

TITLE OF REPORT: **Placement Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for Children in Care in Gateshead 2018 to 2021**

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing & Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Cabinet with the Placement Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for Children in Care in Gateshead 2018 to 2021. The strategy covers the accommodation and placement needs for Looked After Children and Care Leavers supported by the Council.

Background

2. There is a requirement on Local Authorities as the Corporate Parent, to identify and describe its accommodation and placements available for their Looked After Children and Care Leavers, in a report that also covers, what is required, what is currently delivered and future plans. The report also links to the Council's strategic approach, Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.
3. The strategy includes details of the vision for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers, the Corporate Parenting Pledge, demographic details, the placement profile of this cohort, their legal status, the provision and market analysis as well as the financial analysis of those placements.

Proposal

4. The Placement Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is current.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) Approves the draft Placement Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for Children in Care in Gateshead 2018-2021 for further consultation with key stakeholders and partners; and
 - (ii) Notes that the strategy will be taken for information to the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board in January.

For the following reasons):

To enable the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibility under the Children's Act 2014 to develop a strategy to express the Council's vision and identifies the provision of placements and accommodation for children in its care, who are Looked After or Care Leavers.

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Policy Context

1. The Council has a duty to provide accommodation and support to its Looked after children and Care Leavers, under the Children's Act 2014 in discharging its Corporate Parent duties.
2. It must also demonstrate to Ofsted that it has plans in place to address those key issues and they should cover the current period and future planning.

Background

3. There is a requirement on Local Authorities as the Corporate Parent, to identify and describe its accommodation and placements available for their Looked After Children and Care Leavers in a Placement Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy.

Consultation

4. Initial consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and the NewcastleGateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, who were happy for the draft strategy to be placed for wider consultation.

Alternative Options

6. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no direct financial implication arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** - There are no direct Human Resource implications from this strategy.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising from this strategy.
8. **Risk Management Implication** – There are no risk management implications from this strategy
9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The current services are open to all children and families at risk, this will not change with the new strategy.
10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no anticipated crime and disorder implications included in this strategy
11. **Health Implications** - There are no health implications arising from this strategy.

12. **Sustainability Implications** – There is a key requirement to have a sustainable service model to discharge this duty as a Corporate Parent.
13. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no human resource implications covered in this strategy
14. **Area and Ward Implications** – There are no specific ward implications of this strategy