

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee/Panel:	Children & Families Advisory Panel
Date:	7 June 2016
Title:	Sufficiency Duty
Reference:	7512
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Amber James

Tel: 07595 495728

Email: amber.james@hants.gov.uk

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to share the Sufficiency Duty Strategy for Hampshire Children's Services for 2016-2018.
- 1.2. The duty to provide or procure placements for Children Looked After (Children in Care) is explicit in the Children Act 1989. This has since been strengthened by the introduction of Sufficiency Statutory Guidance (2010) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (implementation April 2011).

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. There is a duty of 'sufficiency' that requires Local Authorities and Children's Trust partners to ensure that, through direct provision or commissioned services, a range of placements sufficient to meet the needs of all children in care are available locally or that there is a plan in place to move towards that position.
- 2.2. Attached is the Sufficiency Duty for Hampshire for 2016-18. It provides the context, governance and action planning for sufficiency for the following areas of need in Hampshire:
 1. Early help for children and families
 2. Managing Risk for children on the edge of care
 3. Foster placements
 4. Adoption
 5. In-house provision of residential accommodation

6. Commissioned residential placements
7. Secure accommodation
8. Post 16 and leaving care

3. Finance

- 3.1. There are no additional financial considerations as a result of this strategy that are not being managed in day to day operational practice.

4. Performance

- 4.1. The strategy is the result of a duty under the Children Act 1989 (Section 22G) and therefore performance management is key and is undertaken through internal governance (demonstrated on page 21) and externally through Ofsted.

5. Other key issues

- 5.1. None identified.

6. Consultation and Equalities

- 6.1. No consultation has been undertaken other than through internal discussions and statistical analysis of areas of need.

7. Future direction

- 7.1. Compliance with the strategy will be monitored as outlined in section 4.
- 7.2. The strategy will be updated in 2018 unless significant changes are required before that time.

8. Recommendation

That the Panel note the contents of the Sufficiency Duty Strategy and requests the Director of Children's Services bring the contents to the attention of the Executive Member for Children's Services

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
The Children Act 1989		1989
Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984		1984
Care Standards Act, 2000		2000
Statutory guidance; Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, 2009		2009
Sufficiency of Accommodation Guidance 2010		2010
Care Planning Regulations 2010		2010
Children's Homes Regulations, 2011		2011
Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act, 2012		2012
Children and Families Act 2014		2014
Children's Homes and Looked After Children (Miscellaneous amendments) (England) Regulations 2013		2013

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Children in care are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. Children's early experiences can have long-term impacts on their emotional and physical health, social development, education and future employment. Most children are taken into care because of abuse or neglect. Children entering the care system are likely to have complex needs. The Sufficiency Duty intends to benefit children and young people through a strategic approach to placements, commissioning, recruiting and matching according to well evidenced needs and a range of different placement options.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. Through providing high quality accommodation and care to young people, the anticipated impact on crime and disorder is positive.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact on climate change identified.