

Integrated Impact Assessment – Final Summary Report

1. Title of proposal

The City of Edinburgh Council 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?

There is currently a Framework of the same title in place until 31st March 2025. This will be a replacement Framework, with updated Terms and Conditions, Legislation, and Fees, but there will be no change to the way we purchase, and no impact on vulnerable groups. This has been extended to the 31st July 2025, to allow time for the tender process of the new Framework.

The Current Framework opened in April 2021, as a move away from using Scotland Excel. This enabled:

- Edinburgh Council to be able to work with Providers through our own Framework Agreement, meaning we negotiate our own Terms and Conditions.
- Edinburgh Council to align specialisms in fostering with our in-house service, as well as providing greater transparency on the charges.
- To move away from contractual agreements through Direct Awards.
- Edinburgh Council to achieve best outcomes as it was designed with the children and young people's best interests in mind.

The new Framework will continue to offer all of the above benefits, whilst being more robustly aligned with the values and principles of the Promise.

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

A Provider's event was held on the 18th of July 2024, whereby Providers on the current Framework and other interested parties, were invited to a presentation with question and answer session. There was a high level of positive support for the

current Framework, and Providers wish to continue working with Edinburgh Council through our Framework agreement.

Contract Monitoring meetings are held every 6 months, and Providers continually express that they value the positive working relationship with Edinburgh Council, and feel the systems and processes are clear, effective, and transparent.

Information gathered over the years to create and maintain the current Framework, which feeds into the creation of the new Framework, includes:

- Co-production events with Interested Providers to gather their views and input on the Creation of a Framework.
- Feedback from these events were used to create the original Specification and design a Framework that responded to the input from the Providers
- The updated specification was amended according to the input from Providers, and this was then shared with them for their feedback before being finalised.
- Contract Monitoring meetings are held with Providers, the Commissioning team and a Family Based Care representative.
- The views of the foster carers were also taken into consideration as these are gathered regularly by the Agencies and discussed at the meetings. Family Based Care liaise with the Practice Team to ensure the views of children and young people are also reflected in the assessment of ongoing placement suitability.
- Feedback from internal Fostering Team has helped update 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. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

No, extending the funding will not affect statutory responsibilities or strategic decision as to reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

5. Date of IIA

6th November 2024

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Sharon Burn	Team Leader Family Based Care	
Marion Austin	Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer	22/03/2023
Flora Gemmell	Contracts Advisor	22/03/2023

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 and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data	Y	<p>Data from Family Based Care Intake team indicates number of children receiving and in need of Foster Care placements. This data reflects general trends from discussions with other agencies and updates via fostering network. Recruitment pressures appear to be a challenge nationally due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of living crisis • Carers self employed • Payment level for carers versus increased household costs • Uncertainty and change since the Pandemic • Instability Nationally and Internationally
Data on service uptake/access	Fostering and adoption statistical bulletin 2023/24	<p>There have been considerably more foster carer de-registrations than approvals in recent years leaving a year-on-year deficit. Across Scotland, by 31st December 2023, there were 2,998 approved foster care households, which is down 8.0% from 3,261 in 2022. There were fewer new households approved (178) than in any of the four preceding years.</p> <p>In Edinburgh, foster carer approvals over the last 5 years (ie from April 19 to April 24) total 85 and foster carer deregistration's over the same period total 143.</p> <p>This equates to a net loss of 58.</p> <p>There are currently 156 Children and Young People placed with Independent Foster Care Agencies.</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
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	Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Children (Scotland) Act 2020 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 The Promise 2021 Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 Protection of Vulnerable	<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 Legislation listed in the ‘Available Source’ column to ensure Children’s needs are met.</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<p><u>Groups (Scotland) Act 2007</u></p> <p><u>The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009</u></p> <p><u>Carers (Scotland) Act 2016</u></p> <p><u>The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (Modification) Regulations 2020</u></p> <p><u>Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000</u></p> <p><u>Human Rights Act 1998</u></p> <p><u>Equality Act 2010</u></p> <p><u>Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013</u></p> <p><u>Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017</u></p>	
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

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		via the Provider, and from the child through the Social Workers feedback.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	Advocacy - Who Cares? Scotland	<p>Children and Young People are given the option to complete feedback forms prior to every looked after and accommodated (LAAC) and foster carer reviews Their views are then discussed at the meetings. Additionally, Children and Young People have the option to engage with Who Cares? Scotland, who provide independent advocacy to Care Experienced Children and Young People.</p> <p>The Child’s Social Worker and Reviewing Officer also regularly link in ahead of LAAC reviews to provide an opportunity for young people to share their views.</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		<p>The over-12 and under-12 Panel both track all requests for foster placements. Senior Management review foster placements usage with Team managers on a regular basis.</p> <p>For children who cannot be accommodated with CEC carers, Intake track all independent agency searches.</p>
Good practice guidelines	Guidance on Looked After Children Regulations GIRFEC National Guidance for	<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)</p> <p>Getting it right for Every Child</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (Updated 2023) The Promise 2021 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007	<p>National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (Updated 2023)</p> <p>The Promise 2021</p> <p>The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007</p> <p>This list is not exhaustive and more extensive guidance is referred to in the Specification.</p>
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	CEC 2030 Climate Strategy	<p>Providers are encouraged to contribute to the achievement of the Council's environmental and sustainability objectives and commitment to act on climate change and reduce carbon emissions across the city.</p> <p>Providers and their personnel are expected to make every effort to minimise the impact of the delivery of the services on the environment. The Provider shall use their best endeavours to achieve the efficient use of energy and, where possible, to maximise the use of biodegradable or recycled products.</p>
Environmental data	N	
Risk from cumulative impacts	N	None known
Other (please specify)	N	
Additional evidence required	N	

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

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
Positive	

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>The Specification which guides the service provided, was created by Edinburgh Council based on the input from the Providers we will be working with.</p> <p>Prices will be negotiated and agreed between Edinburgh Council and the Providers.</p> <p>As a result of the current Framework, we no longer need to complete additional work for direct contractual arrangements for Providers not on the Scotland Excel Framework.</p> <p>As we have captured a high number of providers, this has enabled 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 are 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 and Children Service Plan 2023-2026</p>	<p>Looked After Children and young people</p> <p>Edinburgh Council & Foster Care Providers</p> <p>Edinburgh Council</p> <p>Edinburgh Council</p> <p>Young People in Fostering and Continuing Care</p> <p>Care Leavers</p>
<p>Negative</p> <p>We currently have one young person placed with a Providers who hasn't joined the Framework and does not wish to do so because of the location of their service. To ensure the Continuity of Care, we will continue to work with the anticipated small numbers of Providers that do not join our Framework, either for the duration of the legacy placements or for crisis placements. We will fund this by purchasing through the Scotland Excel Framework or direct award.</p>	<p>Edinburgh Council</p>
Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>N/A</p>	

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
Negative N/A	

Economic	Affected populations
Positive N/A	
Negative N/A	

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?

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.

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.

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.

11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or 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. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.

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.

N/A

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
Activity	Owner	Deadline	Comments
The Paperwork for the Framework will go live on the 21 st November 2024. See Below timeline for Progression	This has been completed by Marion Austin, Commissioning Officer, and will now be progressed by Kyro Grieve, Procurement Lead.	21 st November 2024	
Publish approved Contract Notice on PCS (With approved ESPD statement detail)	Kyro Grieve, Procurement Lead.	21 st November 2024	Approvals Gateway
Tender Return Date		8 th January 2025	35 days
Consensus meeting date(s)	Identified evaluators	20 th to 22 nd January 2025	The full week may

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
			be required.
Negotiations with providers	Marion Austin (Commissioning Lead), Kyro Grieve (Procurement Lead), Laura Zanotti (Commissioning Manager)	3 rd February to 6 th February 2025	
Final Bids (pricing only) to be received from providers	Provider	7 th February 2025	
Issue Contract Award (after standstill period)*	Marion Austin (Commissioning Lead)	13 th May 2025	Approvals Gateway
Issue Signed Contract*	Marion Austin (Commissioning Lead)		
Produce Contract Handover Pack including any mobilisation details to Commercial Ops team		1 st May 2025- 12 th May 2025	Approvals Gateway
Contract Handover Meeting (with Service)	Provider, Marion		
Place Contract Award Notice	Kyro	30 th May 2025	
Contract Start		9 th June 2025	

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?

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.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name

Amanda Hatton – Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services

Date 13 March 2025

17. Publication

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

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care
sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published at
www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/