



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

Report to:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>09 May 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027 – Annual Update to the Action Plan</b>

**Summary:**

This report presents an annual update to the Action Plan (Appendix A) of the '*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27*' covering 2023-24.

**Actions Required:**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is requested to:

1. endorse the updated annual Action Plan for the '*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027*' covering 2023-24.
2. invite Children's Strategic Commissioning to attend in May 2025 to provide an annual update on the Action Plan for the period 2024-25.

## **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.

### **Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027**

The 2023-27 Sufficiency Strategy was signed off by the Corporate Parenting Panel in September 2023 with the recommendation to report annually on progress against the Action Plan (Appendix A1 of the Strategy), aligning the update to the financial and reporting year.

The Action Plan (Appendix A of this report) has been updated to reflect progress against the actions for the year up to, and including, 31 March 2024.

### **Lincolnshire Children's Services Independent Placements Market Position Statement 2024-25**

The first Market Position Statement 2023-24 was signed off by the Corporate Parenting Panel in September 2023 with the recommendation to update the document annually as a

means of supporting development work with the independent placement sector as well as increasing placement capacity within Lincolnshire.

Data used in the Market Position Statement is currently being ratified and the document will be updated for 2024-25 shortly to reflect changes in demand and the needs of Lincolnshire Children in Care, and will be published on the Council’s Professionals website.

**2. Conclusion**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to discuss and endorse the updated content of the Action Plan (Appendix A) to the ‘*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027*’. In addition, the Panel is requested to invite Children’s Strategic Commissioning to attend in May 2025 to provide an annual update on the Action Plan for the period 2024-25.

**3. Consultation**

**a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Risks were identified within the Strategy and elements are included within the Action Plan (Appendix A).

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children In Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27: 2023-24 Action Plan Update

**5. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Bridie Fletcher, Senior Commissioning Officer (Children’s Commissioning), who can be contacted on 07748 181381 or by e-mail at [bridie.fletcher@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:bridie.fletcher@lincolnshire.gov.uk)