

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Reception and Safe Care Service

Responsible Officer

Louise Fisher - CY EHPS

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Intergratd Childrens Services/ eastern Division

Responsible Head of Service

Christy Holden - ST SC

Responsible Director

Kevin Kasaven - CY SCS

Aims and Objectives

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) who arrive in Kent are accommodated by KCC as part of the Local Authority's statutory duty for children in care. They are placed in Reception Centres for temporary accommodation for up to eight weeks during which time they undergo a series of assessments including a Children and Family Assessment, a Health Assessment and Age Assessments. They receive basic orientation and independence skills and associated training programmes to support their transition to independent accommodation. This assessment period is significant in assessing both the risk to self and any risk to others. Having identified facilities makes the risk assessment more robust and supports the Governments PREVENT agenda.

The Reception Centres provide accommodation and support for male UASC entering Kent aged 16-18. Other arrivals, either female or those with clear safeguarding concerns, are placed in foster care.

There are two Reception Centres in Kent. One is in Ashford and one is in Cranbrook. The agreed Protocol with the Home Office has recently been reviewed in light of the increases to the ratio of UASC to Children in Care population which recently increased from 0.07% to 0.1%.

The National Transfer Scheme was also mandated and has had varying success.

KCC negotiated an Agreement with the Home Office in 2021 for the Kent Reception and Safe Care Service operating at a maximum of 120 (although through Summer this number was exceeded to support with the

high numbers of UASC).

The Ashford Reception Centre has 49 single rooms, with 38 single rooms at Cranbrook. In addition, KCC commissions Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA)/Semi-independent placements for the under 16 males and under 18 females. The Agreement includes the Home Office funding the costs of the Reception Centres.

KCC manage the support services funded by the Home Office across both Reception Centres and would assume this would be the same in an expanded model.

Establishing the Reception and Safe Care Service in 2021 has meant that the increase has seen more placements in Independent Fostering Agencies and semi-independent provision. By securing additional premises, this will allow an expanded, yet contained, service for our UASC

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Consultation with Home Office

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

The commissioning of new premise as part of the Reception and Safe Care service will offer the opportunity to build on lessons learnt from the existing service and improve the overall service offering. The aim of the activity is to ensure service users are accessing safe, secure and well-maintained accommodation at the correct price. Service users will benefit from an improved quality of accommodation more tailored to the specific needs/requirements and meet new regulatory frameworks.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19.Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
Yes
Details of negative impacts for Sex
The proposed accomodation will only accomodate 16/17 year old males
Mitigating actions for Sex
Seperately commisioned services are available for 16/17 year old females
Responsible Officer for Sex
Tracy Smith
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
Yes
Negative impacts for Race
Service users are UASC/Asylum Care Leavers: Location of some properties across Kent fall into areas known to be xenophobic which can result in emotional / physical harm to service users. Most service users do not speak English as their first language.
Mitigating actions for Race
Consideration as part of tender evaluation for location of premises. and ensuring that appropriate community services are available.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Christy Holden
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
Yes

Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Residents may have different religions and beliefs which require sufficient accomodation within premises.
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Commisioning premises with sufficent space to accomodated religious activities, to be considered as part of tender evaluation
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Christy Holden
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable