)	45 (29.8%)	21 (28.0%)

Source: Liquidlogic as of 25/10/2024

4.2 Local authorities have a statutory duty to accommodate children in need (section 20 Children Act 1989) and those who are the subjects of interim or final care orders (section 22A Children Act 1989). The provision of IFA placements is guided and underpinned by the principles of the Children Act 1989, Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services.

4.3 As of 25th October 2024, there were 316 children looked after by Haringey, across all placement types. Fostering is the most common placement type for CLA in Haringey, accounting for 224 out of the 316 looked after children on the 25/10/2024. Of these 244 foster placements, 75 were children in IFA placements.



4.4 Children enter independent foster care in a variety of ways: they may have experienced absent, poor parenting, loss, abuse or neglect; have a level of need and/or behaviour that requires clinical support/intervention or significant additional support; or enter parent and child fostering, where the parent and their baby or young child are placed together. As of 25th October 2024, this equated to 75 children; 0.14% of 0–17 year olds which is 0.03% of the total population in the Borough.

Potential Impacts

4.5 A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in provision. However, if there were to be a change in the future, it would be more likely to impact children aged 10 to 17.

4b. Disability

Data

Borough Profile

- Disabled under Equality Act – 13.7%²
 - Day to day activities limited a lot – 6.1%
 - Day to day activities limited a little – 7.5%
- 7.5% of residents people diagnosed with depression³
- 1.7% of residents diagnosed with a severe mental illness⁴
- 0.4% of people in Haringey have a learning disability⁵

Target population: IFA placements by primary category of need

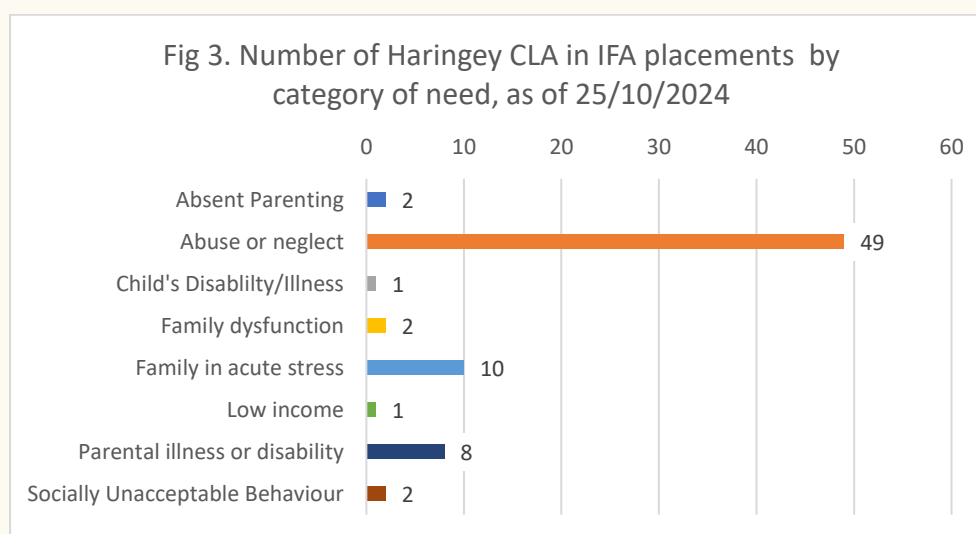


Table 2

Absent parenting	2 (2.7%)
Abuse or neglect	49 (65.3%)
Child disability/illness	1 (1.3%)
Family disfunction	2 (2.7%)
Family in acute stress	10 (13.3%)
Low income	1 (1.3%)
Parent illness or disability	8 (10.7%)
Socially unacceptable behaviour	2 (2.7%)

Source: Liquidlogic as of 25/10/2024

Target Population Profile

4.6 Only 1 (1.3%) IFA placement had 'child disability/illness' as the primary category of need, however it is possible that a higher number of children in these

² Census, 2021 – [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/disabilityandlongtermhealth/articles/disabilityinenglandandwales/2021)

³ NHS Quality Outcomes Framework – [Prevalence of diagnosed depression among GP registered population age 18+](https://www.nhs.uk/quality-outcomes-framework/prevalence-of-diagnosed-depression-among-gp-registered-population-age-18/)

⁴ NHS Quality Outcomes Framework – [Prevalence of diagnosed mental health diagnosis among GP registered population age 18+](https://www.nhs.uk/quality-outcomes-framework/prevalence-of-diagnosed-mental-health-diagnosis-among-gp-registered-population-age-18/)

⁵ PHE Learning disability profiles – <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/learning-disabilities#page/0/gid/1938132702/pat/6/par/E12000007/ati/102/are/E09000014>

placements do have disabilities, but that this is not their primary category of need. Where primary category of need is child disability, these children are more likely to be placed in alternative accommodation assessed to meet their needs. By far the most common primary category of need among Haringey's IFA placements was 'abuse or neglect', which constituted 65.3% of these placements as of 25th October 2024.

Potential Impacts

4.7 Because there is no change of provision, there will be a neutral impact on children with disabilities.

4c. Gender Reassignment

Data

Borough Profile⁶

- Gender Identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given – 0.5%
- Trans woman – 0.1%
- Trans man - 0.1%

Target Population Profile

There is no robust data at Borough level on our trans population, however the central government estimates that there are approximately 200,000 to 500,000 trans people in the UK. Assuming an average representation, this would mean between 800 and 2,000 Haringey residents are Trans.⁷

4.8 The council does not collect data on gender reassignment among this cohort. Because the IFA placement cohort are children under the age of 18, it is likely to be very low if at all.

Impact

4.9 Because there is no change of provision, there will be a neutral impact on trans children.

4d. Marriage and Civil Partnership

Note: Only the first part of the equality duty ("*Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act*") applies to this protected characteristic.

Data

Borough Profile ⁸

⁶ Census, 2021 – [Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/ethnicityandnationality/bulletins/genderidentityenglandandwales/2021)

⁷ Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.

⁸ Census, 2021 – [Marriage and civil partnership status in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/relationshipsandpartnerships/bulletins/marriageandcivilpartnershipstatusinenglandandwales/2021)

- Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved: (9.9%)
- Married or registered civil partnership: (35.8%)
- Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): (2.9%%)
- Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership): (45.3%)
- Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: (6.1%)

Target Population Profile

4.10 This cohort of children placed with IFA is aged 0-17 years. The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022, means that 16- and 17-year-olds are no longer permitted to marry or enter into a civil partnership.

Impact

4.11 This programme will not impact children or young people based on their marital status.

4e. Pregnancy and Maternity

Note⁹:

- Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby.
- Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Data

Borough Profile ¹⁰

Live Births in Haringey 2021: 3,376

Target Population Profile

4.12 Commissioning of IFA provision will not significantly affect young women who are pregnant or young women in maternity. We do not have data on the number of young women who are pregnant.

Impacts

4.13 Because this proposal does not change the provision of the service, the impact on this protected characteristic will be neutral.

⁹ Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2022 – [Pregnancy and maternity discrimination](#).

¹⁰ Births by Borough (ONS)

4f. Race

In the Equality Act 2010, race can mean ethnic or national origins, which may or may not be the same as a person's current nationality.¹¹

Data

Borough Profile ¹²

Arab: 1.0%

- Any other ethnic group: 8.7%

Asian: 8.7%

- Bangladeshi: 1.8%
- Chinese: 1.5%
- Indian: 2.2%
- Pakistani: 0.8%
- Other Asian: 2.4%

Black: 17.6%

- African: 9.4%
- Caribbean: 6.2%
- Other Black: 2.0%

Mixed: 7.0%

- White and Asian: 1.5%
- White and Black African: 1.0%
- White and Black Caribbean: 2.0%
- Other Mixed: 2.5%

White: 57.0% in total

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British: 31.9%
- Irish: 2.2%
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller: 0.1%
- Roma: 0.8%
- Other White: 22.1%

Target population: IFA placements by ethnicity

¹¹ [Race discrimination | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://equalityhumanrights.com/)

¹² Census 2021 - [Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/ethnicgroup)

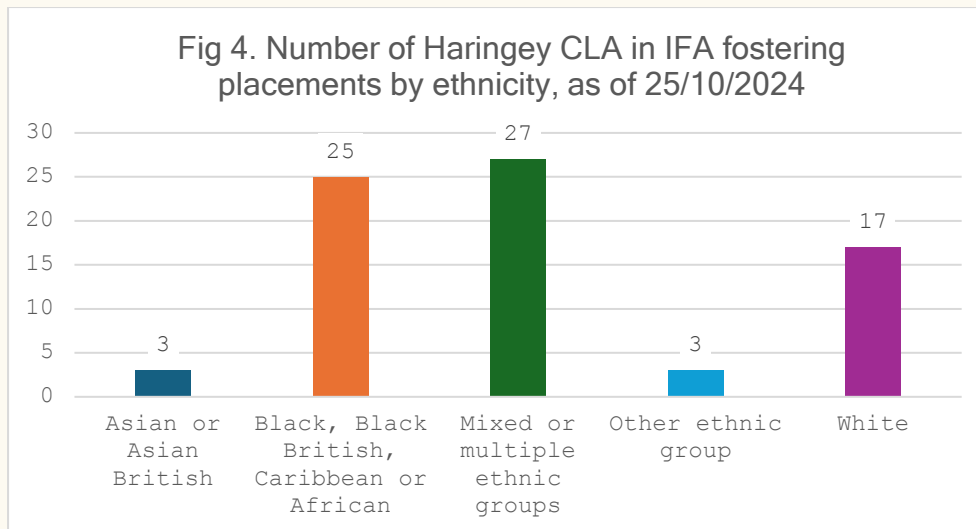


Table 3

Asian or Asian British	3 (4.0%)
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	25 (33.3%)
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	27 (36.0%)
Other ethnic group	3 (4.0%)
White	17 (22.7%)

Source: Liquidlogic as of 25/10/2024

Potential Impacts

4.15 A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in provision. However, if there were to be a change in the future, it would have a disproportionate impact on mixed or multiple ethnic children and black, black British, Caribbean or African children in IFA placements because they are significantly overrepresented in the cohort when compared to their share of the borough population.

4g. Religion or belief

Data

Borough Profile ¹³

- Christian: 39%
- Buddhist: 0.9%
- Hindu: 1.3%
- Jewish: 3.6%
- Muslim: 12.6%
- No religion: 31.6%
- Other religion: 2.3%
- Religion not stated: 8.0%

¹³ Census, 2021 – [Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

- Sikh: 0.3%

Target Population Profile

4.16 The council does not collect data on the religion of children in IFA placements.

Impact

4.17 A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in provision.

4h. Sex

Data

Borough profile ¹⁴

- Females: (51.8%)
- Males: (48.2%)

Target Population Profile

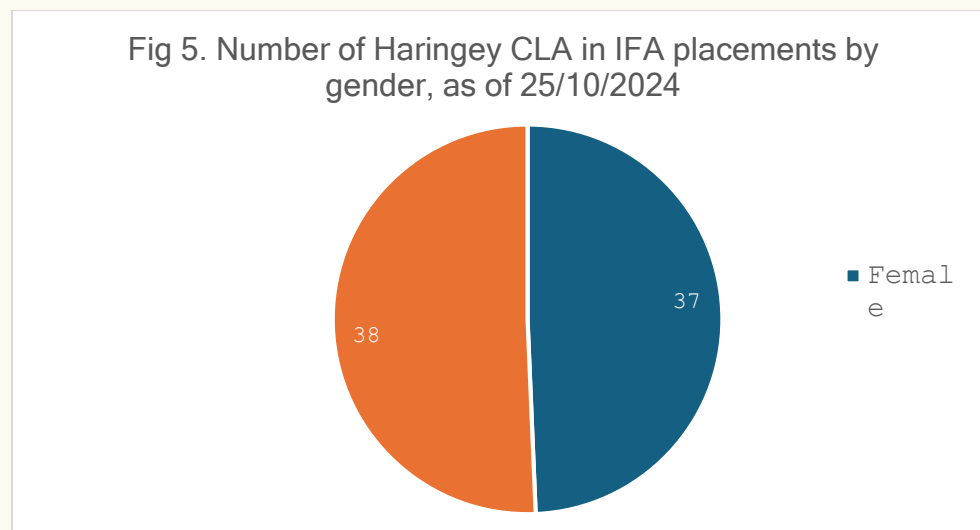


Table 4

Male	37 (49.3%)
Female	38 (50.7%)

Source: Liquidlogic as of 25/10/2024

Potential Impacts

¹⁴ Census 2021 – [Gender identity: age and sex, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/ethnicityandnationality/datasets/genderidentitybyageandsex)

4.15 A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in provision. However, if there were to be a change in the future, it would be likely to impact male and female children equally.

4i. Sexual Orientation

Data

Borough profile ¹⁵

- Straight or heterosexual: 83.4%
- Gay or Lesbian: 2.7%
- Bisexual: 2.1%
- All other sexual orientations: 0.8%
- Not answered: 11.0%

Target Population Profile

4.16 The sexual orientation of children in IFA placements is not recorded.

Impacts

4.17 A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in provision 4j.

¹⁵ Census, 2021 – [Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Socioeconomic Status

Data

Borough profile

Income

- 6.9% of the population of Haringey were claiming unemployment benefit as of April 2023¹⁶
- 19.6% of residents were claiming Universal Credit as of March 2023¹⁷
- 29.3% of jobs in Haringey are paid below the London Living Wage¹⁸

Educational Attainment

- Haringey ranks 25th out of 32 in London for GCSE attainment (% of pupils achieving strong 9-5 pass in English and Maths)¹⁹
- 3.7% of Haringey's working age population had no qualifications as of 2021²⁰
- 5.0% were qualified to level one only²¹

Area Deprivation

Haringey is the 4th most deprived in London as measured by the IMD score 2019. The most deprived LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas, or small neighbourhood areas) are more heavily concentrated in the east of the borough, where more than half of the LSOAs fall into the 20% most deprived in the country.²²

Target Population Profile

Will not know due to age group.

4.18 The socio-economic status of children in IFA placements is not recorded. Receipt of support is related to need, not income.

Potential Impacts

4.19 A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in provision.

5. Key Impacts Summary

5a. Outline the key findings of your data analysis.

Eligibility for this support is subject to an assessment by the Council's Social Services Department, not any protected characteristic. While certain groups are overrepresented within the cohort of IFA placements (namely mixed or multiple ethnic children and black, black British, Caribbean or African children), it is not anticipated that they will be positively or negatively impacted by this decision because the proposal does not alter the provision of the service.

¹⁶ ONS – [ONS Claimant Count](#)

¹⁷ DWP, StatXplore – [Universal Credit statistics, 29 April 2013 to 9 March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁸ ONS – [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\) - Estimates of the number and proportion of employee jobs with hourly pay below the living wage, by work geography, local authority and parliamentary constituency, UK, April 2017 and April 2018 - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹⁹ DfE – [GCSE attainment and progress 8 scores](#)

²⁰ LG Inform – [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](#)

²¹ LG Inform – [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](#)

²² IMD 2019 – [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

5b. Intersectionality

This proposal does not alter the provision which means it has a neutral impact on all groups in receipt of the support.

5c. Data Gaps

There are data gaps within this EQIA in relation to the protected characteristics of gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion and socioeconomic status. This is because service provision is based on assessed need and these characteristics are not considered necessary for collecting data on.

6. Overall impact of the policy for the Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no identified key implications for people with protected characteristics.

7. Amendments and mitigations

7a. What changes, if any, do you plan to make to your proposal because of the Equality Impact Assessment?

No major change to the proposal: the EQIA demonstrates the proposal is robust and there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken

7b. What specific actions do you plan to take to remove or mitigate any actual or potential negative impact and to further the aims of the Equality Duty?

Not applicable.

7. Ongoing monitoring

No ongoing monitoring is planned.

8. Authorisation

EQIA approved by (Assistant Director/ Director) **Dionne Thomas/Caroline Brain**

Date 30/04/2025

9. Publication

Please ensure the completed EQIA is published in accordance with the Council's policy.

Please contact the Policy & Strategy Team for any feedback on the EQIA process.

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Report for: May Cabinet member signing

Item number: 7

Title: Approval to Commission Residential Children's Homes Placements via a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Children in Care

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services

Lead Officer: Caroline Brain- Assistant Director, Children and Young People Commissioning and Programmes

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key Decision: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

- 1.1. The report seeks authority to undertake a procurement exercise to commission Children's Residential Home Placements for children looked after via Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) ensuring compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 1.2. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a range of local homes available, sufficient to meet the needs of the children in the care of the local authority.
- 1.3. The Council currently spot purchases children's residential home placements, setting up the Councils own DPS will support in budling a long-term arrangement with providers with a major focus on developing closer relationships with registered Children's Homes in Haringey.
- 1.4. In 2023/2024, £8.5 million was spent on registered children's homes placements for children looked after. This includes providers registered for residential family centres and secure accommodation. Compared to FY 2022/2023, this is a decrease of £370,000 due to the initiatives in place to step down children looked after from residential care with reunification back home or into foster care according to their needs.
- 1.5. In FY 2024/2025, £9 million was spent on children's homes placements. This includes providers registered for residential family centres and secure accommodation. As of Jan 2025, 26 children looked after were placed in children's residential homes.
- 1.6. The estimated spend up to 4 years term is £39.7m (annual costs of £9m) this figure includes an estimated annual inflation of 4%.
- 1.7. The new DPS will enable the Council to commission Children's Residential Home placements until such time as the Procurement Act 2023 (Commencement and Transitional and Savings Arrangement Regulations 2024) permits, currently not being less than 4 years.

- 1.8. The estimated annual expenditure on providers registered to care for children looked after with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and learning disabilities is estimated at £6.9 million and will enable the Council to deliver its statutory duty and ensure good quality, homes which represent value for money.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. As a Corporate Parent the Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of accommodation for our most vulnerable children and young people. Commissioning Children's Homes will ensure the council is meeting its duties and that the route to the market will ensure the Council is compliant with Public Contract Regulations.
- 2.2. It is vitally important that our children and young people are supported to maintain relationships and local connections within the Haringey community and ensuring accommodation is within 20-mile radius of the Borough where possible is hugely welcomed. Building relationships with Children Homes registered in Haringey to ensure that the Council has first preference of any vacant beds considering any matching is a positive way forward.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. For the reasons set in the report and its appendices, Cabinet is recommended to approve:
- 3.1.1. The estimated, spend of up to £39.7 million (annual costs of £9m) on children's residential placements over a period of up to 4 years which includes an estimated annual inflation of 4%.
- 3.1.2. The commissioning of Children's Residential Homes for Children Looked After via the corporate DPS pursuant to Regulation 34 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 3.1.3. Where contracts valued at £500,000 or more that require approval by Cabinet as per Contract Standing Order (CSO) 9.07.1 d) or modified as per CSO 10.02.1 b) (variations and extensions to contracts of £500,000 or more; to delegate authority to the Director of Children Services in consultation with the Lead member for Children's, Schools and families to award, vary or extend any individual call offs or block contract arrangements under the DPS to successful providers up to £2 million per award or any individual variation and extension.

4. Reason for decision

- 4.1. Approval to procure residential children's homes placements via the DPS which will ensure compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Haringey's Looked After Children's Sufficiency 2022- 2026, sets out actions to improve the availability, quality, and impact of placements as well as how best parents and carers, children and young people and whole families can have access to the support they need to prevent breakdowns in relationships, support important family attachments and enable children and young people to remain at home with consistent care, wherever possible.
- 4.2. In addition, the Children Acts 1989 and the Children and Young Person Act 2008 place a sufficiency duty on local authorities to secure accommodation for children in their care, stating "*the Local Authority must take steps to secure, as far as is*

reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the Authority's area boundaries which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after 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".

- 4.3. Services will be commissioned through Haringey's DPS system and be aligned to the new procurement regulations, ensuring compliance and flexibility in developing the provider market.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. **Do nothing:** This option was discounted: This would mean continuing to spot purchasing without a framework which is not compliant with Procurement regulations.

- 5.2. **Do nothing:** The Council has a statutory duty under section 22G of the Children Act 1989 to take steps that secure sufficient accommodation within its area.

- 5.3. **Deliver in house:** The council already has its own registered Children's Home Residential since Nov 2022 which can accommodate up to 6 children in care. This would not meet the sufficiency requirements of children looked after.

6. Background information

- 6.1. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a general duty on every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need within their area by providing services appropriate to those children's needs.

- 6.2. Haringey has a Children Looked After population of 313 (Jan 2025) with 26 children looked after placed with children's residential homes operated by external providers registered to care for Children Looked After with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and Learning Disabilities.

- 6.3. 25 children looked after are placed with children's residential homes outside of Haringey with some placements as far as Shrewsbury

- 6.4. Although, there are nine privately registered Children's Homes in Haringey, it is very challenging to find homes for children looked after with the most complex needs. Currently we have one child looked after placed in private registered children's homes based in Haringey.

- 6.5. In 2023 the Department of Education launched several pathfinders to test new ways of working. The mechanism chosen to affect change for this market was the development of the Regional Care Collaboratives (RCC.) These RCC's would see Local Authorities working through a regional arrangement to enable greater buying power by working collaboratively to purchase goods and services collectively rather than individually.

- 6.6. With the pressure on social care budgets, the government has announced major reforms which includes new powers to Ofsted which will require key placement providers to share their finances with the government allowing profiteering to be challenged.

- 6.7. **Current arrangements**

- 6.7.1. The average weekly cost for children's residential placements has been increasing over the last few years. The average weekly cost per week in FY 2023/2024 was £4,100
- 6.7.2. Looking at the residential placements active as of Jan 2025, the average weekly cost was £5,809.
- 6.7.3. In FY 23/24, the 10 highest placements cost a total of £68,049 per week, which equates to full year cost of £1,347,179 million. This cost is associated with placements for children looked after placed in residential children's homes registered to care for children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities.
- 6.7.4. In 2024/2025, we did have children looked after placed in unregulated/unregistered arrangements which can cost circa £9k/£10k per week per child. We do not want children utilising these places, but the existing residential market does not currently match some children leaving us without an alternative.
- 6.7.5. It is estimated that the number of children looked placed in residential children's homes is forecasted to continue to decrease. The fall in the number of residential home placements over the last few years has led to a reduction in the overall yearly cost of these placements, despite the average weekly cost increasing.
- 6.7.6. Haringey operates our own short term 6 bedded registered children's home for children looked after aged 11 to 15 with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and children with learning disabilities. Haringey like most Local Authorities is investing in internal provision to disrupt the market and provide care for who would otherwise be difficult to place.
- 6.7.7. With the significant demand on the Councils budget several initiatives are in place for children at the edge of care with the aim of reducing the need to bring care or supervision proceedings which might lead to children being placed in the Councils care. Also, projects that support children looked after to be stepped down, such as the Haringey Adolescent Resource Team project which since inception in 2022 has stepped down 25 children and young people from residential placements to family fostering or reunification. This has achieved a cost savings of approximately £3.2 million to date.
- 6.7.8. The Local Government Association (LGA) analysis of residential costs has seen a sharp increase in costs over the last 5 years, which has been highlighted in this report. Please see link, [Children's social care placements costing £10,000-plus rise sharply in five years – new LGA analysis | Local Government Association](#)
- 6.8. **Consultation and Engagement planned**
- 6.8.1. Haringey have held market engagement events and forums with providers to gather their views on joining Haringey DPS and on Haringey Quality Assurance Framework which will be basis used to inform delivery of service, any challenges and improvements needed. Haringey plans to continue with quarterly forums with providers which will provide an opportunity to discuss any challenges and new developments.
- 6.8.2. Care experienced children and young people have been engaged with and further engagement events will be planned during the contract period. Some of the key findings from engaging with care experienced children and young indicated that it

was important for most young people to be placed close to family, friends, and local links. Young people voiced that support to prepare for adulthood was also important to them.

6.9. Commissioning of Residential Children's Homes

6.9.1. In accordance with Haringey's requirements for Children Residential Homes we will be working in collaboration with current homes based in Haringey to develop a Haringey first offer for any vacant beds and with planning to ensure any new planning applications approved is based on the understanding that vacant beds are offered to Haringey before offering to other Local Authorities.

6.9.2. The Children's Residential Home requirement has been separated into the following categories:

- **Lot 1a:** Children's homes and services children or young people who have a combination of behaviours.
- **Lot 1b:** Solo Children's homes and services for children or young people who have a combination of complex behaviours that require separation from other children and young people and need an enhanced level of care to meet their complex needs.

6.10. Contract management

6.10.1. Contract management will be incorporated alongside key performance indicators and quality assurance visits as a method of measurement are integrated within the requirement and will be monitored through contract monitoring meetings and reports. The contract meetings will be held every quarter, and the purpose of the contract meetings will be to examine the service delivery and meeting the outcomes. Individual placements will be reviewed at the statutory reviews for children looked after which is essential to ensure their well-being and progress. These reviews are guided by the Children Act 1989.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes

7.1. The commissioning of Children's Residential Homes aligns with the priorities within Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026' specifically:

Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 1: Best Start in Life
- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures

8. Carbon and Climate Change

8.1. The Council has set the date for a zero-carbon deadline of 2027, including core council operational buildings and all transport-related activities undertaken by the Council in the delivery of core services.

8.2. Practises will be adopted where possible to reduce climate impacts within Children's Residential Homes. This includes encouraging staff and children and young people to use sustainable transport methods, utilising energy saving measures in homes and waste reduction measures.

9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

9.1. Finance

9.1.1. The report seeks authority to undertake a procurement exercise to commission Children's Residential Homes for children looked after via Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) ensuring compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

9.1.2. The contract will be for 4 years with an estimated cost of £39.7m (annual costs of £9m) this figure includes an estimated annual inflation of 4%.

9.1.3. The cost of this contract will be fully funded and met from the approved general fund budgets allocated to cost centre S36400.

9.2. Strategic Procurement

9.2.1. Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and have been consulted in the preparation of this report and will be leading on the procurement process for setting up DPS for Children's Residential Home Placements.

9.2.2. The report relates to services which are subject to the Light Touch Regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR). As such they are required to be advertised and comply with the procedures laid out in the PCR's.

9.2.3. Strategic Procurement confirm Cabinet approved the establishment of the DPS's referenced in this report in November 2024. These will be established in accordance with the Regulation 34 of the PCR 2015 and Contract Standing Orders 9.04.

9.2.4. The DPS for commissioning Children's Residential Home placements is considered the most suitable and efficient route to market, offering the Council the potential to rapidly access new service providers much sooner than traditional procurement approaches. Furthermore, the DPS allows suppliers to join at any time, ensuring it remains open to new businesses throughout its duration. This approach increases competition, choice, and innovation.

9.2.5. Strategic Procurement confirms there are no procurement related matters preventing Cabinet approving the Recommendations stated in in paragraph 3 above

9.3. Legal

9.3.1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.3.2. Regulation 34 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR2015) permits the Council to procure certain services by way of a dynamic purchasing system (DPS). Usually, a DPS is subject to the full procurement rules, however the services being procured in this report are categorised as Schedule 3 services under the PCR 2015, which falls under the Light Touch Regime ("LTR") processes, allowing significant flexibility as to how the DPS can be set up. The proposal to set up a DPS is a compliant route to procure the services in the report.

- 9.3.3. Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 9.07.1(d) Cabinet has power to approve the award of a contract where the value of the contract is £500,000 or more.
- 9.3.4. Further to paragraph 9.3.3 above, the report recommendation in paragraph 3 to delegate authority to the Director of Children Services in consultation with the Lead member for Children's, Schools and families to award, vary or extend any individual call offs or block contract arrangements under the DPS to be established to successful providers up to £2million per award or any individual variation and extension is in line with law. Cabinet has power under the Local Government Act 2000 to delegate the discharge of any of its functions to an officer (S.9E (Discharge of Functions)).
- 9.3.5. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the approval of the recommendations in the report.

9.4. **Equalities**

- 9.4.1. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act,
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not,
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people do not.
- 9.4.2. The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex, and sexual orientation. The first part of the duty applies to marriage and civil partnership status only. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 9.4.3. The decision outlined in this report is to authorise a procurement exercise to commission Children's Residential Home Placements for children looked after via Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), ensuring compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 9.4.4. This decision is anticipated to have a positive impact on children in care as the aim will be for a Haringey first offer for vacant beds with registered residential children's homes based in the borough. Where this meets their needs, this will support children in care to live in the Borough and maintain relationships with family and friends where appropriate.
- 9.4.5. Service data indicates that Black, Black African and Black Caribbean backgrounds are overrepresented in the CiC population and are the highest ethnicity placed in residential homes compared to other ethnic groups. Additionally, there are 29 CiC placed in residential homes of which 14 CiC had child disability/illness recorded as primary need. The data illustrates that a high number (48%) of CiC with a primary need of child disability/illness are placed in residential homes. This suggests that children with disabilities or illnesses might face unique challenges that make residential care a more common placement for them. These challenges could include specialized care needs which might not be available in other homes and

challenges in finding suitable other arrangements such as fostering leading to a higher reliance on residential care

- 9.4.6. Section 149 requires public authorities to remove or minimise disadvantages affecting any particular equality group. This means that giving due regard to Equality will require the procurement process, tender specification, and award of the tender to consider the needs of children looked after where appropriate, commission specialist services or require main providers to respond to the specific support needs of children in care. In the event that children looked after require specialist accommodation and support services these would be commissioned on a case-by-case basis.
- 9.4.7. The proposed commissioning of this service is not considered to have a negative impact on any group with a protected characteristic.
- 9.4.8. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the proposed, procurement of Residential Childrens Homes and is included as Appendix One to this report.

10. Use of Appendices:

- 10.1.1. Appendix One: Equalities Impact Assessment

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Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) form is a template for analysing a policy or proposed decision for its potential effects on individuals with protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010.

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

1. Responsibility for the Equality Impact Assessment

Name of proposal:	Commissioning of Residential Childrens Homes for Children in Care
Service Area:	Children's Social Services
Officer Completing Assessment:	Pauline Simpson
Equalities Advisor:	Guy Latham
Cabinet meeting date (if applicable):	Cabinet member signing – May 2025
Director/Assistant Director	Caroline Brain Assistant Director, CYP Commissioning and Dionne Thomas Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Social Care

2. Executive summary

As a corporate parent the Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a range of local homes available, sufficient to meet the needs of the children looked after (CLA) of the local authority.

The council currently spot purchases residential placements from external providers which is not compliant with Public Contract Regulations. This EqiA is for proposal for

the commissioning of residential children's homes via an e-sourcing solution called the Axians Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

Haringey has a Children Looked After (CLA) population of 313 (Jan 2025) with 26 Children Looked After (as of Jan 2025) placed in residential children's homes operated by external providers.

Haringey will be working collaboratively with children's residential homes providers to join the Councils DPS. This is envisaged to have a positive impact on children in care as the aim will be for a Haringey first offer for vacant beds with registered residential children's homes based in Haringey. Where this meets their needs, this will support children in care to live in the Borough and maintain relationships with family and friends where appropriate.

Haringey plans to embed regular consultation with CLA and Providers within commissioning practise. The aim will be to establish regular meetings with the Participation & Mentoring Practitioner for children social care, alongside young ambassadors to plan regular themed engagement events with care experienced children and young people.

3. Consultation and engagement

3a. Haringey have held market engagement events and forums with providers to gather their views on joining Haringey DPS and on Haringey Quality Assurance Framework which will be basis used to inform delivery of service, any challenges and improvements needed. Haringey plans to continue with quarterly forums with providers which will provide an opportunity to discuss any challenges and new developments.

Care experienced children and young people have been engaged with and further engagement events will be planned during the contract period. After consulting with the Service to find the best approach to capture young people's voices, we were invited to the YAS end of year celebratory event for care leavers on 13th December where we asked young people to complete a questionnaire which asked about their experience of living with a foster carer and what they would like to see change.

3b. Some of the key findings from engaging with care experienced children and young indicated the following:

- Ten care experienced young people agreed to participate in a survey and most of the young people surveyed had lived in a foster family or residential home for a minimum of one year.
- Half of the young people who responded voiced that when living in this accommodation, it was important for them to:
 - be close to family and friends and local links
 - have preparation to live independently

- be close to education, work or training opportunities
- have good transport connections bus or train.

Key findings:

The proposal is anticipated to have a positive impact as it will support CLA to be placed in homes in the Borough where this meets their needs.

4. Data and Impact Analysis

Note: officers may want to complement their analysis with data from the State of the Borough and ward profiles, found here: <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough> and Liquidlogic

Liquidlogic is a case management system covering social care, early help and Universal Services within Children's, Families and Adults services. Within Haringey Council, it is the framework within which records for are held, from the point of referral to closure

4a. Age

Data

Borough Profile¹

- 54,422: 0-17 (21%)
- 71,660: 18-34 (27%)
- 63,930: 35-49 (24%)
- 46,516: 50-64 (18%)
- 27,706: 65+ (10%)

Target Population Profile

****Source: Liquidlogic****

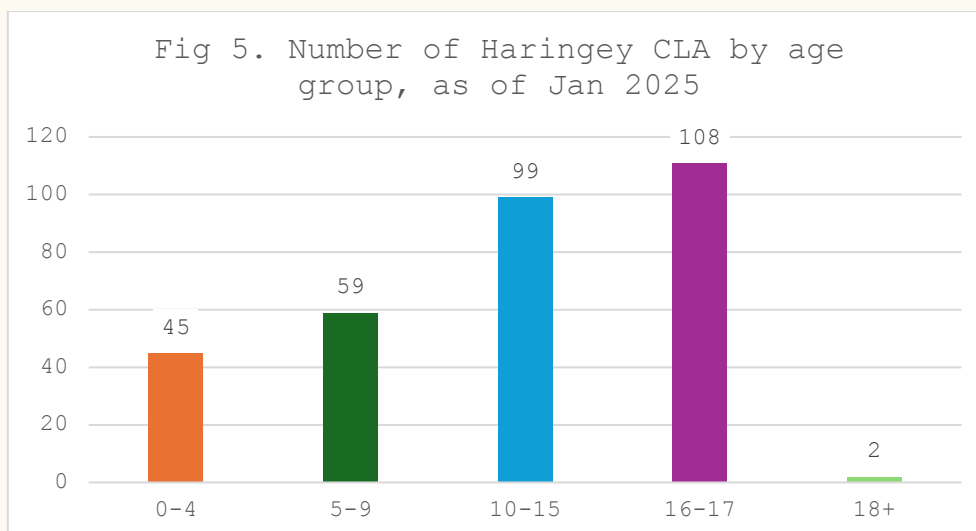
- 26 CLA placed in residential homes: 0-17 (0.05%)

As of Jan 2025, there were 313 children in care. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the age ranges of CLA

Fig 5: CLA Age breakdown

¹ Census, 2021 – [Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/population-and-household-estimates)

****Source: Liquidlogic****



The largest age group of CLA was 16-to-17-year-olds, who made up 35% of the placements. The next most common age group was 10-to-15-year-olds who made up 31% of placements. Please see Fig 9

Fig 9: CLA Placement Type

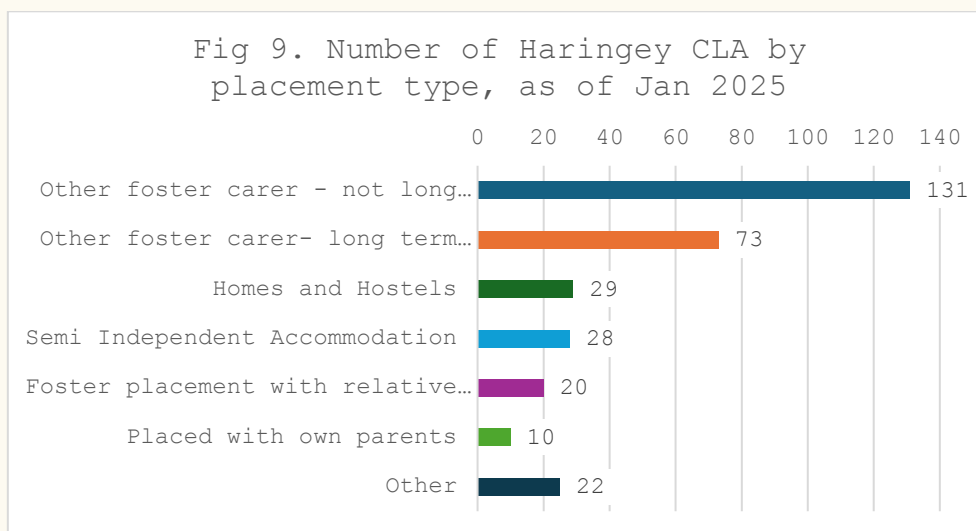
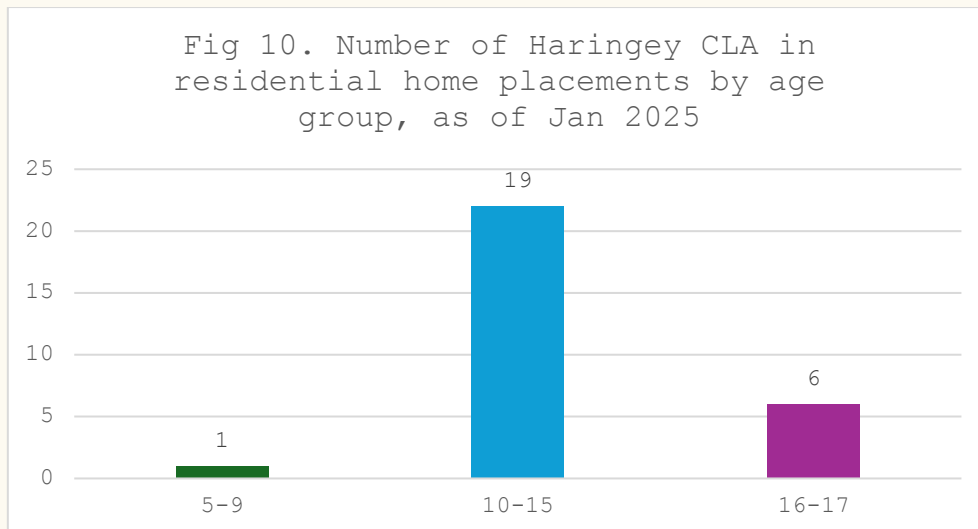


Fig 10 : Number and age of CLA placed in residential homes



The majority of CLA in residential homes are in the age range of 10- 15 years which makes up 79% of the residential placements. The next highest group were 16-to-17-year-olds, at 21% while only one child was in the 5-to-9-years-old group. In comparison to the Borough profile for 0-17 years this represents 0.05% of the population in this age range.

This proposal only affects CLA with the primary age of 5 – under 18 years old who are in the care of Haringey. Ofsted regulations depicts that the primary focus of these homes is for children looked after under 18.

With 313 CLA there are 31% in the age range of 10 -15 of which 22% are in residential accommodation.

The data demonstrates that children aged 10 -15 years old could be disproportionately affected due to an overrepresentation of 10-15-year-olds in residential children's home compared to other age groups.

The overrepresentation of children aged 10-15 in residential homes can be attributed to several factors such as behavioural issues, lack of alternative accommodation such as foster placements and educational needs, children in this age group may have specific educational needs that are better met in a residential setting.

Potential Impacts

A neutral impact is anticipated as there will not be a change in the provision. As corporate parents the council as a duty to assess children's needs and find suitable accommodation that meet CLA needs, which the continued provision of the service will support

4b. Disability

Data

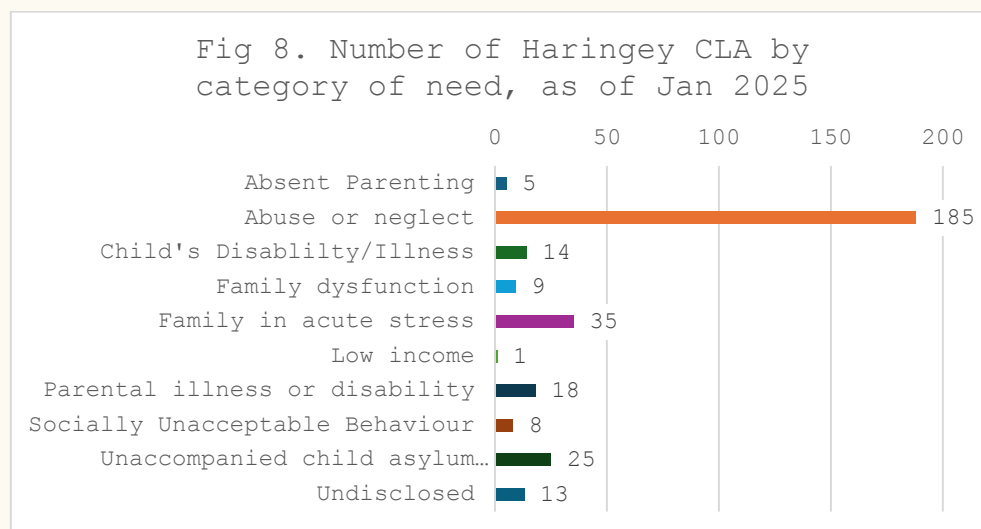
Borough Profile

- Disabled under Equality Act – 13.7%²
 - Day to day activities limited a lot – 6.1%
 - Day to day activities limited a little – 7.5%
- 7.5% of residents people diagnosed with depression³
- 1.7% of residents diagnosed with a severe mental illness⁴
- 0.4% of people in Haringey have a learning disability⁵

Target Population Profile

Children Looked After

Fig 8 : CLA Category of Need



The table demonstrates that 4% of CLA had a 'child disability/illness' as the primary category of need. 14 CLA were placed in children's residential homes with a child disability/illness recorded as primary need. The data illustrates that a high number (48%) of CLA with a primary need of child disability/illness are placed in residential homes.

Table 1: Breakdown of Child Disability/Illness

² Census, 2021 – [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peopleandpopulation/disability)

³ NHS Quality Outcomes Framework – [Prevalence of diagnosed depression among GP registered population age 18+](https://www.nhs.uk/quality-outcomes-framework/prevalence-of-diagnosed-depression-among-gp-registered-population-age-18/)

Source Liquidlogic

⁴ NHS Quality Outcomes Framework – [Prevalence of diagnosed mental health diagnosis among GP registered population age 18+](https://www.nhs.uk/quality-outcomes-framework/prevalence-of-diagnosed-mental-health-diagnosis-among-gp-registered-population-age-18/)

⁵ PHE Learning disability profiles – <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/learning-disabilities#page/0/gid/1938132702/pat/6/par/E12000007/ati/102/are/E09000014>

Disability	Number	%
Autism or Aspergers	8	27.58
Learning Disabilities/Autism	3	10.34
Learning Disabilities	3	10.34
Registered disabled but disability not specified	0	0
No disability recorded	15	51.72

There is an overrepresentation of CLA with disabilities in residential homes. This suggests that children with disabilities or illnesses might face unique challenges that make residential care a more common placement for them. These challenges could include specialized care needs which might not be available in other homes and challenges in finding suitable other arrangements such as fostering leading to a higher reliance on residential care.

Potential Impacts

Because there is no change to the services being delivered, this proposal is anticipated to have a neutral impact on children with disabilities.

4c. Gender Reassignment

Data

Borough Profile⁶

- Gender Identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given – 0.5%
- Trans woman – 0.1%
- Trans man - 0.1%

Target Population Profile

There is no robust data at Borough level on our trans population, however the central government estimates that there are approximately 200,000 to 500,000 trans people in the UK. Assuming an average representation, this would mean between 800 and 2,000 Haringey residents are Trans.

Potential Impacts

The commissioning of children's residential homes is not anticipated to disproportionately impact transgender children and young people specifically as a result of their protected characteristic.

4d. Marriage and Civil Partnership

⁶ Census, 2021 – [Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddisabilities/articles/genderidentityenglandandwales/2021)

Note: Only the first part of the equality duty (*“Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act”*) applies to this protected characteristic.

Data

Borough Profile ⁷

- Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved: (9.9%)
- Married or registered civil partnership: (35.8%)
- Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): (2.9%%)
- Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership): (45.3%)
- Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: (6.1%)

Target Population Profile

This service is targeted for children 0-17years old. The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022, means that child 16- and 17-year-olds will no longer be allowed to marry or enter into a civil partnership even with parental consent

Potential Impacts

This provision is not anticipated to impact on CLA based on their marital status.

4e. Pregnancy and Maternity

Note⁸:

- Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby.
- Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Data

Borough Profile ⁹

Live Births in Haringey 2021: 3,376

Target Population Profile

Commissioning of children’s residential homes for CLA will not significantly affect young women who are pregnant or young women in maternity. We do not have data on the number of young women in care who are pregnant.

Potential Impacts

⁷ Census, 2021 – [Marriage and civil partnership status in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/marriageandcivilpartnership/statusinenglandandwales)

⁸ Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2022 – [Pregnancy and maternity discrimination](#).

⁹ Births by Borough (ONS)

It is not anticipated that commissioning this service will impact this group specifically as a result of their protected characteristic.

4f. Race

In the Equality Act 2010, race can mean ethnic or national origins, which may or may not be the same as a person's current nationality.¹⁰

Data

Borough Profile ¹¹

Arab: 1.0%

- Any other ethnic group: 8.7%

Asian: 8.7%

- Bangladeshi: 1.8%
- Chinese: 1.5%
- Indian: 2.2%
- Pakistani: 0.8%
- Other Asian: 2.4%

Black: 17.6%

- African: 9.4%
- Caribbean: 6.2%
- Other Black: 2.0%

Mixed: 7.0%

- White and Asian: 1.5%
- White and Black African: 1.0%
- White and Black Caribbean: 2.0%
- Other Mixed: 2.5%

White: 57.0% in total

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British: 31.9%
- Irish: 2.2%
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller: 0.1%
- Roma: 0.8%
- Other White: 22.1%

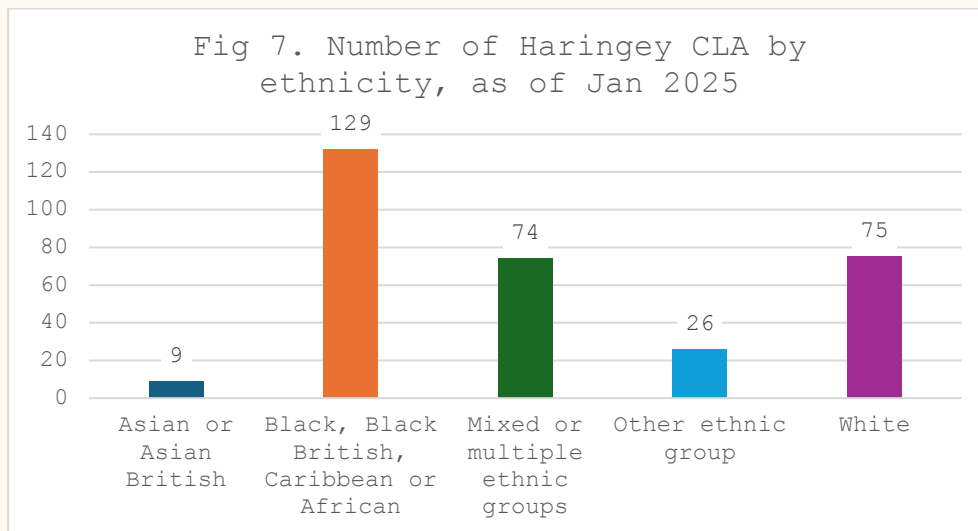
Target Population Profile

Fig 7: CLA by Ethnicity

** Source LiquidLogic**

¹⁰ [Race discrimination | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/race-discrimination)

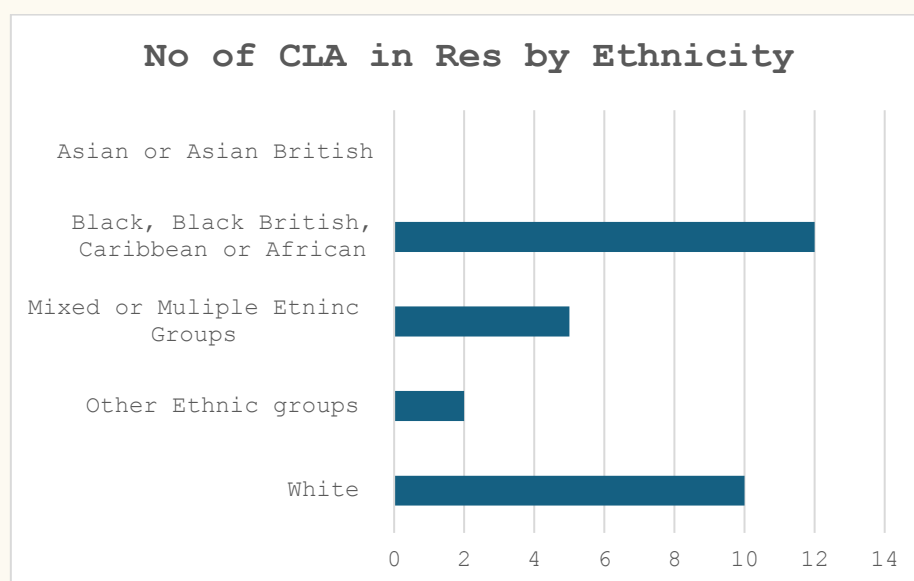
¹¹ Census 2021 - [Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/ethnicity)



Reported ethnicity data shows that the highest proportion of CLA in Haringey as of the January 2025, was from Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnicities, with this group making up 42% of placements. The next highest groups were White, at 24% and Mixed or multiple ethnic groups at 23%.

Fig 12 below demonstrates that CLA who are from Black, Black British, Caribbean or African and white ethnicities are placed in residential children's homes. The average percentage is a total of 9.6% from Black, Black British, Caribbean or African and white ethnicities.

Fig 12: Number of CLA in Residential homes by Ethnicity



Potential Impacts

Black, Black British, Caribbean or African and white ethnicities are overrepresented in the CLA population. Commissioning of children's homes is anticipated to have a positive impact by ensuring the homes are able to support the cultural needs of CLA. Providers joining the framework will need to meet the accreditation criteria and before a placement is confirmed they will be evaluated and chosen based on their ability to support the cultural needs of this overrepresented CLA leading to a more inclusive and supportive environment.

4g. Religion or belief

Data

Borough Profile ¹²

- Christian: 39%
- Buddhist: 0.9%
- Hindu: 1.3%
- Jewish: 3.6%
- Muslim: 12.6%
- No religion: 31.6%
- Other religion: 2.3%
- Religion not stated: 8.0%
- Sikh: 0.3%

Target Population Profile

Data is not held on CLA religion.

Potential Impacts

It is anticipated that this will not disproportionately affect CLA of different religions that are placed in residential homes.

4h. Sex

Data

Borough profile ¹³

- Females: (51.8%)
- Males: (48.2%)

Target Population Profile

313 Children in Care

Fig 6: Number of CLA by Gender

Source Liquidlogic

¹² Census, 2021 – [Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/religiousandethnicgroups/articles/religion-england-and-wales-2021)

¹³ Census 2021 – [Gender identity: age and sex, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/religiousandethnicgroups/articles/gender-identity-age-and-sex-england-and-wales-2021)

There were more male children than female CLA with males making up 59% of placements

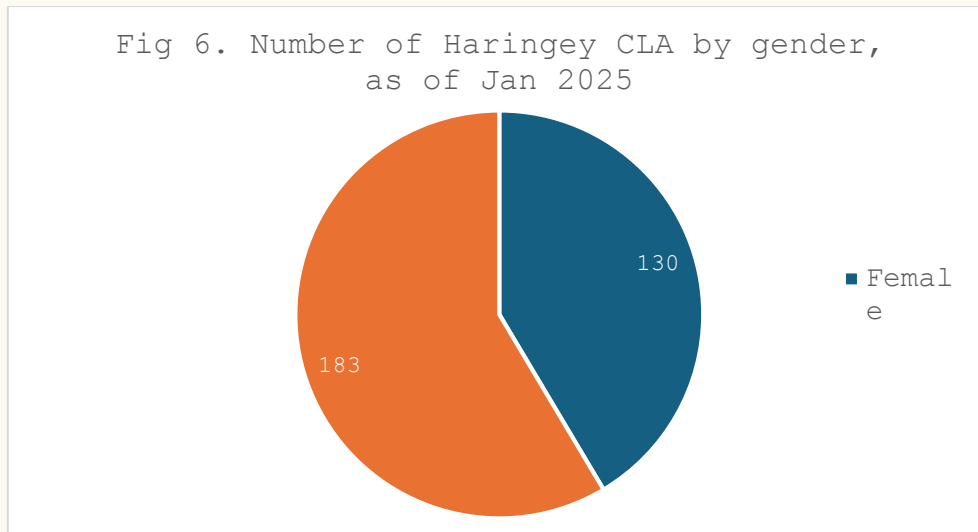
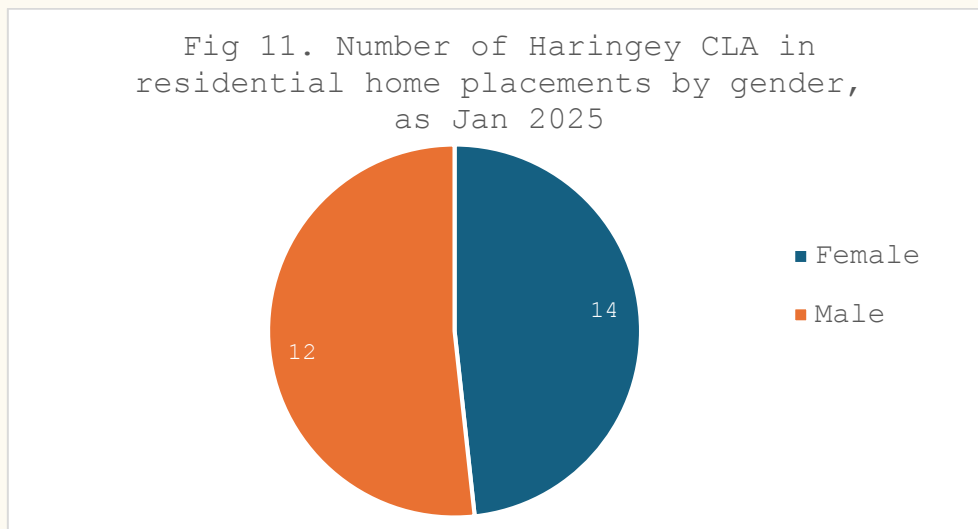


Fig 11: Gender of CLA in Residential homes



The profile of the CLA population illustrated that males made up 59% of the population, however when compared to the gender breakdown in residential homes this was not much difference in the numbers – only 2 more male than female.

The data illustrates 41% of CLA are female and 48% of CLA placed in residential homes are female. Therefore, there is a small overrepresentation of females amongst CLA who are placed in residential homes.

Potential Impacts

This decision is anticipated to have a neutral impact on female CLA because they are placed in accommodation based on assessed need and there is no proposed change to the service provision.

4i. Sexual Orientation

Data

Borough profile ¹⁴

- Straight or heterosexual: 83.4%
- Gay or Lesbian: 2.7%
- Bisexual: 2.1%
- All other sexual orientations: 0.8%
- Not answered: 11.0%

Target Population Profile

3.2% of London residents aged 16 or over identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual in 2013. In Haringey this equates to 6,491 residents.

The sexual orientation of CLA is not recorded.

Potential Impacts

It is not anticipated that the provisions will disproportionately affect children of different sexual orientations.

4j. Socioeconomic Status

Data

Borough profile

Income

- 6.9% of the population of Haringey were claiming unemployment benefit as of April 2023¹⁵
- 19.6% of residents were claiming Universal Credit as of March 2023¹⁶
- 29.3% of jobs in Haringey are paid below the London Living Wage¹⁷

Educational Attainment

- Haringey ranks 25th out of 32 in London for GCSE attainment (% of pupils achieving strong 9-5 pass in English and Maths)¹⁸
- 3.7% of Haringey's working age population had no qualifications as of 2021¹⁹

¹⁴ Census, 2021 – [Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/sexualorientationandgender/articles/sexualorientationandgenderinenglandandwales/2021)

¹⁵ ONS – [ONS Claimant Count](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/employmentandunemployment/articles/onsclaimantcount/2023)

¹⁶ DWP, StatXplore – [Universal Credit statistics, 29 April 2013 to 9 March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/statistics/universal-credit-statistics)

¹⁷ ONS – [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\) - Estimates of the number and proportion of employee jobs with hourly pay below the living wage, by work geography, local authority and parliamentary constituency, UK, April 2017 and April 2018 - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/employmentandunemployment/articles/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings(ash)e/estimatesofthenumberandproportionofemployeejobswithhourlypaybelowthelivingwagebyworkgeographylocalauthorityandparliamentaryconstituencyukapril2017andapril2018)

¹⁸ DfE – [GCSE attainment and progress 8 scores](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gcse-attainment-and-progress-8-scores)

¹⁹ LG Inform – [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/data-reports)

- 5.0% were qualified to level one only²⁰

Area Deprivation

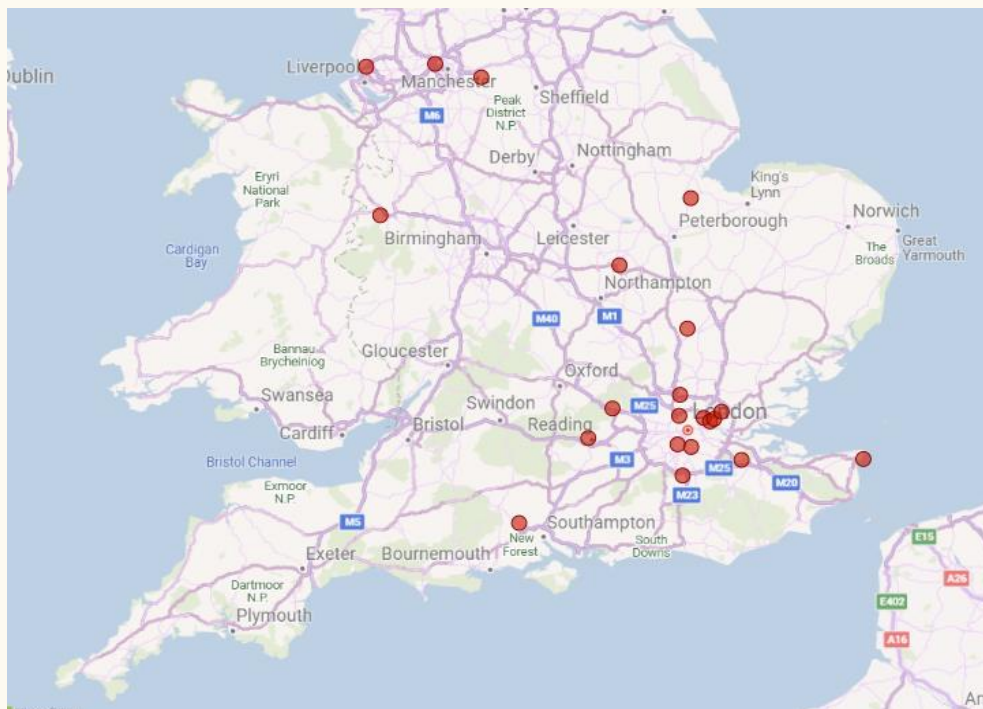
Haringey is the 4th most deprived in London as measured by the IMD score 2019. The most deprived LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas, or small neighbourhood areas) are more heavily concentrated in the east of the borough, where more than half of the LSOAs fall into the 20% most deprived in the country.²¹

Target Population Profile

316 Children in Care

Table 10 gives an indication of the number of children in care placed in residential homes accommodated within 20 miles of the Borough and 20 miles outside of the Borough. Children in care needs are taken into account when sourcing placements and due to the risk of keeping children safe and also the sufficiency of placements there is sometimes a need to place children outside of the Borough. Providers would be required to provide a risk location assessment, and this will support with the decision-making process.

Table 10 Map of CLA Residential Placements

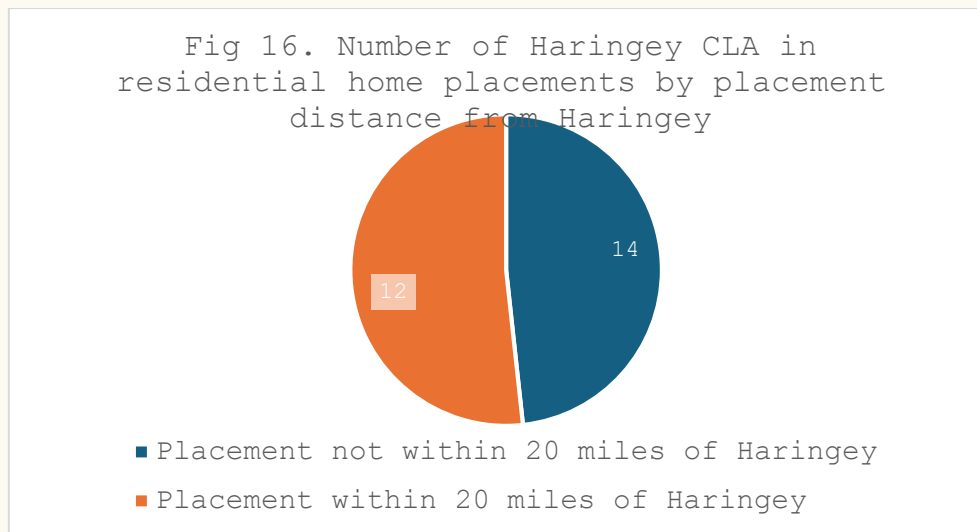


There is an almost even split between the number of placements within or outside of a 20-mile radius of Haringey

²⁰ LG Inform – [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/data-reports)

²¹ IMD 2019 – [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019)

Fig 16 : Placement distance to Haringey



Potential Impacts

This provision is not anticipated to impact on CLA based on Socioeconomic Status. The council does not collect data on previous financial situation as this cohort are children in care and as corporate parents the council is financially responsible for CLA. The council has savings policy to ensure savings are in place for CLA, saving for the future of CLA and supporting the financial education and planning forms part of the discharge of duties.

5. Key Impacts Summary

5a. Outline the key findings of your data analysis.

The data illustrates that Black, Black other, African and Caribbean, backgrounds are overrepresented in the CLA population and are the highest ethnicity placed in residential homes compared to other ethnic groups. Additionally, there are 29 CLA placed in residential homes of which 14 CLA had child disability/illness recorded as primary need. The data illustrates that a high number (48%) of CLA with a primary need of child disability/illness are placed in residential homes. This suggests that children with disabilities or illnesses might face unique challenges that make residential care a more common placement for them. These challenges could include specialized care needs which might not be available in other homes and challenges in finding suitable other arrangements such as fostering leading to a higher reliance on residential care

There is an even split of males and females however when compared to the CLA population, females are overrepresented within residential homes.

5b. Intersectionality

This proposal does not alter the provision which means it has a neutral impact on all groups in receipt of the support.

5c. Data Gaps

There are data gaps on CLA religion and recording and monitoring of gender reassignment. These will be addressed with the new Liquidlogic system and better recording of religious faith and transgender identities.

6. Overall impact of the policy for the Public Sector Equality Duty

The Children Act 1989 and the Children and Young Person Act 2008 which places a sufficiency duty on local authorities to secure accommodation for children in their care, stating “the Local Authority must take steps to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the Authority’s area boundaries which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after 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”.

Commissioning of residential homes will support the council to be compliant with our statutory duty. Providers will be subject to quality assurance visits to ensure the standard of accommodation, location and support provided meets the councils' expectations. The council will be working in partnership with homes registered in Haringey to develop a Haringey first offer to support CLA to be placed closer to the Borough where this meets CLA needs.

7. Amendments and mitigations

7a. What changes, if any, do you plan to make to your proposal because of the Equality Impact Assessment?

The EQIA demonstrates the proposal is robust and there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

No major change to the proposal: the EQIA demonstrates the proposal is robust and there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

7b. What specific actions do you plan to take to remove or mitigate any actual or potential negative impact and to further the aims of the Equality Duty?

The service will continue to ensure robust monitoring of provider, placing CLA closer to home where possible improve data monitoring on systems.

Lead officer: Pauline Simpson

8. Ongoing monitoring

No ongoing monitoring is planned.

9. Authorisation

EQIA approved by (Assistant Director/ Director)

Caroline Brain

Date

30/04/2025

10. Publication

Please ensure the completed EQIA is published in accordance with the Council's policy.

Please contact the Policy & Strategy Team for any feedback on the EQIA process.

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