

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 proposal

Reconfiguration of Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS) and Residential – there are currently two options for consideration to reconfigure the provision of Secure Accommodation to meet the needs of children and young people needing to be accommodated on an emergency basis in a short term assessment provision or review the whole residential estate and increase to seven houses removing the use of close support and secure element of current provision.

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

Both options will remove the close support and secure element of the service and will increase placement availability for young people. The option to introduce an emergency short term assessment provision will provide a therapeutic, preventative, and early intervention model which will enable young people to receive care whilst a focused approach will explore future planning and outcomes for them in line with Edinburgh's Promise.

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

ESS has ongoing engagement with Who Care's and Barnardos who meet regularly with young people in our care. Feedback and information provided by care experienced young people and our participation officers and the Participation Board has indicated that focused resources and named provision will reduce the uncertainty and provide stability for young people in our care

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the [Fairer Scotland Duty](#)?

Yes

5. Date of IIA

Thursday 16 February 2023

6. 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
Nichola Dadds	Operations Manager & Equality, Diversity and Rights Advisor	23/06/2021
Mark Crawford(project lead)	Team Manager, Looked After Children	
Anne McTiernan	Children's Practice Team Manager	
Alan McDonald	Acting Team Manager, Looked After Children	
Judy Roberts	Social Worker, TCAC /YP Service	

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
Data on populations in need	SWIFT SEEMIS Annual Return – CI SG SCRA Partner Agencies	<p>More focused resources for children at point of crisis and need, looking at alternatives to secure accommodation by providing emergency reception into care.</p> <p>53% reduction in secure referral discussions. Resource is underutilised due to reduction in numbers.</p> <p>Identification of an unmet need for children and young people coming into our care will be better managed through an emergency based residential and outreach support model</p> <p>There will be a reduction in the disruption for young people in our care by minimising the need for emergency admissions into Children’s Houses.</p>
Data on service uptake/access	As above Assessments of Need and Risk	<p>Currently 85% of young people in Children’s Houses were through emergency admissions. By having a dedicated resource this will allow more time on future planning with young people in residential care</p> <p>Service uptake and access to services will be improved through an identified provision which will have appropriate supports in place for children and young people in crisis on an emergency basis and reduce delays in finding their appropriate pathway.</p> <p>There has been a reduction in the number of secure placements each year. ESS currently only has capacity for 6 placements and consistently has less than 50% placed. No other local authority in</p>

		<p>Scotland has an inhouse secure service.</p> <p>Any need for secure will be met via contracted suppliers who offer levels of support which cannot be matched inhouse.</p> <p>Options for placements which don't include secure could be received negatively by those responsible for a young person's care. Although noted that secure provision will always be available, just not inhouse which could be seen as a positive thing.</p> <p>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young Children (UASC) and those in Continuing Care currently take up 33% of placements.</p> <p>UASC are normally emergency placements, an emergency house would allow a more focused approach to identifying the best outcome and placement for these young people, which could be an alternative to residential (ie Shared Housing, host families etc)</p>
<p>Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.</p>	<p>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</p>	<p>There is evidence that young people accommodated out with Edinburgh on leaving care are likely to return to familiar areas in the city. The proposal will enable more proactive engagement and planning with those who are ready to move on, freeing up space in Children's Houses and reducing the number of out of authority placements.</p>
<p>Data on equality outcomes</p>	<p>equalities-and-diversity-framework-2021-25</p>	<p>Focused inhouse resources available to support young people and reduce the length of time in local authority care with family based care at the centre</p> <p>Reduce the use of out of authority placements that can prevent</p>

		contact with family and friends due to location
Research/literature evidence	Secure Care Pathways and Standards	A rights based approach with access to psychological support is essential. There is evidence that alternative to secure is beneficial and preferable and leads to better outcomes for young people.
Public/patient/client experience information	Who Cares? Participation Officers Action for Children Barnardos Care Experienced Young People	Feedback and information provided through discussions with care experienced young people and their advocates has indicated that there is a need to reconfigure our current residential estate Focused resources and named provision will reduce the uncertainty and provide stability for young people in our care. Engagement with families and having supportive services onsite will improve outcomes.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings		Feedback from young people in our care around the disruption of new arrivals to a settled house where they live has identified a need to consider alternative provision for those in crisis who require emergency placements. This will allow staff to spend more time working with the young people on future plans as it will reduce crisis work needed for emergency admissions.
Evidence of unmet need		Several factors over the last decade have changed how residential placements are used, including a decline in 'move on' which has meant less availability for young people coming into care as placements are not becoming available as they would have previously.
Good practice guidelines	https://thepromise.scot/	At this current time (February 2023) there are intake pressures

	https://thepromise.scot/plan-21-24/edinburgh-s-promise-plan-2021-to-2024	<p>due to a shortage in available provisions for young people who require care away from home.</p> <p>By creating an emergency admission house and increasing capacity young people will have better outcomes and more dedicated support to fit their individual needs.</p> <p>Focused trauma informed support adopting the ethos of Edinburgh's Promise will enhance support for young people in our care to achieve the best outcomes</p>
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	Sustainable travel	By reducing the number of placements out of Edinburgh, this will reduce travel for workers and young people
Environmental data		No significant environmental impacts.
Risk from cumulative impacts		There is a risk that we will not meet our statutory obligations by being unable to provide suitable accommodation for children in our care if we do not increase capacity within our residential estate.
Other (please specify) Budget Staffing Challenges		<p>ESS is not cost effective given the reduction in referrals and high running costs. Alongside this the lack of availability of placements will mean an increase in out of authority usage which will further impact on budget pressures.</p> <p>Current operational challenges include staffing. A review of placement numbers and cessation of emergency placements to Children's Houses will be beneficial for colleagues as it will remove the need for managing conflict and dynamics which is evidenced during some emergency placements and allow</p>

		them to spend more time providing through care and aftercare.
Additional evidence required		

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

<p>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights</p> <p>Positive Better outcomes for young people in our care due to a needs based approach with more resources at point of crisis and an increase in residential placements in the city.</p> <p>Negative The loss of an inhouse secure service within Edinburgh</p>	<p>Affected populations Young People and Children including Care Experienced LGBTQI – young people Disabled – YP Minority Ethnic People Refugees and UASC Vulnerable families</p>
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<p>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</p> <p>Positive Additional capacity will reduce the need to send young people out of authority which can often be the case when requiring emergency placements which we know impacts on their access to family and friends.</p> <p>Negative The loss of secure provision in Edinburgh will require some placements outside of the city when this type of placement is needed</p>	<p>Affected populations As above</p>
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<p>Economic including socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>Positive As noted above, by targeting resources and increasing capacity this will improve outcomes for young people. For families in crisis an emergency provision providing support with clear plans and pathways will impact positively for those in need.</p> <p>Negative</p>	<p>Affected populations As above</p>
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9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

There will still be a need to utilise secure placements for some young people, any provision will be contracted using our commissioning service with regular reviews on outcomes and assessment of quality of care.

10. 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.

On conclusion and agreement of proposal outcome, a detailed communications plan will be put in place to inform all stakeholders. Consideration for how this will be communicated to ensure inclusion for all involved will be undertaken carefully and with support of our partners.

11. Is the policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this.

No

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

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.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) 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 job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

Continuous engagement with Who Cares? Barnardos, Action for Children, Care Experienced Young People, SW colleagues etc

16. Sign off by Head of Service/ NHS Project Lead

Name

Amanda Hatton, Executive Director for Children, Education and Justice Services

Date

3 March 2023

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the IIA directory on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments