

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v2 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA522766666

Submitted: 14 August 2023 14:49 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Alternative to Residential Framework

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Decision

Overview of policy / decision: The proposal is to agree to close the residential framework as of February 2024 and replace this with block purchase arrangements.

The original decision to launch a tender for a framework contract was approved by Cabinet in January 2019. It sought 'to improve oversight of outcomes for children and young people using this service and ensure contractual compliance and improve market management'.

The framework commenced in February 2020 and is a 4-year contract, operating 3 lots, Children and young people with disabilities, children and young people with social emotional mental health and same day emergency placements.

The first year of operation, 20% of residential placements were made via the framework, this increased marginally by year two at 24%. This represents a low level of purchasing activity.

Spot purchasing remains the substantial means of securing a placement at 76%.

Feedback from Local authorities throughout 2022/23, including via the Eastern Region Collaboration Meeting, found the market signalled a clear preference for soft or block arrangements whilst keeping autonomy of their services.

Feedback from our own small market engagement event, with four providers from the voluntary sector, found three out of four providers were not surprised that there is a decline of the amount of voluntary sector providers working with Essex County Council. Reasons included financial complications, regulatory requirements, pressures on staffing and unrealistic assumptions as to the true cost of providing residential care.

Sufficiency forecasting has predicted the need for access to 8 further residential placements in the next 2 years, based upon the expected growth of children and young people in care including the impact of the cost of living.

In addition, registered services will be required for the children and young people who are placed in unregistered settings. There were 14 young people in Essex, in unregistered settings as of 3rd July 2023.

The local residential demographic for the Council is positive with enough placements in the County to meet needs, however access to these services remain a challenge.

FLT considered a full residential review and there was a clear preference for block placements.

There are four options, two are relevant to the ECIA and are the preferred options.

The paper will recommend option 1, which is to block contract (10-30% of cohort) with providers who can work

exclusively with ECC. This will be alongside a 10 year Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to further reduce spot purchasing and associated risk.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: • Reduce the amount of unregistered placements (currently 14 children and young people, as of 3rd July 2023)

- Essex County Council benefits from more exclusive relationships and providers benefit from workforce and training
- Reduce out of county placements (currently 55% n=632 of 1150 children)
- Improved relationships with existing partners who we purchase accommodation from
- Work with the market to increase externally provided placements, as per The Council's Residential Plan, which supports achieving outcomes.
- Financial stability for the Children's Residential budget because it allows us to plan our costs better because with spot purchasing, we have no idea of the total cost of each placement.
- Needs lead placement for children and young people

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Helen Lincoln (Children, Families & Education)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Beverley Egan (Children's Services and Early Years)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: Change to an existing policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: • Monitoring of the Ofsted monthly reports for providers on overall effectiveness.

- Reviews with partners for updates.
- Monitoring the number of unregistered placements to see if this new alternative reduces the amount.
- Contract management with providers to ensure they understand terms of our contract and what we expect from them in relation to positive outcomes for children and young people in their care.
- Looking for a reduction in out of county placements (currently 55% n=632 of 1150 children in mainstream residential and 66.7% n=47 of children with disabilities). This can be achieved through reviewing maps which shows whether placements are in our out of county. These are monitored monthly.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: No

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: A good place for Children and Families to Grow

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families: Education outcomes, Family resilience and stability, Safety, Outcomes for vulnerable children, Levelling up outcomes for families

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: This decision is important to deliver the Council's Everyone's Essex commitments and is integral to the 'Families' priorities, specifically to improve educational outcomes, improve family resilience and stability, maintain safety, and deliver good outcomes for

vulnerable children which includes Children in Care, Care Leavers, Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities.

At this point in time, it has not been decided whether there is any particular focus on different groups. Regardless of this decision, we are committed to equality of opportunity and treating all children and young people fairly and responsibly, irrespective of any of the above characteristics. However, for that individual cohort of children and young people there may be a higher positive impact on them, as a result of block placements being more stable and needs specific.

Before we go out to block these beds, we will do a review of the characteristics and needs of the children and young people in care, to make sure that we are meeting their specific needs. It is also important to consider that even if people had similar backgrounds, they still may have different needs to one another so we cannot prejudge what those needs might be.

We will explore how we can improve data captivity for protected characteristics.

Age is important because these new block placements are for children and young people in residential care who are under 18. It is a positive impact because they are being provided with increased placements but is a low positive because this decision will not be changing the age of children and young people in care.

In February 2022, there were 70 Children in Care with a disability, 33 were within the residential sector (6% of 1150 children in care in Essex, as of May 2023). Although a small figure comparative to the rest of children and young people in care, figures on out of county placements show a clear gap with 66.7% (n=47) of children and young people with disabilities (August 2023) being placed out of county, compared to 55% of children (n=632) and young people who do not have disabilities being placed out of county. Therefore, having a block framework may reduce the amount of out of county placements for children and young people with disabilities, especially when current figures show that as of July 2023 there are 60 placements in Essex available for children and young people with a learning difficulty and 22 for a physical disability. A stable placement can allow them to receive needs lead care, as per the benefits mentioned in option 1 (Executive summary section).

However, due to children and young people with disabilities not being prioritised over any other group of children and young people, this has been put as a medium positive impact.

16.6% of Essex Children in care (n=191 Children and Young People out of 1150) are from BAME backgrounds. Whilst this seems like a small figure, compared to the national average, there is an over representation of Dual Heritage (7.9% compared to 2.2%) and Black (4.5% compared to 3.4%) 0–17-year-olds in care. There is an under representation of Asian children and young people (2.2% compared to 7.7% of the national average).

A medium positive would be presented from having new block placements and a DPS system. Although children and young people from Black, Asian, and Ethnic minority backgrounds are not more positively or negatively impacted than any other child or young person in care, an over representation of Dual Heritage and Black children and young people in care suggests there would need to be more consideration for racial and religious belief. This may affect the child or young person's needs and requirements in a placement. A more stable placement can allow more needs lead care.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: Positive impacts will be strengthened by promotion of the new framework and market engagement events with providers, to encourage them to work the Council to provide block placements.

We currently have plans for future market engagement events.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an

all-age approach)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Working families

Nature of impact: None

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Residents of Harlow

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Harwich

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As part of our Strategic Aims, we are to provide an equal foundation for every child or young person.

At this point in time, it has not been decided whether there is any particular focus on different groups. Regardless of this decision, we are committed to equality of opportunity and treating all children and young people fairly and responsibly, irrespective of any of the above characteristics. However, for that individual cohort of children and young people there may be a higher positive impact on them, as a result of block placements being more stable

and needs specific.

Diversity is important to consider when looking at needs and requirement for children and young people in care because even though there are children and young people with similar backgrounds, they will not have the same needs and so there is an emphasis on the placements being needs specific.

Before we go out to block these beds, we will do a review of the characteristics and needs of the Children and young people in care, to make sure that we are meeting their specific needs.

We will explore how we can improve data captivity for protected characteristics.

In February 2022, there were 70 Children in Care with a disability, 33 were within the residential sector (6% of 1150 children in care in Essex, as of May 2023). Although a small figure comparative to the rest of children and young people in care, figures on out of county placements show a clear gap with 66.7% (n=47) of children and young people with disabilities (August 2023) being placed out of county, compared to 55% of children and young people (n=632) who do not have disabilities being placed out of county. Therefore, having a block framework may reduce the amount of county placements for children and young people with disabilities, especially when current figures show that as of July 2023 there are 60 placements in Essex available for children and young people with a learning difficulty and 22 for a physical disability. A stable placement can allow them to receive needs lead care, as per the benefits mentioned in option 1 (Executive summary section).

However, due to children and young people with disabilities not being prioritised over any other group of children and young people, this has been put as a medium positive impact.

58% of Children in Need are eligible for free school meals, comparing to 23% for all pupils, which again shows a positive correlation with increased block placements but does not show a greater or lesser impact, which is why they have been marked as a low positive. It simply means that children and young people in care who are on free school meals are also eligible for a block placement regardless.

There is a positive impact for Young adults aged 16-25 who have not been in education, training, or employment for around 6-12 months. Whilst we weren't specifically making this decision to have a positive impact it may have a low positive impact because if these children and young people are in settled placements, they may be in a better position to remain in education or employment.

As this is an All of Essex approach, it means there will be a positive impact for all areas within Essex.

As per The Children Act 1989, the Council are required to secure accommodation for children in their care, within 20 miles of home and within local authority boundaries wherever possible and appropriate.

For all geographical areas mentioned, it is too early to be know what the impact will be because at the moment, we do not know where we are block purchasing the beds and this will not be known until we go out to tender. We have children and young people in care in all areas of Essex so we would suggest that the impact will be the same across all of these areas.

It is important however to note that Jaywick and Clacton fall under the Tendring area and Tendring has the highest prevalence of children in Care in the County (62.4 per 10,000). Therefore, for children and young people living within these areas there will be a low positive impact due to known statistic of children and young people in residential care within these areas.

Currently, 55% of 1150 children and young people in care (n= 632), are placed out of county. By working with local providers, to secure block placements, it can then aim to increase the number of local placements being provided and therefore benefits both local providers and children and young people within these areas.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: Working with providers to provide placements with a good geographical spread across the County, closer to children and young people's families (if appropriate),

where possible.

Engage with the voluntary sector and encourage them to work with us because currently we only have one voluntary provider, working with us in Southend on Sea.

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Victims of modern slavery

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children / care leavers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People on low income

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Sex workers

Nature of impact: None

Ethnic minorities

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Obviously, the biggest beneficiary is for Looked after children, but looked after children and young people have different backgrounds and therefore, we would also expect to see a small positive impact on some of the groups listed above who happen to fall into one of these categories, as well as being children and young people in care.

A positive impact will be used for all children and young people who fall into these categories because we are committed to equality of opportunity and treating all children and young people fairly and responsibly, irrespective of any of the above characteristics. However, for that individual cohort of children and young people there may be a higher positive impact on them, as a result of block placements being more stable and needs specific.

Diversity is important to consider when looking at needs and requirement for children and young people in care because even though there are children and young people with similar backgrounds, they will not have the same needs and so there is an emphasis on the placements being needs specific.

As of May 2023, there were 1,150 children and young people in care in Essex. Forecasts show numbers may rise to 1,250 within the next two years within reasoning including pressure from increased Separated Migrant Children. This may represent children and young people under the refugee/asylum seeking or victims of modern slavery sections above. Although these children and young people are equal priority to any other child or young person in care in terms of placements, it is important to consider a positive impact regarding more block placements available for children in care and their needs. Especially, when it is likely these children and young people would have faced some sort of trauma.

16.6% of Essex Children in Care (n=191 children out of 1150) are from BAME backgrounds. Whilst this seems like a small figure, compared to the national average, there is an over representation of Dual Heritage (7.9% compared to 2.2%) and Black (4.5% compared to 3.4%) 0–17-year-olds in care. There is an under representation of Asian children and young people (2.2% compared to 7.7% of the national average).

A medium positive would be presented from having new block placements and a DPS system. Although children and young people from Black, Asian, and Ethnic minority backgrounds are not more positively or negatively impacted than any other child or young person in care, an over representation of Dual Heritage and Black children and young people in care suggests there would need to be more consideration for racial and religious belief, as it may affect the child or young person's needs and requirements in a placement. A more stable

placement can allow more needs lead care.

Section 21 of The Children's Act 1989 requires a local authority to accommodate certain children who are either removed or kept away from home under Part V of the 1989 Act or who are subject to a criminal court order. We know that some of our current cohort of children and young people in care are involved or previously involved in criminal activity (number is to be confirmed) and being in a settled placement, which would be offered by this decision, could reduce the likelihood of criminal activity.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: More cooperation with new and existing partners to provide increased placements for children and young people requiring residential care.

Continuing to follow existing policies in regards to being needs led around placement provision.

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People living in urban or over-populated areas

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Tendring has the highest prevalence of children in Care in the County (62.4 per 10,000). Therefore, for children and young people living in areas of high deprivation this has a positive impact. However, this is low because there is no difference in impact with these new block placements in these areas then the rest of Essex.

For the rest of the areas, the impact is too early to be known because at the moment, we do not know where we are block purchasing the beds because that will not be known until we go out to tender. We have children in care in all areas of Essex so we would suggest that the impact will be the same across all geographical areas.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: Increased local placement within Essex to allow children and young people in care to live within 20 miles of their families, where possible and appropriate, as per The Children's Act 1989.

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: None

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Within Essex, the majority of looked after children and young people are in care due to abuse and neglect, at 71% (n=751). Other reasons include, absent parenting (9.7% n= 103), family dysfunction (7.42% n= 79), family in acute stress (7.05% n= 75), child or young person's disability (3.9% n= 41), parental illness and disability (1.4% n=15) – Children Looked After Return Dashboard Essex Open Data 2021 (based on a figure of 1,064 children in care). Data for 2023 was not available.

This might support families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown, who are in the fact it might improve to their families which may therefore improve relationships.

This relates to The Essex Sufficiency Strategy which encourages to work effectively with providers as partners to ensure that children are placed as close to home as possible.

Currently, 55% of 1150 Children in Care (n=632), are placed out of county.

The children and young are being separated from loving relationships with brothers, sisters and the other people that matter to them most. One child mentioned that normally they spoke to their brother once a month but now it has been two or three months- Essex Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2026.

The offer will mean the wider family is also supported, through increased local placements to allow relationships to remain with families, when appropriate and safe.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: Working closely with providers to ensure children and young people in care have good relationships with their families where possible.

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit): Yes

Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?: It is unknown as to how staff or service users are travelling at this moment of time. It is likely that a mix of public and private transport options will

be used, for example buses, trains, other methods of public transport and personal or lease vehicles such as cars and motorbikes. They may walk or cycle if they live close to the residential home.

The decision creates greater sufficiency of residential placements in Essex. We have not yet decided where the new block placements will be within the county but because more children and young people will be placed within county (rather than outside of Essex) this will reduce the amount of travel Essex based Social workers and those visiting the children and young people will do. This has a positive impact on climate.

It is likely however there will be instances of staff who live outside of Essex, based on providers sharing their difficulties recruiting. This is not something we would have influence over as staffing is down to the Provider. Furthermore, the market has fed back to us that recruitment is difficult at the moment so they can't always be selective over recruiting local staff. They also need a specialised skill set so recruitment would be prioritised on recruiting the right person for the role. ECC have suggested to providers we can potentially assist with their adverts, so adverts from ECC might encourage more Essex applicants.

We can look into whether there are any ECC plans or incentives regarding travelling to work using public transport, active transport or car sharing for social workers who visit the children. We can also share with providers Essex's climate ambitions, which may influence their own perspective on sustainable travel for the providers own staff.

If car travel is unavoidable, are you specifying electric cars and vehicles?: No

What is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?: It is unreasonable to stipulate as part of the tender that providers use electric vehicles as it will prohibit them from bidding, but that we can hare with provider's Essex's climate ambitions.

Additionally, social workers also travel to visit the young people and a lot of them have lease cars so we can have a look into whether ECC has plans or incentives to transition lease cars to be all electric.

Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?: Yes

Please confirm for purchase over £100k that you have a carbon reduction plan as part of your procurement: N/A

Please list which climate TOMS (Themes, outcomes & measures) you have included in your procurement and the weighting these have been given: Social value requirements, including climate TOMS, will be included in our procurement process.

Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?: No

Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new: Yes

Most of our activities will generate waste so it is important that this waste is managed properly. Generally, the more waste produced the greater the greenhouse gas impact. What approaches are in place to maximise reuse, recycling and composting of any waste generated by this decision? Please specify how you are:

Measuring the amount of waste being generated and setting targets to reduce, for example setting reuse requirements: Setting targets will be considered as part of the procurement/ contracting process but we can include this topic at future market engagement events, so that providers aren't surprised.

Although the blocked beds already exist, by block purchasing instead of spot purchasing it means that we as a local authority may have more influence of how the Provider manages their climate impact. This means we will work with the Provider who may support us in reaching our 2050 net zero goal in ways that they can. Social value requirements, including climate TOMS, will be included in our procurement process.

We can also include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the

nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Requiring recycling - such as setting targets for waste recycled, or providing facilities to recycle: Setting targets will be considered as part of the procurement/ contracting process.

Although the Council do not recommend specific tools, there are a number of tools available online which can help calculate current carbon emissions and the potential savings, for example a carbon footprint calculator. This is something we can discuss with providers.

We can also include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Finally, we will work with the provider and share our goals on achieving our 2050 net zero goal.

Operating the service in a digital way to reduce use of material resources: This is something we would be unable to do because we will be providing accommodation for children and young people in care to live in.

Sharing goods and services with others to reduce resource use: It might be the case that one of the beds procured could be with a provider that has multiple sites and therefore they may benefit from sharing goods and services from within their own sites. However, this is too early to say.

We can share with them Essex's policies around carbon reduction and recycling and work with them to support us reach our 2050 net zero goal in ways that they can. We can also refer them to the online tools which measure carbon emission. This may influence them to reduce, reuse and recycle goods and services.

We can also include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Donating or selling materials and products that are no longer required to keep them in use elsewhere: The provider will be using their own goods so this is not something we will have control over, however will discuss with them our donation/selling and recycling habits where appropriate. This may influence them to make positive changes.

We can share with them Essex's policies around carbon reduction and recycling and work with them to support us reach our 2050 net zero goal in ways that they can. We can also refer them to the online tools which measure carbon emission. This may influence them to reduce, reuse and recycle unwanted materials and products.

We can include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Avoiding over-packaged or difficult to recycle goods: Providers will be purchasing their own goods but we can share Essex's policies around this.

We can share with them Essex's policies around carbon reduction and recycling and work with them to support us reach our 2050 net zero goal in ways that they can. We can also refer them to the online tools which measure carbon emission. This may influence them to reduce, reuse and recycle.

We can include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Avoid single-use items, in particular single use plastic:

Providers will be purchasing their own goods but we can share Essex's policies around this.

We can share with them Essex's policies around carbon reduction and recycling and work with them to support us reach our 2050 net zero goal in ways that they can. We can also refer them to the online tools which measure carbon emission. This may influence them to reduce, reuse and recycle.

We can also include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Recycling and composting waste where applicable: Recycling and composting is down to the provider but we will make known to them our preference regarding recycling and composting where possible.

We can share with them Essex's policies around carbon reduction and recycling and work with them to support us reach our 2050 net zero goal in ways that they can. We can also refer them to the online tools which measure carbon emission. This may influence them to reduce, reuse and recycle.

We can include Carbon Reduction Plans in the tender process but as an 'information only' basis due to the nature of the procurement. It can allow them to increase their awareness on carbon reduction in the aim that they will use this opportunity to take more climate action.

Where will waste be treated and disposed of? This includes general rubbish and recycling: This is too early to say because providers will be spread geographically around the county.

We can work with the provider and share our goals on achieving our 2050 net zero goal and we can recommend the tools available online when it comes to predicting carbon emissions and cost savings. This can potentially influence their decision over where their waste will be treated and disposed of going forward.

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: None

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Positive

Waste: None

Extent of impact

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: There will be no impact on the built environment/ energy because the placement already exists so the impact will not change, especially when it comes to construction. We may however be able to have some influence over how these things are operated in the future. We can also share our goals in reaching our 2050 net zero goal, so for future operations they may be able to support us. This decision however is ultimately down to the provider.

The same will be said for waste. Due to the placement already existing, there will be no impact on waste when it comes to construction. Waste operations is also down to the provider, however we may be able to have some influence on waste operations in the future. We can also share our goals in reaching our 2050 net zero goal and the tools available online, such as carbon footprint calculators, so they can calculate carbon emissions. This may mean for future operations they may be able to support us in carbon reduction. This decision however is ultimately down to the provider.

For sustainable transport/travel there will be a positive impact because we are looking to commission placements closer to home for young people, which should result in less travel for social workers (if Essex based), young people and their families. This will be a low positive because it will not impact on the wider community.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 09/06/2023

Name of person completing the ECIA: Saffron Ralph

Email address of person completing the ECIA: Saffron.Ralph@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Children, Families and Education

Your service area: Strategic Commissioning and Policy

Your team: Children and Families, Domestic Abuse, Adults Early Help and Carers

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: Clare.Burrell@essex.gov.uk