

Resident Impact Assessment

Contract Award for the commissioning of regulated placements- foster care and residential care

Service Area: Children, Employment and Skills

1. What are the intended outcomes of this policy, function etc?

Islington Council is intending to collaborate with the West London Alliance (WLA) sub regional commissioning group for the commissioning of care services (regulated foster care and residential care placements). This collaboration will also provide access to Special Education Need and Disability placements (SEND). The arrangement offers access to an electronic brokerage system, Care Place, which will provide an efficient system for managing the purchasing, contracting and the reviewing and monitoring of placements with an emphasis on safeguarding.

The need to address the current financial pressures in Children, Employment and Skills Services is one of the key drivers for this approach. Equally, market management and control is essential to achieving sufficiency of placements, increasing buying power and financial sustainability going forward. The partnership with the WLA offers the potential for immediate cashable and cost avoidance savings. This is difficult to achieve as a single agency and under current partnership arrangements.

Our financial analysis shows the potential for long-term cost benefits by utilising the discount framework available on the WLA procurement vehicle.

Access to Care Place will reduce the resource intensive nature of current commissioning practice and increase the development of future shared services and commissioning projects and procurement.

2. Resident Profile

Who is going to be impacted by this change i.e. residents/service users/tenants? Please complete data for your service users. If your data does not fit into the categories in this table, please copy and paste your own table in the space below. Please refer to **section 3.3** of the guidance for more information.

		Borough profile	Service User profile
		Total: 206,285	Total: 344
Gender	Female	51%	40%

	Male	49%	60%
Age	Under 16	32,825	223
	16-24	29,418	121 (Ages 16 and 17 only)
	25-44	87,177	N/A
	45-64	38,669	N/A
	65+	18,036	N/A
Disability	Disabled	16%	8%
	Non-disabled	84%	92%
Sexual orientation	LGBT	No data	
	Heterosexual/straight	No data	
Race	BME	52%	60%
	White	48%	39%
Religion or belief	Christian	40%	44%
	Muslim	10%	16%
	Other	4.5%	4%
	No religion	30%	18%
	Religion not stated	17%	19%

3. Equality impacts

With reference to the [guidance](#), please describe what are the equality and socio-economic impacts for residents and what are the opportunities to challenge prejudice or promote understanding?

- The vision for Islington is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable children young people through the delivery of high quality care placements and associated services.
- In the five years from 2011 through to 2015, the total number of children looked after by the Council increased by 7% from 329 to 353 children. The biggest increase is attributed to the numbers of UASC which has doubled in the last three years along with the numbers of young people aged 16 and over. The rate of children looked after in Islington has remained consistently higher than our statistical neighbour and London average. Islington is ranked second highest out of our statistical neighbours and the highest in London.
- This procurement is designed to meet the diverse needs of the looked after population which includes children with disabilities, with Special Education needs those who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).
- This proposal will have no impact in terms of equality. Eligibility for services is enshrined within the legislation ensuring fair access for all. Services are being commissioned based on the current assessment of needs local knowledge and evidence.
- The service is not specifically targeted at young people from a particular race, refugees or migrants, any particular religion or LGBT groups. No individual will be excluded or

discriminated against on the basis of their religion or belief. The service will not be targeted as being exclusively for LGBT people. However, no individual will be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation.

- The specification and contract will state that the provider must be able to work and retain engagement with service users from diverse backgrounds. The service will be monitored to ensure that fair access, fair exit, diversity and inclusion are embedded within the culture of the service and there is demonstrable promotion and implementation of the policies. This will be monitored through the scheduled programme of contract reviews.
- Residential service and foster agencies who will tender for this procurement are already established in communities across London. There is likely to be minimal provision in borough as a result of this procurement.
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4. Safeguarding and Human Rights impacts

a) Safeguarding risks and Human Rights breaches

Please describe any safeguarding risks for children or vulnerable adults AND any potential human rights breaches that may occur as a result of the proposal? Please refer to **section 4.8** of the [guidance](#) for more information.

There are no safeguarding risks for children inherent in this proposal. The services commissioned are regulated by Ofsted and services are responsive to young people who present with risks to themselves and others.

The specification requires services to be delivered In London and within North London thereby ensuring that young people who cannot be safely accommodated in Islington receive the same high quality services and interventions when placed outside of the borough.

Whilst the evaluation and award criteria for safeguarding remains robust the procurement will enable providers with an Ofsted judgement of 'requires improvement' to join the procurement and offer strategic support to these providers to improve their standards aiming for Good or above. An inbuilt safeguarding mechanism will alert local authorities to a change in an Ofsted Judgement and a safeguarding alert system will enable individual local authorities to raise concerns regarding providers. Suspension from the DPS will occur where providers have safeguarding concerns against them.

If potential safeguarding and human rights risks are identified then **please contact equalities@islington.gov.uk to discuss further:**

5. Action

How will you respond to the impacts that you have identified in sections 3 and 4, or address any gaps in data or information?

For more information on identifying actions that will limit the negative impact of the policy for protected groups see the [guidance](#).

Action	Responsible person or team	Deadline

Please send the completed RIA to equalites@islington.gov.uk and also make it publicly available online along with the relevant policy or service change.

This Resident Impact Assessment has been completed in accordance with the guidance and using appropriate evidence.

Staff member completing this form:

Head of Service or higher:

Signed: Angela Elliott

Signed:

K. Gabbings

Date: 22/02/2018

Date: 12/03/2018