EQIA Submission – ID Number
Section A

EQIA Title
Direct Award for the Representation Rights and Advocacy Service

Responsible Officer
Alice Unsworth - CY CC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)
Ingrid Crisan - CY OICS

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
Integrated Children's Services
Responsible Head of Service
Ingrid Crisan - CY OICS
Responsible Director
Ingrid Crisan - CY OICS

Aims and Objectives

Kent County Council proposes to make a direct award of the Representation, Rights and Advocacy (RRA) Services contract to Young Lives Foundation for two years, from 1 October 2027 to 30 September 2029, following expiry of the current contract.

The direct award is intended to maintain continuity of statutory and related independent services during the uncertainty of decisions regarding Local Government Reorganisation by retain the current delivery model.

The integrated RRA Service includes:
• Independent Advocacy for children in care, care leavers and other eligible children and young people.
• Independent Visitors for children in care.
• Independent Persons for Stage 2 children's social care complaints.
• Appropriate Adults for children and young people detained in police custody.
• Accompanying Adults for age assessment interviews involving unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
• Care leaver mentoring.

The proposal does not reduce eligibility, remove any service element or change the current delivery model.

No adverse effect on protected characteristics has been identified. The overall equality impact is assessed as low and primarily positive because continuity reduces the risk that children, young people, care leavers and vulnerable people lose access to Advocacy, representation or procedural safeguards.

The position will be reviewed through contract monitoring and before any future redesign or procurement. Any subsequent material change to eligibility, access, specification or delivery will require a further EQIA.

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?

Evidence has been drawn from the existing EQIA, contract monitoring and scorecard information, market analysis, legal and procurement advice, discussions with Young Lives Foundation, and internal engagement with commissioning, operational services, finance, procurement, legal and governance colleagues.

Existing engagement and monitoring capture the experience of children and young people using the services. Engagement with service users and operational stakeholders will continue during the award period and will inform future commissioning by successor authorities.

Any emerging access barriers or disproportionate impacts identified through complaints, feedback, safeguarding information or performance monitoring will be addressed through contract management.

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
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

Age: Continuity protects access to Advocacy, Independent Visitor, Appropriate Adult, complaints and age-assessment support for children, young people and care leavers. It avoids a gap in services used by people whose age and care status can increase vulnerability.

Disability: Existing reasonable adjustments and accessible communication arrangements will continue. Continuity is particularly important for service users with learning disabilities, neurodivergence, mental

health needs or communication difficulties.

Race: The service will continue to provide interpreters, translated or accessible information where required. Accompanying Adult and Advocacy provision supports unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and other young people from diverse ethnic and national backgrounds.

Religion or belief: The service remains available without discrimination and delivery will continue to take account of religious observance, cultural needs and the preferences of the individual.

Sex, gender reassignment and sexual orientation: Independent Advocacy supports privacy, dignity, safety and the expression of individual wishes. The provider will continue inclusive practice and respond to any identified safeguarding or access needs.

Pregnancy and maternity: Eligible service users who are pregnant or have recently given birth will continue to receive the same access, with reasonable flexibility and adjustments where needed.

Marriage and civil partnership: No differential impact is identified.

Carer's responsibilities: Continuity of independent support will continue assist young people and care leavers with caring responsibilities and supports professionals and carers by maintaining established referral routes.

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