

Equality Impact Assessment Form

[screentip-sectionA](#)

1. Document Control

Control Details:

Title:	Expansion of Existing Residential Block Contract for Children in Care Placements
If this is a budget EIA please ensure the title is the same as the title used within the budget booklet	
Author:	Holly Mackenzie, Children's Placement Service Manager
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Department:	Children and Families
Service Area:	Children's Integrated Services
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Strategic Budget EIA: Y/N (Does this EIA have an impact on the budget)	N
If yes, please include the reference number	
Exempt from publication: Y/N (All EIA's are published on Nottingham Insight for public viewing unless specified. Exemption criteria is available on the EIA section on the Intranet)	N

2. Document Amendment Record:

Version	Author	Date	Approved

3. Contributors/Reviewers (Anyone who has contributed to this document will need to be named):

Name	Position	Date
Holly Mackenzie	Children's Placement Service Manager	28.06.2021
Sharon Clarke	Head of Children in Care Regulated Services	28.06.2021
Rosey Donovan	Equality and Employability Consultant	30/06/2021

4. Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
NCC	Nottingham City Council
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic

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5. Summary

(Please provide a brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed)

In line with the agreed recommendations of the City's Children in Care Placements Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy, the expansion of the block contract will respond to the existing gap in local placement sufficiency, leading to improved outcomes for Children in Care and increased value for money for Nottingham City Council. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient accommodation for all Looked After Children. The expansion will respond to this, through directly increasing the number of high quality, local placements for this cohort. This will reduce the number of instances where the Local Authority is required to spot purchase placement provision, often outside of the child's local area, often at a cost higher than the average market rate and with less favourable terms and conditions.

Please note that approval has already been secured for the volume of the placements required through the contract's expansion. It

is only the additional spend on the contract which requires approval. No additional budget is required, as the costs of the contract will be met through the existing External Placements Budget. This will require a financial commitment for a maximum amount from this budget to be allocated for expansion the block contract annually. The expansion of the block contract has been identified as a savings project through the Children's Services Sustainability Board.

For full detail of the Children in Care Placements Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy, please follow this link:

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/3371350/cic-placements-commissioning-and-sufficiency-strategy-2021-2023.pdf>

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6. Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

(Please include information about how you have consulted/ have data from the impacted groups)

The service itself already exists and there are therefore no new equality impact considerations. The proposal is to change the way in which the service is commissioned, not the service itself. Ahead of the implementation for the existing block contract, a period of consultation was undertaken with the internal and external provider market. The consultation process invited participation, asking colleagues, partners and providers for feedback and comments to help shape the plan for implementation. No equality concerns were identified. The recommendations at the time were approved by the following NCC governance forums; Children and Families Leadership Team, Children and Families Big Ticket Programme Board and the Corporate Parenting Board. The contract was then secured through an open procurement process and managed by the Strategic Procurement Team, who has a duty to ensure that all procurement processes are fair, transparent and non-discriminatory. The tender process was openly advertised to the market and allowed appropriate timescales to ensure that all providers had an equal opportunity to respond. The service specification was written in a way which is inclusive and providers were asked to demonstrate how they will effectively meet the needs of the City's Children in Care, which included an understanding of the issues affecting all vulnerable children in care, including BME young people. The contract was awarded to Homes 2 Inspire (under the Shaw Trust charity) and commenced implementation in April 2015. The contract has proved successful in achieving positive outcomes for Nottingham's Children in Care and has achieved improved value for money. Recent consultation through the Children's Services Sustainability Board, Corporate Parenting Board, Portfolio Holder Briefing, Finance, Legal and Procurement representatives, has raised no concerns. The proposed increased volume for the

remaining term of the contract is not anticipated to have negative impact.

7. Impacts and Actions:

<u>screeintip-sectionD</u>	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/ good relations, <u>vulnerable children/ adults</u>).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i>		

<p style="text-align: right;"><u>screentip-sectionE</u></p> <p>How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>screentip-sectionF</u></p> <p>Details of actions to mitigate, remove or justify negative impact or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)</p>
<p>Provide details for impacts / benefits on people in different protected groups.</p> <p>Note: the level of detail should be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposal / policy / service. Continue on separate sheet if needed (click and type to delete this note)</p> <p>Nottingham City's Looked After Children will particularly benefit from the proposal. The expansion of the block contract arrangement will guarantee high quality placement availability within a 20 mile radius of Nottingham City Centre, enabling an increased number of children and young people to be placed closer to their home, which what our children say they want.</p>	<p>Continue on separate sheet if needed (click and type to delete this note)</p> <p>The service specification is written in a way which will be inclusive required providers to demonstrate how they will effectively meet the needs of the City's Children in Care, which included an understanding of the issues affecting all vulnerable children in care, including BME young people. The contract was awarded to Homes 2 Inspire (under the Shaw Trust charity) and commenced implementation in April 2015. The contract has proved successful in achieving positive outcomes for Nottingham's Children in Care and has achieved improved value for money. Regular contract and performance management processes ensure its continued success.</p>

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8. Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

Continued monitoring throughout the implementation of the expansion, in addition to the routine contract and performance management of the contract (monthly operational and quarterly strategic). All reported to the Children’s Services Sustainability Board for governance.

9. Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No major change needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjust the policy/proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove the policy/proposal

10. Approved by (manager signature) and Date sent to equality team for publishing:

<p>Approving Manager: The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel & email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.</p>	<p>Date sent for advice: 28.06.2021 Send document or Link to: equalities@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</p>
<p>Approving Manager Signature: Sharon Clarke, Head of Children in Care</p>	<p>Date of final approval: 28.06.2021</p>

Regulated Services

Sharon.clarke@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Employability Team for advice, have you:

1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's
<http://intranet.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/1924/simple-guide-to-eia.doc>
2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed.
3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents.
4. Written in clear user-friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms).
5. Included appropriate data.
6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly, when this is going to happen.
7. Clearly cross-referenced your impacts with SMART actions.

PLEASE NOTE: FINAL VERSION MUST BE SENT TO EQUALITIES OTHERWISE RECORDS WILL REMAIN INCOMPLETE.