

**Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>19 January 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022 Annual Update and Timeline for New 2023-2027 Strategy</b>

**Summary:**

This report presents the following:

- an annual update to the Action Plan (Appendix A) of the Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy – '*Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022*'.

**Actions Required:**

That the Corporate Parenting Panel:

- (1) supports and endorses the updated Action Plan for the Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2022; and
- (2) invite the presentation of the '*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27*' to the first meeting of 2023-24.

## **1. Background**

Section 22G of the Children Act 1989, and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children (2010), is explicit in placing a duty on Local Authorities to act strategically to address gaps in provision by ensuring that they include, in relevant commissioning strategies, their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty.

### **Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2022**

The 2018-2022 Strategy was previously signed off by the Corporate Parenting Panel with the recommendation to report annually on progress against the Action Plan (Appendix A).

The Action Plan (Appendix A) has been updated to reflect progress against the actions up to and including the end of December 2022.

Each action is evaluated using a Signs of Safety approach showing what has been accomplished, where there are concerns and what needs to happen next. A number of Actions have been marked as 'Completed' with an accompanying explanation.

This is the final update of the 2018-2022 Strategy that will be brought to Corporate Parenting Panel, in a review of the preceding 12 months.

## Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027

Children’s Strategic Commissioning will continue to work with internal and appropriate commissioned partners to finalise the Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy for the period 2023-2027, which will be aligned to the Children in Care (CiC) and High Needs Transformation Programmes.

The 2023-2027 Strategy will be aligned to the financial/reporting year, and will start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, returning annually to Corporate Parenting Panel in Quarter 1 of each year, with the first annual update due in April 2024.

### 2. Conclusion

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to discuss and approve the updated content of the Action Plan (Appendix A) to the '*Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022*'.

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to request Children’s Strategic Commissioning to the first meeting of 2023-24 to present the '*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27*'.

### 3. Consultation

#### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks were identified within the Strategy and elements are included within the Action Plan (Appendix A) as part of the Signs of Safety approach under the heading '*What are we concerned about?*', as well as any ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic under the heading '*Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery*'.

### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	COMMISSIONING EXCELLENCE – MEETING THE SUFFICIENCY DUTY 2018-2022: ACTION PLAN UPDATE (19 JANUARY 2023)

### 5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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