



## Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance

### INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<b>Title of proposal:</b> Reducing the number of children in need of care strategy.	Age	Race	Sex	Gender reassignment	Disability	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Sexual Orientation	Marriage and Civil Partnership	<b>Description of potential mitigation</b>
<p><b>Equality impact:</b> (✓ all that apply. The assessment should also consider impact on council employees and carers where applicable)</p> <p>Description of impact:</p> <p>This strategy is in relation to children however also benefits their parents/guardians. The children in need of care come from a variety of backgrounds, race, disabilities and religions.</p> <p>As of March 2022 Gateshead has 484 children/YP in care (109.3 per 10000). This is a significant increase since 2020.</p>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		<p>Targeting of resources. Working in partnership.</p> <p>This strategy is strongly aligned to the Thrive agenda by placing the welfare of the child at the heart of everything Children’s Social Care services do. By reducing the number of children in need of our care we will also be improving their life chances and tackling inequality.</p> <p>Strategy will have a positive impact on children in Gateshead by working to reduce those who are in need of care by the Council, regardless of their individual characteristics</p>



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<p><b>Health impact: (eg physical, mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse)</b></p> <p>This strategy aim is to reduce the number of children who need our care, will also help us to achieve the vision and aims of the Health and Wellbeing strategy. In particular, by giving every child the best start in life and enabling all our children and young people to achieve their best outcomes.</p> <p>Children in care usually have experienced several adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which impact negatively on their life chances.</p>	<p>Children’s social care service will work with families and children and young people to improve mental health and wellbeing by keeping children safely at home and providing opportunities for support such as counselling and intervention where appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Socio Economic impact: (eg neighbourhood, ward, area of deprivation, household group, income, wealth)</b></p> <p>A child requiring the care of the Local authority is not solely impacted by their socio economic status however we do know that children from areas of deprivation are more likely to suffer adverse childhood experiences.</p> <p>Our vision for health and wellbeing in Gateshead is 'Good jobs, homes, health and friends.' We intend to reduce inequalities and improve health and wellbeing for people living in our communities through the 6 aims of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give every child the best start in life, with a focus on conception to age two</li> <li>2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control on their lives</li> <li>3. Create the conditions for fair employment and good work for all</li> <li>4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all, in accordance with international law on economic and social rights</li> <li>5. Create and develop sustainable places and communities</li> <li>6. Strengthen the role and impact of all health prevention.</li> </ol>	<p>Children’s social care service will work with families from more deprived areas or with lower family incomes to improve outcomes for the child which will in turn support the strategic aim of a reduction of children requiring care.</p>



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<p><b>Environmental impact: (does the proposal impact on climate change and the Council’s commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030? Is the proposal in line with the Council’s Environmental Policy? Does the proposal increase natural resource use? Does the proposal increase waste? Does the proposal increase pollution? Does the proposal impact on wildlife? Does the proposal increase car use? Does the proposal increase energy use?)</b></p> <p>It is not felt that this strategy would have a detrimental environmental impact.</p>	
<p><b>Cumulative impact: (consider impact based on successive budgetary decisions relating to the proposal or is the proposal part of wider budgetary considerations that may collectively have an impact on service users, and is potentially at odds with the Thrive agenda)</b></p> <p>As of March 2022 Gateshead Council had 484 children and young people in need of care outside of their family homes, this is an increase of over 10% from the same period of 2020. This demonstrates that the need for a strategic approach to reduce the amount of children and young people requiring a placement in care.</p> <p>We want children and young people residing in Gateshead to receive the opportunity to thrive and in implementing this strategy we aim to achieve this.</p>	<p>Actions identified through this strategy will help support CYP on the edge of the care system and reduce numbers who become in need of our care. This will be positive for both the CYP and their families and for Gateshead.</p>



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**Summary of consultation/data/research undertaken to inform the assessment:**

**(eg feedback and engagement with service users, trade unions, employees, partners, public, benchmarking, case studies)**

In formulating this strategy, we have assessed the data in relation to children in need of care within Gateshead. We have completed audits into cases whereby children have required a placement in care and used this analysis to inform the action plan for this strategy.

**The following officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report:**

**Gavin Bradshaw, Service Manager, Targeted Family Support.**

**Linda Whitehead, Service Manager, Specialist Support Services.**

**Ben Van Wagendonk, Practice Leader, Cared for and Care experienced Children and Young people's Teams, Children with Disabilities and the ASYE Academy**

**Paige Thomason, Principal Social Worker.**

**Chris O'Reilly, Service Manager, Safeguarding and Care Planning.**

**Lynn Wilson, Director for Gateshead System.**

**Steph Downey, Service Director, Adult Social Care.**

**Steve Horne, Service Director, Education, Schools, and Inclusion.**

**Jill Little - Practice Leader, Looked After Children' Service.**

**Councillor Gary Haley, Portfolio Holder and Cabinet Lead Member for Children's Services.**

**Andrea Houlahan, Deputy Strategic Director.**

**Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director**

**Signed: (completing officer) Suzanne Storey**

**Date: 08 April 2022**

**Service Director: (approved) Andrea Houlahan**

**Date 08 April 2022**



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