EQIA Submission – ID Number
Section A

EQIA Title
Commissioning Arrangements for Tuition and Therapies and associated provision

Responsible Officer
Catherine Read - CY CC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)
Alice Gleave - CY EDSEN

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
SEND
Responsible Head of Service
Alice Gleave - CY EDSEN
Responsible Director
Craig Chapman - CY EDSEN

Aims and Objectives

This commissioning activity includes externally commissioned Tuition, Therapies and other associated provision accessed by SEND, Virtual School Kent (VSK) and the Adoption Service.

Kent County Council currently procures External Tuition through a Modified Dynamic Purchasing System (MDPS) and Therapy Services through a Qualified Provider List (QPL). These are formal contractual arrangements under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and are due to expire in August 2028 and February 2029 respectively.

Analysis of the current commissioning arrangements has identified opportunities to improve consistency, governance, quality assurance and value for money through the development of a single commissioning contract. Subject to approval, the future approach would bring together External Tuition, Therapies and other associated provision, such as mentoring, life skills programmes, vocational or enrichment activities under a common set of contractual terms, quality standards, safeguarding requirements and fee management arrangements. This would support services commissioned by SEND, VSK and Adoption Services.

The commissioning arrangements support KCC's statutory duties and responsibilities under:

- Education Act 1996 (including Section 19)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (2015)
- Equality Act 2010
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005

The proposed refreshed approach would strengthen market oversight, provider due diligence, safeguarding assurance and contract management arrangements, whilst simplifying purchasing processes and improving consistency for commissioners, providers, children, young people and families. It is expected to support equitable access to provision and greater alignment of commissioning activity across SEND, VSK and Adoption Services.

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?

No

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

SEND Management Team
- Operational SEND staff

VSK Management Team
-Operational VSK Staff

Adoption Support Management Team
-Operational Adoption Support Staff

Service Review Group
- Approved Providers

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

Yes

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

No

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

1. Consistency and Continuity of Support

Continued access to suitable education and support for children and young people who are unable to attend school due to illness, exclusion, anxiety, or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
Children and young people currently placed with providers will be able to remain with those providers during the transition period, regardless of whether those providers apply for or are awarded places under the new commissioning arrangement.
Reduced disruption to education and support arrangements through the implementation of a planned and managed transition to the new framework.
Greater stability and continuity of provision for vulnerable children and young people.
2. Improved Outcomes for Children and Young People
Strengthened due diligence, quality assurance, and safeguarding requirements for commissioned providers.
Improved contract management arrangements, providing greater assurance regarding provider capability, service quality, and compliance.
Greater oversight of attendance, engagement, progress, and the delivery of outcomes for children and young people.
Improved monitoring and performance reporting to support early identification of concerns and continuous service improvement.
Reduced disruption for children and young people undertaking examinations through the inclusion of a dedicated lot for providers with examination centre facilities, enabling learners to complete accredited qualifications in an appropriate setting.

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

No

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Applicable

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
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
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