

# Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

28 March 2024

## Children in Care Placement Sufficiency

### Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

#### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides the Committee with information on the Children in Care Placement Sufficiency Strategy, Action Plan, and Market Development.
- 1.2 The Committee will also receive presentations from LA officers on the day.

#### 2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the work currently planned and make any comments or recommendations regarding the information presented.
- 2.2 The Committee is also asked to consider future scrutiny of the topic with officers suggesting that this becomes a standing item on the Committee's Work Programme every March.

#### 3 Background information

- 3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure sufficient accommodation for their looked-after children and young people under section 22G of the Children Act 1989. This duty requires "local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area" (['the sufficiency duty'](#)).
- 3.2 This duty should be undertaken within the context of the planning and cooperation duties which the 2004 Children Act places on key partners and local agencies to improve the wellbeing of children in the local area.
- 3.3 The Placements Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy responds to the duty by setting out the vision for achieving our commitment to improving the outcomes and life chances of the children and young people who are in our care, and providing sufficient, safe, secure, and

appropriate placements for looked after children and care leavers over the next 5 years.

- 3.4 Sufficiency of placements remains a major local challenge within an increasingly difficult national context.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Placements Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy.

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 Children Act 1989  
6.2 2004 Children Act

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

- 8.1 Roz Howie, Director of Commissioning and Partnerships,  
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