

10 September 2019		ITEM: 6
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Children Looked After and Care Leavers Placement Sufficiency Strategy		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Non Key
Report of: Janet Simon, Strategic Lead Children Looked After Sue Green, Strategic Lead Children's Commissioning and Service Transformation		
Accountable Assistant Director: Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director, Children's Services		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing & Health / Interim Director Children's Services		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

This report is to updates Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee on Thurrock's Placement Sufficiency Strategy

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Members of the Committee are informed about Thurrock's Sufficiency Strategy and actions

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to produce a Placement Sufficiency Strategy which outlines how it will fulfil its responsibilities in terms of Children Looked After and Care Leavers. These are outlined in the report.
- 2.2 This strategy is focused on plans to meet the placement needs of children who are in care and young people who have recently left the care of the local authority and those who may be in care in the future.

2.3 Sufficiency Duty Statutory Guidance describes the accommodation required for a child looked after that:

- is near the child's home;
- does not disrupt his/her education or training;
- enables the child to live with an accommodated sibling;
- where the child is disabled, is suitable to meet the needs of that child; and
- is within the local authority's area, unless that is not reasonably practicable.

The overall context for meeting the Duty is set out in the statutory guidance, (Sufficiency: Statutory guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children 2010).

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 These are included in the attached strategy.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Members of the Committee are aware of how Thurrock Council are meeting its Placement Sufficiency Duties.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications Verified by: **David May**
Management Accountant

This report is an information report and as such is not requesting any funding. The Placement Sufficiency Strategy is a central part in the departments savings plans with value for money

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsay Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's Safeguarding

Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 (amended by the Children and Young Persons Act 2008) places a general duty on local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area, which meets the needs of children that the local authority are looking after.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development Officer

The Service is committed to practice which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. Placements and Staff members represent diverse backgrounds and heritage and are able to promote equality and diversity.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Children Looked After)

- None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 - Children Looked After and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy
- Appendix 2 - Children Looked After Pledge
- Appendix 3 - Charter for Care Leavers

Report Author:

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