

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO CORPORATE
PARENTING BOARD**

9 OCTOBER 2020

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES CHILDREN IN OUR CARE SUFFICIENCY AND COMMISSIONING
STRATEGY 2020-2021**

SUMMARY

This report provides Corporate Parenting Board with the Children in Our Care Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for 2020-2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of Corporate Parenting Board are asked to note the detail in the Strategy.

DETAIL

1. The Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy 2020-2021 (attached at **Appendix 1**) sets out how Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council intends to meet its duty to ensure that there is a range of sufficient accommodation and services to meet the needs of children in our care. It is a statutory requirement set out in Section 22G of the Children's Act 1989.
2. 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 are 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. The Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy provides an analysis of outcomes and findings from local and comparative national data into the needs of children in our care and children leaving care. It also describes our ambitions for effective commissioning and modelling of services from 2018 to 2021 to keep children and young people safe and connected to their communities, wherever this is safe and possible.
4. The strategy has been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown period, and comparator data at a Tees Valley, England and statistical neighbour level has yet to be published. Therefore, a proportion of the indicators within this document reference the latest available verified data for 2018-19. Where this is the case this is clearly referenced. A new strategy will be produced during 2021 and will include comparator data once released.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy is aligned with the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The strategy meets the requirements of The Children's Act 1989.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. The development of the Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities to allocate and manage resources are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

8. The strategy does not include any policy changes, therefore there are no community impact implications as a direct result of this report.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

9. The strategy contributes to the Council Plan priority to make the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. The views of children and young people in our care have been incorporated into the development of the strategy.

Name of Contact Officer: Martin Gray
Post Title: Director of Children's Services
Telephone No: 01642 527043
Email address: martin.gray@stockton.gov.uk