

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES CABINET PANEL  
WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2018 AT 9.30AM**

**HERTFORDSHIRE SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2017-2020 FOR THE  
ACCOMMODATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Report of the Director of Children's Services*

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Executive Member: Teresa Heritage, Children, Young People and Families

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To provide the Panel with an update on the Sufficiency Statement for the accommodation of children and young people in Hertfordshire.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The Hertfordshire Sufficiency Statement for the Accommodation of Children and Young People has been prepared in response to the requirements of Section 22 G of the Children Act 1989 and is attached as Appendix A to the report.

2.2 It will drive commissioning activity for Children Looked After until 2020.

**3. Recommendation/s**

3.1 The Panel is asked to note, comment upon and support the activity proposed by Children's Services.

**4. Background**

4.1 Under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989, The County Council has a general duty to take steps so far as reasonably practicable to secure accommodation within its area that meets the needs of Looked After Children (CLA), children who are unable to live with their parents, someone with Parental Responsibility or a Child Arrangements Order or a child whose welfare requires it.

- 4.2 The refreshed Hertfordshire Sufficiency Statement for the Accommodation of Children and Young People is in response to the requirements of Section 22G of the Children Act 1989. It will drive commissioning activity for Children Looked After until 2020 duty”).
- 4.3 The attached Sufficiency Statement provides an analysis of the current provision and market capacity in relation to the demographics of the Children Looked After population in Hertfordshire. It also identifies where capacity is adequate or where there are gaps relevant to identified and evidenced need.
- 4.4 The statement is a refresh from the Hertfordshire Sufficiency Statement for the Accommodation of Children and Young People 2017 – 2018.
- 4.5 Accommodation for children and young people is provided by Children’s Services according to identified needs and will have due regard to the protected characteristics defined by the Equalities Act 2010.
- 4.6 The Sufficiency Statement provides a summary of progress against Children’s Services priorities for 2017-2018, its commissioning intentions for 2018-2019 to further improve service delivery and how it will address some of the challenges that Hertfordshire faces in delivering services for children who are looked after.
- 4.7 It also provides an analysis of the current provision and market capacity in relation to the demographics of the Children Looked After population in Hertfordshire, care leavers and children on the edge of care. This document identifies where capacity is adequate or where there are gaps relevant to identified and evidenced need.
- 4.8 Since the last Annual Sufficiency Statement, Hertfordshire has developed and is embedding an outcome framework across all Children’s Services in order to measure the distance travelled by individual children receiving services, and to shape how we commission services. These are entitled the ‘Outcome Bees’ which have been co-produced by families, providers, professionals and young people. These are based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, namely ‘Be Happy’, ‘Be Safe’, ‘Be Resilient’, ‘Be Ambitious’, ‘Be Healthy’ and ‘Be Independent’. A quarterly performance group with multi-agency professionals across Children’s Services, the Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Virtual School will review and contribute to Children Looked After commissioning intentions, reflective of the outcome framework.
- 4.9 The County Council continues to host the Children’s Cross Regional Arrangements Group, demonstrating commitment to regional working

and reducing inefficiencies through sharing of monitoring and fee increase negotiations nationally.

- 4.10 The priorities for the coming year as outlined above are to increase the number of local placements, support more children to remain in their families where it is safe to do so, provide appropriate support and accommodation to care leavers who are not able to access social housing and to create more specialist provision for children with complex needs.

## **5. Equality implications**

- 5.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the Equality implications of the decision that they are making.
- 5.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA).
- 5.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 5.4 Accommodation for children and young people is provided according to identified needs and will have due regard to the protected characteristics defined by the Equalities Act 2010. An equalities impact assessment is carried out for all commissioning activity.
- 5.5 The Sufficiency Statement addresses areas of equality and diversity and this is a key consideration in placement provision and planning.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 The cost of the commissioning activity outlined in the report will be met by existing budgets.

### Background Information

Sufficiency Statement - Appendix 1