

DRAFT Equality Impact Analysis (EIA) of main budget proposals for Children's Services

CHS 1 – Alternative model for care leaver housing - £200,000

1. The Care Leaver accommodation programme proposes a new, cross departmental approach to increasing the supply of local supported accommodation for young people leaving care.
2. The key objectives of the programme are to reduce the overspend within Children's Services, where placements for young people through framework or spot purchasing are significantly higher than locally commissioned provision, whilst simultaneously improving outcomes for young people through quality housing and closer links to family and community support networks.
3. It is believed that this proposal has a neutral impact on those with protected characteristics. The programme aims to increase supply of local quality housing provision for vulnerable young people. One element of the programme will be to identify young people currently placed in higher cost out of borough placements that are suitable and ready to be transferred to in-borough accommodation where accommodation-based support will continue to be provided.
4. It is not anticipated therefore, that there will be any direct negative equality implications for protected groups at this stage.
5. The savings proposals offer a form of service continuity where support will continue to be provided to vulnerable children.

CHS 2 – Travel Care & Support - £129,000

6. The Travel Care and Support Team saving encompasses several initiatives that largely form part of the business as usual processes and are permitted within the existing policy arrangements.
- Independent Travel Training promotes members' manifesto pledge of improving children's chances in life by promoting independence, creates opportunities as

young people prepare for adulthood by allowing access to work and reduces risks of loneliness by improving access to the community.

- Opportunities for the use of shared transport arrangements between boroughs to promote social benefits of shared transport as well as shared efficiencies.
 - A review of vehicle types for students, consider moving into either a single occupancy or shared occupancy taxi to reduce the cost of their transport (as paid by mileage as opposed to seat) as well as added benefits around reduced travel times.
 - A personal travel budget offer provides parents with the flexibility to tailor their own solution to meet their child's needs and promotes the H&F vision of doing things with residents rather than to them.
7. It is believed that the proposals have either a neutral or a positive impact on those with protected characteristics.
 8. The proposal forms part of the business as usual actions for the service and are allowable within the existing Home to School transport policy. The proposals are applicable across the cohort and service users will be assessed on a risk and need basis to ensure individuals are not disadvantaged.

CHS 3 – Staffing Efficiencies - £250,000

9. This saving is to be met against a budget of c£22.5m and will be delivered as staffing efficiency across the department with no service impact expected.

CHS 4 – Disabled Children Care packages, direct payments and residential placements - £257,000

10. Improvements in management and frontline delivery of short breaks will reduce expenditure whilst protecting direct services to disabled children. Proposals will have a neutral impact on those with protected characteristics, while the services in question are delivered for disabled children who clearly have protected characteristics, none of the actions will deliver reduction in services to either the group as a whole or to any individual child.
11. An increased focus on early intervention and eligibility for services will ensure services are targeted to prevent escalation of need. Developments will deliver improved services which will ensure that support remains available for disabled children and their families as required, further improved use of local services and

development of new services such as the behaviour outreach service will see improved outcomes.

12. All policies and service changes relating to short breaks are co-produced with parents of disabled children to ensure the group are confident that the policies meet need and are fair and equitable.

Children's Services Investment Proposals

CHSG 1 – Family Services placements & Client costs - £4.118m

13. Growth request to align budget with the demand led growth in numbers that have caused a cost pressure on the Looked After Children and Care Leavers budgets.
14. The proposal will have a neutral impact as it results in no change in service offered.

CHSG 2 – Short Breaks and Disabled Children Packages - £513,000

15. Growth request to align budget with the demand led growth in numbers that have caused a cost pressure on the Disabled Children's residential, spot purchased care packages and direct payments budgets.
16. The proposal will have a neutral impact as it results in no change in service offered.

CHSG3 – Travel Care & Support - £886,000

17. Growth request to partially mitigate pressure caused by the demand led growth in numbers that have caused a cost pressure on the Travel Care and Support.
18. The proposal will have a neutral impact as it results in no change in service offered.