

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report		Final report	X	(Tick as appropriate)
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1. Title of plan, policy or strategy being assessed

Edinburgh Fostering and Continuing Care framework. The City of Edinburgh Council is seeking to put in place a multi-supplier Framework Agreement based on 5 Lots:

Lot 1 mainstream; Lot 2 specialist/disability; Lot 3 short breaks; Lot 4 continuing care; Lot 5 permanent placements.

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

- Edinburgh Council will be able to work with Providers through our own Framework Agreement, meaning we will be able to negotiate our own Terms and Conditions.
- Edinburgh Council hopes to align specialisms in fostering with our in-house service, as well as providing greater transparency on the charges. We understand that some foster care agencies are not interested in working right across Scotland, but will work with ourselves, and these are the ones we need to bring into a formal and compliant contractual arrangement.
- We will not need to arrange contractual agreements through Direct Awards.
- The new framework will help us achieve best outcomes as it is designed with the children and young people's best interests in mind.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

- A Co-production event was held with Interested Providers to gather their views and input on the Creation of a Framework.
- Feedback from this event was used to create the Specification and design a Framework that responded to the input from the Providers
- A working group was held with key stakeholders representing all groups. Family Based Care to represent the carers, Team Leaders from Practice teams to represent the children, Managers to represent the management of LAAC system processes.

- Feedback from internal Fostering Team to help create the Specification.
- The views of the foster carers were also taken into consideration as these were gathered regularly by the Agencies and Family Based Care. Their feedback helped to inform the Specification.
- Senior Management chair a champion board for young people, where they have the opportunity to express their views and give suggestions about their rights as LAAC children. These are paramount in designing new services.

4. Date of IIA

17/06/2020

5. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, Lead Officer, report writer and any partnership representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. NHS, Council)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training	Email
Scott Dunbar	Senior Manager	15/11/2018	scott.dunbar@edinburgh.gov.uk
Neil Bruce	Team Manager, Family Based Care		neil.bruce@edinburgh.gov.uk
Laura Zanotti	Planning and Commissioning Officer		laura.zanotti@edinburgh.gov.uk
Marion Austin	Planning and Commissioning Officer		marion.austin@edinburgh.gov.uk

6. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
Data on populations in need	Y	Data from Family Based Care Intake team indicates number of children receiving and in need of Foster Care placements. This data predicts that there will be an increase in referrals for internal Foster Care placements when Covid-19 lockdown measures are relaxed, and a spike in the need for independent providers later in the year.
Data on service uptake/access	Y	We receive weekly data on new Fostering placements. As there has been no movement allowed due to current Covid-19 restrictions, the number of new placements has been limited to crisis situations. There are currently 188 children and young people placed with Independent Foster Care Agencies.
Data on equality outcomes	N	Data on the population in the Fostering service has not been provided. The service is provided on the basis of assessed needs.
Research/literature evidence	Yes	<p>Research literature and national guidance emphasises the importance of getting it right for every child whether they live at home or in an alternative placement. Our priorities include helping children to live in safe and supportive families, improving achievement, and closing any gaps in attainment.</p> <p>The primary strategic objective for looked after & accommodated children (LAAC) continues to be to deliver early intervention approaches so that fewer children and young people (C&YP) need to be accommodated and looked after away from home in the longer term.</p> <p>For those children where this is not possible, the Council is committed to the provision of the highest quality foster care which meets the needs of the individual children.</p> <p>The Council works with the Following Legislation to ensure Children's needs are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People Act (Scotland 2014) • The Children (Scotland) Act 1995

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protection of Children Act 2003 • Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 • The Looked after Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 • The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
Public/patient/client experience information	Y	Feedback is received from the Providers on a regular basis through Contract Monitoring meetings. The feedback from the Carers is discussed via the Provider, and from the child through the Social workers feedback.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of service users and involvement findings	Y	<p>Children and Young People are given the option to complete Mind of My Own feedback forms prior to every Looked After and Accommodated Children's (LAAC) Review. Their views are then discussed at the meetings.</p> <p>There are regular engagement and consultation opportunities with care experienced young people through the work of the Participation Officers and the Champion Board.</p>
Evidence of unmet need	N	<p>Children are not currently being placed with Independent Fostering Agencies due to the Global Pandemic, so it is not possible to establish whether there is unmet need. It is expected that once children at risk are more visible, there will be a spike in the number of foster placements needed.</p> <p>The over-12 and under-12 Panel both track all requests for foster placements. Senior Management review foster placements with Team managers on a regular basis.</p>
Good practice guidelines	Y	<p>In seeking Foster Placements for Young People, Edinburgh Council follows the below Guidance:</p> <p>Guidance on the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (March 2011 (Web only publication, published 10 March 2011 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/10110037/0)</p> <p>Getting it right for Every Child (for information and guidance refer to: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/background)</p> <p>National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2010</p>

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
		(Published by the Scottish Government in 2010) This list is not exhaustive and more extensive guidance is referred to in the Specification.
Environmental data	N	
Risk from cumulative impacts	Y	The City of Edinburgh Council is currently required to adhere to the terms and Conditions of the Scotland Excel Framework when Purchasing services from Independent Fostering agencies. There are some Providers that are not on the Framework, who we contract with through Direct Awards. We do not currently have assurance that the service being delivered is the most efficient and effective, as the City of Edinburgh Council does not have control over price increases or discounts. This impacts on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget – CEC not meeting principles of Best Value. We expect this to change with the implementation of our Framework. • Quality Assurance – In our Fostering Specification, we have set clear expectations for Providers, which they will need to agree to as part of joining Edinburgh’s Independent Framework. • Changing landscape of care – Providers have been open to discussions about changing elements of their service in-line with the requirements of Edinburgh’s Framework.
Other (please specify)	N	
Additional evidence required	N	

7. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected Populations
Positive The Specification which guides the service provided was created by Edinburgh Council based on the input from	Looked After Children

<p>the Providers we will be working with.</p> <p>Prices can be agreed between Edinburgh Council and the Providers.</p> <p>We will no longer need to complete additional work for direct contractual arrangements for Providers not on the Scotland Excel Framework.</p> <p>Two of our main Providers who were not on the Scotland Excel Framework have highlighted interest in joining our Framework.</p> <p>Capturing a higher number of providers will allow us to be fully compliant with procurement regulations and best value requirements still taking in full consideration the needs of the child. Our intake team will be able to match the child with the foster carers who can best meet the needs.</p> <p>There are regular engagement and consultation opportunities with care experienced young people through the work of the Participation Officers and the Champion Board.</p> <p>Service improvements in relation to accommodation are captured in the Corporate Parenting Action Plan</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>We have Children placed with Providers who have may not join the Framework. To ensure the Continuity of Care, we will continue to work with the anticipated small numbers of Providers that do not join our Framework for the duration of the legacy placements, by purchasing through the Scotland Excel Framework that we are using for may of our existing placements.</p>	<p>and young people</p> <p>Edinburgh Council</p> <p>Edinburgh Council</p> <p>Foster Care Providers</p> <p>Edinburgh Council</p> <p>Young People in Continuing Care</p> <p>Care Leavers</p>
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<p>Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Affected populations</p>
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8. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and how will equality, human rights including children’s rights , environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

The Agreement has some strict minimum standards in relation to provision of service such as adherence to a Care Commission rating of “Good” which minimises the elements that are assessed over and above minimum standards within quality award criteria.

All Service Providers applying to join the Framework Agreement will be asked to answer the questions on Community Benefits, Sustainability and Fair Works Practices satisfactorily.

All Service Providers applying to join the Framework Agreement are subject to quarterly data submission and six-monthly monitoring meeting. This will ensure any potential issue is captured and addressed in a timely manner.

9. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

This plan does not need to be communicated directly to Children and Young People, as it concerns the systems around Procuring Services but not the service provided.

10. Does the policy concern agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use? If yes, an SEA should be completed, and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this.

No

11. Additional Information and Evidence Required

No

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

12. Recommendations (these should be drawn from 6 – 11 above)

Edinburgh Council hopes to align specialisms in fostering with our in-house service, as well as providing greater transparency on the charges. We understand that some foster care agencies are not interested in working right across Scotland, but will work with ourselves, and these are the ones we need to bring into a formal and compliant contractual arrangement. There will be others who do not sign up to our Framework, but opt to stay on the Scotland Excel Framework, which we currently purchase through. We hope to capture a higher number of providers so that we can draw from both resources.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? Please complete:

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and contact details)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
The Paperwork for the Framework will go live on the 11th June 2020. See Below timeline for Progression	This has been completed by Marion Austin, Commissioning Officer, and will now be progressed by Paula Deegan, Procurement Lead.	11 th June 2020	
Activity	Owner	Deadline	Comments
Publish approved Contract Notice on PCS (With approved ESPD statement detail) Open for 40 days as providers request longer lead in times.		11th June 2020	Approvals Gateway
Tender Return Date		21st July 2020	
Consensus meeting date(s)		17th August 2020 until 21st August 2020	The full week may be required.

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and contact details)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Negotiations with providers		31st to 4th September 2020	
Final Bids (pricing only) to be received from providers		21st September 2020	
Issue Contract Award (after standstill period)*		End of November 2020	Approvals Gateway
Issue Signed Contract*		End of November 2020	
Produce Contract Handover Pack including any mobilisation details to Commercial Ops team		Mid December 2020	Approvals Gateway
Contract Handover Meeting (with Service)		Mid December 2020	
Contract Start		1st December 2020	
Place Contract Award Notice		1st December 2020	

14. How will you monitor how this policy, plan or strategy affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

- Contract Monitoring meetings will be held every 6 months, and placement data received from the Providers every quarter. These meetings will also give us opportunity to monitor the role of the Providers and Carers.

- We have allocated Social workers for all children in Placement and regular LAAC reviews to monitor their progress.

15. Sign off by Head of Service/ Project Lead

Name Bernadette Oxley

Date 9.2.21

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernadette Oxley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the printed name and date.

16. Publication

Send completed IIA for publication on the relevant website for your organisation. [See Section 5](#) for contacts.

Section 5 Contacts

- **East Lothian Council**

Please send a completed copy of the IIA to equalities@eastlothian.gov.uk and it will be published on the Council website shortly afterwards. Copies of previous assessments are available via http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/835/equality_and_diversity

- **Midlothian Council**

Please send a completed copy of the IIA to zoe.graham@midlothian.gov.uk and it will be published on the Council website shortly afterwards. Copies of previous assessments are available via http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/751/equality_and_diversity

- **NHS Lothian**

Completed IIAs should be forwarded to impactassessments@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk to be published on the NHS Lothian website and available for auditing purposes. Copies of previous impact assessments are available on the NHS Lothian website under Equality and Diversity.

- **The City of Edinburgh Council**

Completed impact assessments should be forwarded to Strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website.

- **City of Edinburgh Health and Social Care**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to Sarah Bryson at sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk

- **Edinburgh Integration Joint Board**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to Sarah Bryson at sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk

- **West Lothian Council**

Complete impact assessments should be forwarded to the Equalities Officer.