

Corporate Parenting Board

21 January 2021

Children's Provision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): N/A

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Stuart Riddle

Title: Head of Commissioning

Tel: 01035225539

Email: stuart.riddle@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. That Corporate Parenting Board note the Placement Sufficiency Strategy – Appendix 1

Reason for Recommendation:

1. Executive Summary

The [Children Act 1989 \(Section 22g\)](#) requires local authorities to take steps that are reasonably practicable to secure sufficient accommodation for children and young people under their care who cannot live at home and whose circumstances indicate that it would be in their best interests to be accommodated within the local authority's area, so that they can see their family and stay at the same school. This is commonly known as the 'sufficiency duty'.

The strategy outlines the targets for reducing the number of children in care in Dorset and increasing the number of homes available for children in care in Dorset.

2. Financial Implications

The aim of the placement sufficiency strategy is to contribute to a reduction in spend on children's social care, and to ensure that spending in this area delivers value for money and makes a positive impact on outcomes for children in care.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

The aim of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy is to contribute to the improvement of health and well being outcomes for children in care.

4. Climate implications

The strategy sets out a number of measures which will ensure that more children in care live in Dorset. This will reduce the need for these children, their families, and any professionals involved in their lives to travel outside of Dorset.

5. Other Implications

The strategy forms part of the corporate parenting duties of the council.

6. Risk Assessment

To be carried out by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement and as part of ongoing contract management.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

To be carried out by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement and as part of ongoing contract management.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Placement Sufficiency Strategy

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.