

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on how the Local Authority complies with its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare to meet parental need, in accordance with the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (June 2018).
2. A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is completed annually. This report summarises the key findings to maintain and improve childcare sufficiency across Hampshire.

### Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People note the content of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

### Executive Summary

4. Statutory guidance requires that the Council can secure sufficient childcare for working parents and to undertake a sufficiency assessment to be brought to Executive Members on an annual basis.
5. The CSA provides an overview of Hampshire as at April 2022. It provides a status known of childcare places at that time and provides an action plan that looks forward to the 2023 year and beyond.
6. Generally, the childcare market has continued to return from lower levels of attendance during the COVID pandemic. The cost of living and rising costs, and difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff have become the major issues moving forwards.

7. The early years and childcare sector for under-fives continues to offer a good variety of childcare with 99% of provision receiving Good or Outstanding judgements from OFSTED.
8. The county continues to have 99% of children who are three- and four-year-old access funded early years free entitlements and the county is broadly in line with the national picture. Overall take up for funded vulnerable two-year-olds is 1% below the All England position at 71%. This confirms that take up continues to recover from the COVID pandemic.
9. The Extended Entitlement (30 hours) uptake shows some growth in Spring 2022 with 9,849 children taking up this offer, which dropped to 9,476 in 2021. Both years have increased on Spring 2019 (9267). Summer 2019 saw numbers increase to 11,114 and in Summer 2022 there were 11,752 children suggesting the numbers of children are returned to pre-COVID levels. Numbers of children accessing extended entitlements have returned to the levels seen prior to the pandemic. Of those who also received SEND additional funding for early years education, 66% took up extended entitlement up from 55% in 2019. Just under 4,800 children entered primary school in 2022 who had previously taken up the extended entitlement which continues to suggest further demand for out of school and holiday childcare.
10. The early years and childcare sector continue to work with the county in offering flexible childcare. The number of childminders has reduced significantly to 963 since 2016/17. Term time only group settings have reduced by 23% since 2019, however, there has been a 20% growth in provision offering 50 weeks plus per year.
11. The reporting period April 21 to April 2022 highlights a decrease of -772 childcare places in Hampshire overall. Of these places, 451 were offered by childminders (both EYE approved and non-EYE) and Home Child Carers. There was a reduction of -16 settings (-456 places) offering term time only care, which is a trend that has continued from 2021. During the previous reporting period 2020/21 the same number of full day care settings opened as closed and in 2022 there has been 2 full day carers open in the period offering 135 places.
12. The net loss of -771 places is lower than 2021 which saw a loss of – 1218 and could be an indication that the market is beginning to stabilise following COVID.
13. As in previous years, the market continues to cite issues with financial sustainability due to increased business rates; employers pension costs contributions; increases in national minimum/living wage. Whilst there was an Early Years Entitlement funding uplift in funding in 2021, this did not fully respond to the increased costs seen by providers. There is national and local recruitment and retention concern regarding the

childcare workforce which is starting in impact on the market's flexibility.

14. The CSA in 2019 anticipated a growth in child population up to 2025. However, the population models have been refreshed and the child population for 0 to 4-year-olds is anticipated to reduce by 2,288 children (-3%) between 2021 and 2025. The overall reduction from 2021 to 2028 however is 1,843 (-2.6%).
15. The primary phase population is forecast to reduce annually from 2021 to 2028 with an overall reduction of -8,138 children (-6.7%). The secondary phase population is forecasted to increase annually from 2021 to 2025. There is a reduction in years 2026, 2027 and 2028, yet an overall increase of 3,172 children (6.15%).
16. There are many new homes being built in Hampshire. Most of the large developments have plans for early years provision, and there are circa 3,323 childcare places that need to be confirmed of 5,494 childcare places that are in various stages of development. There are a number of smaller housing developments across Hampshire which offer different challenges to childcare place provision. These will continue to be assessed alongside existing childcare provisions in the local areas.
17. Out of School childcare continues to be needed by working parents who require more than the school day. There has been a small 4% reduction in providers since 2020.
18. The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) which provide enriching activities and food for children meeting Free School Meals eligibility has seen growth in the number of providers from 29 in first year to 52 (80%) in 2022, with a growth from 41 to 124 (200%) venues in 2022. Over 10,000 eligible children accessed HAF in Easter 2022, an increase of over 4,000 children since Easter 2021. The secondary aged provision for HAF is an area of development as well as meeting the access needs of more remote communities.
19. The CSA action plan outlines key areas of focus for the period 2022 to 2024, which will be reviewed annually.

### **Contextual Information**

20. The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to improve outcomes for all young children, reduce inequalities and ensure there is sufficient, high quality Early Years Education and childcare to meet forecast demand.
21. Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents. The Childcare Act 2016 further refined this duty with implementation of 30 hours childcare. The duty was also set out at regulation 33 of the Childcare (early years provision free of charge)

(extended entitlement) regulation 2016.

22. The Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance for Local Authorities (June 2018) outlines the requirement to report annually to Council Members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and to make this report available and accessible to parents.
23. During the COVID pandemic, reports were presented to Select Committee to summarise how the childcare market was affected during the pandemic.
24. On 27 October 2021, the Government announced a further investment of over £200 million per year over the next 3 financial years for the holiday activities and food programme (HAF), which follows the successful roll out of the programme across England in 2021. The Council has a duty to provide access to the funded place for income-related Free School Meals eligible children.
25. Hampshire County Council publishes updated childcare sufficiency reports on the Council website for each of the 11 boroughs and districts. The 2022 updates are published on the website.
26. The CSA provides an overview of Hampshire as at April 2022. It provides a status known at that time and provides an action plan that looks forward to the 2022 year and beyond.

## Key Findings

27. **The mix, quality and availability of different types of provision, including children with special educational needs:**
  - Hampshire's childcare market is predominantly provided from the Private, Independent and Voluntary childcare sector. There has been a continued interest in schools directly delivering Early Years childcare. Currently there are 46 school-managed settings (7% of the total EYE PVI and school run settings).
  - Hampshire continues to represent 3% of the All England childcare market providers and 4% of places.
  - The early years childcare market continues to offer variety of weeks of delivery and 76% deliver beyond school term time, an increase of 1% from 2019.
  - The childcare market supports children with SEND with 11.8% supported directly by the council's inclusion team. This represents growth of 4.3% from 7.5% in 2019.
  - Provision for out of school is an area of potential growth.
  - Good and outstanding judgements for Hampshire childcare provisions is at 98% compared to All England levels at 96%, an increase of 3% for Hampshire since 2019.

28. **Early years entitlement including free childcare entitlement for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds, both universal and extended (30 hours):**
- Trends in take up of funded 2-year-olds has improved from 65% in 2021 to 71% in 2022 and is above the south east average (69%), although is lower than all England (72%).
  - Three and-four-year-old take up has increased to 99% of children from 97% in 2019.
  - There are 9,800 children claiming the extended entitlement (30 hours).
  - In 2022, the average number of universal entitlement hours taken has reduced by 0.48 hours from 2022, and by 0.28 hours for 30 hours extended.

### **Under 5 Childcare**

29. There has been a reduction in the number of providers and places since 2019. From August 2021 to March 2022, there was a 6% reduction in providers with a 0.1% reduction in places. The population of nought to four-year-olds for the same period reduced by -1.45%. This shows that whilst there is a loss of providers the ones that remain are in the main offering enough places to meet the population decline. This is monitored at a local level.
30. Data collected in Spring 2022 showed that all age groups of under-five-year-olds did access some level of early years provision:
- 23% (18% in 2019) of one-year-olds and under
  - 72% (70% in 2019) of two-year-olds (which includes 20% (22% in 2019) of two-year-olds that receive early years funding).
  - Nearly all three-year-olds access provision (98%).
  - There are 41% of four-year-olds in early years provision, the remaining are receiving education in Year R as most children aged four years old enter school in September. Although, this is slightly less than seen in 2019 (50%).
31. Take up of Early Years funded entitlement for all childcare offers continues to recover to pre-pandemic levels. The percentage take up of funded two-year-olds in 2020 was 14.3%, which reduced in 2021 to 13.5% before increasing again in 2022 to 14%. This shows that whilst still not quite reaching pre-COVID levels, take up has almost recovered for funded two-year-olds.
32. When reviewing the take up percentage of two-year-olds in Hampshire against the DWP-notified potential eligibility, Hampshire has increased by 6% since 2021 with South East growing by 8% and All England by 10%. Hampshire is 1% below All England in 2022.
33. In 2022, the three- and four-year-old entitlement continues to have high take up with 99% of children attending. This is above the national position

of 92% and is higher than pre-COVID levels.

34. The 30 hours scheme for working parents shows take up in 2022 of 9,849 children, which is a small growth on 2021 (9,476 children) but not yet returned to pre-COVID levels (9,868 children). There was 66% of children with Special Education Needs who received Inclusion funding who took up extended entitlement up from 55% in 2019.

### **Out of School Childcare**

35. The Out of School childcare sector was severely affected by the COVID pandemic. There has been a 4% (19) reduction in the numbers of providers during this period.
36. However, since 2020, the Council has been delivering the Holiday Activity and Food Programme and now has a small team delivering this work which is successfully supporting a greater understanding of the out of school childcare market. Work continues with schools to consider their approaches to out of school childcare.

### **Housing Developments**

37. The Childcare Development team works closely with the Strategic Development Team to consider early years and childcare places alongside any required expansion/development of schools. Major housing developments planned for 2021 to 2028 are likely to require a minimum of 5,494 places for two-, three- and four-year-old children. Plans are being formed or are in place for developers to support the delivery of early years places with 2,355 secured and circa 3,323 requiring development plans. The developments are spread across all 11 districts of Hampshire, with the highest number of dwellings, and therefore potential Early Years places required, in Fareham.
38. Some smaller developments can be a challenge, especially when there are a cluster of schemes, when these do not attract developer contributions. The estimated numbers of children at an individual site level can appear low but, grouped together with neighbouring developments, may put pressure on early years places in the locality if demand were to outweigh the availability of current places. The Childcare Development Team respond to individual planning applications to consider impact on the childcare sufficiency needs on a case-by-case basis. More work on these smaller housing developments and linking to School Places Planning regarding these developments will occur during 2023.
39. The Childcare Development Team work with local providers and keep them informed of the changes in the population and potential demand. This supports the market to take up opportunities as they present.

## Issues for the Childcare Market

40. The issues affecting the childcare market remain from 2019 and are further exacerbated by the wider cost of living inflationary rises and changes to the workforce since the COVID pandemic.
  - Continued concern from the market of financial stability with the sector experiencing, increased business rates; increased percentage of employers' contributions for pensions; minimum and living wage increases; pay and condition competition from other sectors such as retail and schools.
  - Difficulty in recruiting qualified staff to the childcare workforce to meet regulatory requirements.
  - High level of vacancies and few people seeking employment.
  - No inflation or increases in Early Years Education hourly rates.
  - General cost of living increases impacting on parents' ability to pay fees
  - The increased cost of food, premises, utilities.
41. There continue to be national and local area concerns raised about childcare workforce recruitment. Hampshire has seen a 16% reduction in the number of people working to deliver early years foundation stage since 2014. The largest reduction was seen in 2021 (11%) and whilst the reduction to Spring 2022 has slowed (-1%), the situation continues.
42. In January 2022, 32% of Hampshire group providers reported difficulties with staff recruitment. Of these, 98% said they needed to recruit a level 3 practitioner, who, amongst staff with other levels of qualification, can impact on settings' ability to deliver the childcare ratio requirements of the EYFS. Despite the loss in numbers of staff, the percentage of those with level 3 and above has increased by 3.5%. The loss of staff has most notably been from unqualified staff and those with levels 1 to 4 early years qualification.
43. Providers also continue to face increased costs associated with business rate increases; employers contribution to pensions; national living wage increased and the erosion of salary differential; inflation costs that are not supported by an early years hourly rate that has been cash limited for a number of years and continues to do so. The childcare market remains concerned that the increased cost of living and reduction in fee paying hours may add to financial pressures moving forwards.
44. The ability of parents to be able to afford additional fees and allowable consumable charges is an issue. This is reflected in the reduction in the number of recorded additional hours purchased by families over and above their free entitlements.
45. Food costs increases puts additional pressure of Holiday Activity and Food Programme providers in providing food options.

## Finance

46. Childcare is supported by parental fees and through Early Years Education funded hours for eligible two-, three- and four-year-olds. The early years education funding is provided from the Early Years Block of the DfE Dedicated Schools Grant. It is governed by the Early Years National Funding Formula. The type of organisation and childcare offer will determine the balance of the parental fees to early years funding.
47. Hampshire's Schools Forum is the accountable body for confirming Early Years Education funding rates and receives reports on the funding changes and subsequent consultations.
48. The Department for Education has undertaken a consultation in 2022 to change the way Local Authority funding will be allocated. The outcome of this consultation is due at the end of Autumn 2022 and will outline any change in the value of Early Years entitlements. Provider feedback suggests that some settings may be at risk should the level of funding remain the same, as they may not be able to pay their staff in line with wage increases. Some providers have also raised concerns over the number of funded children they have, as raising private fees will not help in these cases, and as a result may choose to limit the number of funded places that are offered.
49. The indicative allocation for the Holiday Activity and Food programme 2023 is £3,483,740.

## Performance

50. The performance of the Hampshire childcare market in relation to sufficiency is measured by:
  - Hampshire's take up of Early Years entitlement for eligible funded twos. The Department for Education in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), provides the Local Authority with the number of families who are most likely to meet the eligibility criteria for 2-year-old funding. Hampshire's take up represents 80% of the proxy indicator of possible two-year-olds informed to the county from the Department for Work and Pensions.
  - Hampshire's take up of universal entitlement<sup>1</sup> of funded three- and four-year-olds meets or exceeds the All England average.
  - The average hours claimed for children aged two three and four is 14.50 average hours per week (based on term time only / 38 weeks per annum attendance) or 10.50 hours per week if stretched offer (the total 570 hours taken over 52 weeks per annum).

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<sup>1</sup> Universal Entitlement is funded universal early years entitlement which is 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year to a maximum of 570 hours per child's eligible birthday year.



- Of the families that contact the Council to be supported to find childcare, 99% of families will be supported to find an appropriate childcare solution.
- Use district level assessments to target areas where demand is greater than the places offered due to staff vacancies and provide support to reduce the number of vacant posts to enable sufficient access.
- Use district level assessments to target areas to where demand requires an increase in the number of new childminders joining the sector.
- Use district level assessment to target areas to increase the number of Holiday Activity and Food Programme providers that support secondary age children.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

51. There is no requirement to consult on the childcare sufficiency assessment. The assessment will be published on the Council's website and will feature in briefings with childcare providers throughout the coming year.
52. A survey to parents was undertaken during the Summer 2022 to gather information on any changes in demand for childcare following the COVID pandemic. Only 1.3% of the 37,000 children recorded as attending childcare at the spring census 2022 responded to the survey, however, it did provide evidence that parents were experiencing a change in demand for childcare. It was assumed this would be less childcare required due to more home working, however the responses received suggested that they required more childcare. SEND parents required more access to out of school childcare. Generally, the 0–4-year-old age group of parents were more likely to access tax free childcare than those of school age.
53. Universal early years is available to all three- and four-year-olds resident in England. There is no statutory requirement for parents to take up provision and choice remains. The statutory Early Years Foundation Stage requires all providers to be inclusive. The Council monitors take up of ethnic groups through parental declaration at child's access to provision. Our data for Spring 2022 suggests that 13% of the total EYE funded 2, 3 and 4-year-old children are from ethnic groups other than White British. A further 6% are either; information not yet obtained / refused / blank, with the remaining 81% White British.
54. The continued monitoring of the take up and implementation of action plans to monitor demand and supply helps to mitigate risk in the sufficiency of places not being available for parents.

55. Equalities Impact Assessment and Climate Change Impact Assessment is found at Appendix 1.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

56. Not applicable as strategic/administrative report. There could be climate implications within projects that are created from the childcare market assessment. These will be considered and assessed through a different report, specific for those projects as they are developed.

### **Conclusions**

57. The CSA has identified a need for careful market management in the coming years as there is population reduction, as outlined in sections 15 and 16 of this report. There is percentage growth in access for younger age childcare (0 and 1-year-olds) across early years education places, and the need for out of school childcare due to population demand changes for certain types of childcare.
58. Hampshire continues to have a high quality and responsive childcare market. There is a good mix of provision including childminders. The market continues to support funded two-year-olds and has continued to respond well to extended entitlement for working parents (30 hours). The market has sustained its capacity for three- and four-year-olds with 99% of all three- and four-year-olds accessing provision.
59. There is continued challenge to understand the Out of School childcare market, especially the before and after school sector as the number of places offered is not recorded. Further analysis of the market and its relationship to the extended 30 hours offer in Early Years is required to support schools with an approximate indicator of demand from new pupils. The Council will be undertaking a survey of schools to inform what Out of School and wraparound facilities are available. The Holiday Activity and Food Programme has strengthened delivery and understanding regarding school holiday periods.
60. New large housing developments will continue to provide a need for new childcare places. However, there will be some smaller developments that will be met through the existing market. Careful monitoring will be needed as generally small area population forecast is currently projecting a decline in the number of early years children in the coming years.
61. Better data recording of SEND children has shown there to be a good offer for children and the numbers of children accessing early years education, including extended entitlement (30 hours) has grown and the childcare market has developed its local SEND offer to meet these needs.
62. The sector continues to cite financial difficulties and workforce recruitment and retention of qualified staff. There was a reduction of -41 (-1%) staff

delivering childcare to 3 and 4-year-olds in Spring 2022 against the year before, which is a continued trend of reduction since Spring 2015 (although some years did show an increase). This gives a total overall reduction of -16% in 2022 from 2014. Whilst the reduction in Spring 2022 has slowed, the requirement remains to ensure that the workforce numbers continue to meet requirements to support a robust and flexible childcare offer. Having sufficient and appropriately qualified staff will be key to ensuring stability in the childcare market and its ability to augment and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage adult-to-child ratios.

## Action plan

63. It should also be noted that childcare sufficiency is a dynamic process of which the childcare market changes according to demand and supply and other environmental and regulatory factors. The Childcare Development Team keep childcare providers informed of known changes through regular communications via the Services for Young Children blog and termly provider briefings. To keep parents informed, the Council's Family Information Services Hub includes childcare operators and providers' SEND Local offers, together with a termly newsletter for parents and stakeholders.
64. The childcare sufficiency assessment has outlined some areas where further action is needed to understand specific elements of the changing childcare market. The action plan has set out the key areas that will be addressed over the next two years.

Theme	What we will do	Who do this	By When
Market Stability – population change and financial sustainability	Continue to offer business surgeries and materials to support providers to implement effective business strategies and change plans.  Monitor the demand of additional paid for hours to monitor risk of reduced fees for non-EYE take up.	Childcare Development Business Officers	Throughout the year.
Market Stability – recruitment and retention	Continue to implement workforce strategy to encourage more interest in childcare workforce and childminders.  Review data collections of staff numbers and qualifications to better inform risk and opportunity across the whole childcare market.	Childcare Information and Communication Officer  Business Policy Funding Manager	Summer 2023

	Monitor the impact of any changes to supply in the market due to staff reduction at a setting level and support where there is sufficiency pressure in demand.	Childcare Development Business Officers.	
Market Stability – Early Years Education	Monitor take up of EYE offers including those that support the most vulnerable families to ensure the market is meeting demand.	Childcare Development Business Officers	Throughout the year
Market Stability – Out of School	Undertake the Out of School Survey with Schools to provide greater understand of the OSC and Wraparound facilities being delivered and discuss with local schools to development services where demand if required.  Promote the Military Wraparound Childcare Scheme to encourage use and take up.	Out of School Market Manager	Spring 2023  Throughout the year
Market Change – to support housing developments	Secure plans for new childcare to meet the housing developments and monitor closely smaller housing developments and its impact to childcare sufficiency reaching out to local market to meet any identified gaps. .	Childcare Development Business Officers	Throughout the year
Market Change – Holiday Activity and Food Programme	Continue to secure new providers to the HAF framework specifically for secondary aged provision and SEND.	HAF Programme Manager	Throughout the year.
Increase take up – Holiday Activity and Food Programme	Increase the reach of the HAF programme to secondary aged children; SEND; and other vulnerable groups.	HAF Programme Manager	Throughout the year
Increase take up – 2 year olds funded children	Increase the take up of 2 year old funding to 80% of the DWP eligible notified families. Through use of the new DWP contact information to target eligible children and encourage take up.	Childcare Information and Communication Officer	Termly

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	No

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and COVID19 Impact and Response for the Childcare Sector – Select Committee	July 2020
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	20 November 2019
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Childcare Act 2006: Section 6, Section 7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011) Section 7A (as inserted by the Children and Families Act 2014) Section 9A (as inserted by the Children and Families Act 2014)	<b>2006 and 2016</b>
Childcare Act 2016 Section 1 Early Years Education Funding Guidance Holiday Activity and Food Programme	<b>2014 2021</b>

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022

To be published on council's website after meeting.

The Hampshire Labour Market Bulletin produced by the **Economic and Business Intelligence Service** Hampshire County Council

[EBIS reports | Business and economy | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/economic-intelligence-service)

Developers guide:

[https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schoolplacesplan](https://www.hants.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schoolplacesplan)

Office of National Statistic (ONS)  
Hampshire Levels of deprivation

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/IndexofMultipleDeprivation.pdf>

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### Equalities Impact Assessment:

It has been agreed with Childrens Services Equalities Impact Assessment officer that an EIA is not required at this time as there is no change to policy and the report is an assessment of business as usual.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

The climate change adaptation tool was not applicable because the decision relates to a programme and is strategic/administrative in nature. If a project is created, the vulnerability will be assessed through a different report, specific for that project.

### **Carbon Mitigation**

The carbon mitigation adaptation tool was not applicable because the decision relates to a programme and is strategic/administrative in nature. If a project is created, the vulnerability will be assessed through a different report, specific for that project.