

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 07 March 2023

TITLE	Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2024		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Gail Rogers	Job title: Head of Service – Children’s Commissioning		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	Executive Director lead: Abi Gbago Executive Director Children’s and Education		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: For Cabinet to ratify and approve the Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2024 for publication.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Sufficiency Duty, under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989, requires the council to take steps to ensure, as far as practicable, we can provide children in care with homes that meet their needs, within our area. This involves making sure there is a sufficient range and number of providers capable of meeting the differing needs of our children in care and care leavers. 2. Bristol’s Sufficiency Strategy 2020-23 was written before the emergence of the Covid pandemic and, although still relevant in most aspects, now lacks current context. Therefore, a strategy refresh has been required. It is intended to signal current priorities until March 2024 and will be reviewed annually thereafter. 3. The Sufficiency Strategy sets out our ambitions to keep children local and increase placement stability through developing the market and creating more specialist provision in, or close to, Bristol. 4. We want to increase local sufficiency to ensure children and young people retain consistent links and access to local education, health and social care services. Our Strategy sets out how we plan to achieve this and anticipated timescales. 5. The full Sufficiency Strategy can be found in Appendix A. 			
Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations: That Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2024 for publication. 			
Corporate Strategy alignment: CYP1 Child Friendly City – Children and young people will be cared for and supported in the City they have grown up in and will be supported to overcome adverse childhood experiences. CYP2 Supported to Thrive - Children and young people will be supported to thrive, by ensuring there are sufficient placements.			
City Benefits The Strategy and associated areas of work being undertaken to meet sufficiency will benefit the city in the following ways:			

1. Meet the needs of children in care and care leavers in line with the Children Act 1989 and the Equalities Act 2010
2. Increase the availability of provision which meets our high aspirations for all children and young people in our care, delivering in line with the assessed needs to achieve agreed outcomes.
3. Develop partnership working between Bristol City Council, Partner Organisations and Providers to meet the changing needs of the children / young people in our care.

Consultation Details:

The Strategy has been written in consultation with professionals from across Social Care, Education and Health. Any projects that are taken forward to develop sufficiency will be subject to consultation and engagement with children and families.

Background Documents:

[Section 22G of the Children Act 1989](#)

Revenue Cost	£n/a	Source of Revenue Funding	n/a
Capital Cost	£n/a	Source of Capital Funding	n/a
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: The report itself does not present any financial implications. The financial impact of the actions from the strategies in the update will be assessed individually as they further develop.

Finance Business Partner: Andrew Osei – Finance Business Partner 31 January 2023

2. Legal Advice: The Strategy complies with relevant legislation. The Department for Education will introduce national standards for currently unregulated accommodation for 16- and 17- year-olds in 2023 and the inspectorate will develop the registration and inspection framework and begin registering providers from April 2023, with pilot inspections beginning in 2023. Legal services will work with the service to advise on the standards and inspection framework as they are implemented to ensure compliance.

Legal Team Leader: Rebecca Davies – Solicitor, Team Manager Child Protection Team – 6 January 2023

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Senior Solution Architect – 10 January 2023

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval of the Sufficiency Strategy and there are no HR implications arising from this request.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing HR Business Partner 7 January 2023

EDM Sign-off	Abi Gbago	1 February 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	6 February 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	6 February 2023

Appendix A – Sufficiency Strategy Children in Care and Care Leavers	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO

Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO