

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Commissioned Childrens Centres and Youth Services - open access

Responsible Officer

Faye Don - ST SC

Type of Activity**Service Change**

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

Yes - To directly award contracts to the current providers of the Youth services and commissioned Children's Centres for 12 months, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. This will ensure there is continuity of provision for children and young people over this period and allow for join up between commissioned provision and the outcome of the review of the internal model.

Accountability and Responsibility**Directorate**

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Integrated Children's Services - Early Help and Preventative Services

Responsible Head of Service

Christy Holden - ST SC

Responsible Director

Stuart Collins - CY EHPS (Early Help and Preventative Services)

Aims and Objectives**Context**

Within the KCC Open Access portfolio, there are.

- 12 (district based) Open Access Youth contracts delivered by seven providers (all of which are small/medium Kent based VCS organisations, except for one youth contract which is delivered by a Housing Association, which has a strong charitable arm)
- Two centre-based Children's Centre provisions delivered by two providers in Thanet and Swale (both of whom are not for profit charitable organisations)

The model of delivery of youth services varies across the County and all providers offer open access groups in buildings along with a detached presence across their district. Providers work with the local Youth Hub Delivery Manager (employed by KCC) to maximise resource across the commissioned and in-house open access services working to minimise any cross-over or duplication of provision.

The Children's Centres, support children and families within an agreed catchment area as a key component of the wider Children's Centre offer within the districts in which they reside. Each centre offers different services, including:

- childcare
- early education
- training or finding a new job
- antenatal classes
- baby clinics
- support with breastfeeding
- support with parenting and speech and language
- drop-in sessions for parents and children
- services for children with special needs and disabilities
- opportunities for families to get involved with volunteering and designing services

Integrated Children’s Services are currently scoping a review into the future provision of Open Access in line with the new government initiative for Family Hubs. This will look across all elements of the provision including both the Internal Youth provision, Internal Children Centres, the two commissioned Children’s Centres and the seven Commissioned Youth providers. Whilst the full scope of the review has not yet been finalised, it is expected to have an impact on the commissioned open access services and therefore future specifications for delivery

Aims and objectives

The Service will support the outcomes for the Early Help and Preventative Services and family cohesion/preservation by enabling children and young people:

- To become more resilient
- To have better emotional health, health, and wellbeing
- By supporting the attainment of educational achievement

Summary of equality and impact

Initial screening suggests that none of the protected characteristics will be impacted by directly awarding these contracts with the same specification and terms and conditions.

As part of the Terms and Conditions of the contract the providers have been supporting KCC to promote equality and diversity under the Equality act 2010 by doing the following.

- Planning inclusive services that meet the needs of the people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Consulting with families from protected groups proportionately within the area served by the service
- Implementing inclusive services, consider specialist service (e.g. culturally specific) where these are necessary to meet the needs of protected groups.
- Conducting annual equality monitoring of service users,

This EqIA found that the impact of Children Centres and Youth Service to be positive across all groups, therefore, supports the 2010 Equality Act

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?
<p>We have consulted the following as part of this EQIA</p> <p>Young people/service users, who are integral to the planning and evaluation of the youth service, evidence of this can be found on the Compliment, Comments and Complaints logs which are collected as part of the providers Contract Management.</p> <p>Kent County Council staff from the Children, Young People and Education Directorate, including Director of Integrated Services, Area Service Manager Open Access, Youth Hub Managers and Senior Early Help Workers</p> <p>Engagement with Stakeholders and Providers took place in the form of meetings between commissioners and current providers</p>
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?
<p>Service Users/clients Service users/clients</p>
<p>Staff Staff/Volunteers</p>
<p>Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens</p>
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
<p>The impact of youth work services in Kent enables young people to demonstrate an increase in the social and emotional capabilities which supports them in achieving outcomes and make positive transitions from childhood to adulthood. These capabilities (A framework of outcomes for young people, The Young Foundation 2012) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to communicate effectively • developing self-confidence and agency • developing resilience and determination • learning to manage their feelings and relationships well • developing creativity, planning and problem-solving skills • developing leadership skills <p>There are many ways Children’s Centres positively impact on service users but by attending a children’s centre evidence* (DfE, The impact of children’s centres: studying the effects of children’s centres in promoting better outcomes for young children and their families, December 2015) has shown greater impacts were detected for mother and family outcomes which includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child development and school readiness • Parenting aspirations and parenting skills, this especially improved parenting skills of families living in the most disadvantage communities

- Improved mother’s mental health
- Child and family health and life chances

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