

# Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal EMCS01a T19 EIA Social Care Transformation - Users  
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Department Childrens Services  
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## **Description of Service / Policy**

The Children and Families branch of Children's Services provides protection and support to safeguard vulnerable children and families. This comprises statutory services such as children in need of care and protection, children looked after, fostering and adoption services. Non statutory prevention and early help services are also provided to those not meeting the threshold for statutory support.

Geographical impact\* All Hampshire

## **Description of proposed change**

To reduce the cost of children's social care by:

- Providing more targeted help to vulnerable children, particularly teenagers.
- Intervening early to prevent the need for statutory care services
- Investing in family-based interventions to enable children and young people to remain within family networks

The potential impacts may include a focus on the most vulnerable families only; a greater number of teenagers and other children would be supported to remain with their family /networks; the CSD workforce would be required to reduce and work more flexibly and proposed innovative changes to the delivery of care would need to be fully tested.

## **Engagement and consultation**

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

## **Impacts of the proposed change**

This impact assessment covers Service users

### **Statutory considerations**

### **Impact**

Age Positive  
Impact Through working with partners to manage demand and provide more targeted help to vulnerable children, it is

expected that fewer children (especially teenagers) will need to be taken into care and a greater number will return to the home environment.

Disability Impact	Positive Shaping service delivery based on the feedback gained from parents and families to only tell their story once and to provide a more integrated service across professions. Providing targeted support earlier to build resilience and enable children with disabilities to remain living within their families wherever possible.
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Sexual Orientation	Neutral
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Race	Neutral
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Religion and Belief	Neutral
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Gender Reassignment	Neutral
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Gender	Neutral
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Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
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Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral
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### **Other policy considerations**

Poverty	Neutral
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Rurality	Neutral
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### ***Additional Information***

The DfE confirmed in January 2016 that Hampshire and 7 other local authorities had been selected to be the Partners in Practice. Those local authorities are expected to innovate to improve frontline children's social work and to develop new systems of delivering social care and trialling new ways of working with families.

Hampshire County Council will deliver the following social care transformation:

- A family service - a system focussing on improving outcomes for the child in the context of their family
- A social work led, integrated, multidisciplinary service, from the front door through to specialist services
- Social workers are supported to deliver meaningful interventions based on an underpinning methodology of resilience
- A service where good practice is free to flourish without bureaucracy and unnecessary regulatory demands
- Children are supported by and within their own family/community wherever possible. Where children do come into care longer term their experience will be life changing for

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