

## EQIA Submission – ID Number

### Section A

**EQIA Title**

Extension of Non Maintained Independent Schools Dynamic Purchasing System

**Responsible Officer**

Sholeh Soleimanifar - CY CC

**Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)**

Christy Holden - CY CC

### 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**

Christy Holden - CY CC

**Responsible Director**

Christine McInnes - CY EPA

### Aims and Objectives

KCC has a statutory responsibility to provide suitable education for all Children and Young People (CYP). Before the introduction of the Non-Maintained, Independent Special Schools, Dynamic Purchasing System (NMISS DPS), placements in the independent sector were not strategically commissioned, leading to a continuous rise in placements and costs each year.

The NMISS DPS was initiated in September 2022 and is set to run for three years, concluding on 31 August 2025. The contract includes three optional one-year extensions, which could extend the end date to a maximum of 31 August 2028.

The aim is to extend the current NMISS DPS contract by one year to end on 31 August 2026, and to re-procure a new service, with full stakeholder engagement, to commence from 1 September 2026.

Future provision of placements in the NMISS sector must be considered within the wider context of emerging strategies and SEND transformation that have been implemented in response to the Kent Local Area SEND Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in 2019 and revisit in 2022.

### Section B – Evidence

<b>Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?</b>
Yes
<b>It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?</b>
Yes
<b>Is there national evidence/data that you can use?</b>
No
<b>Have you consulted with stakeholders?</b>
Yes
<b>Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?</b>
KCC stakeholders: SEN Service, SEN Finance, Revenue Finance, Commercial and Procurement Division, Commissioning
<b>Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?</b>
No
<b>Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?</b>
Yes
<b>Section C – Impact</b>
<b>Who may be impacted by the activity?</b>
<b>Service Users/clients</b> Service users/clients
<b>Staff</b> No
<b>Residents/Communities/Citizens</b> No
<b>Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?</b>
Yes
<b>Details of Positive Impacts</b>
<p>KCC has a statutory responsibility to provide suitable education for all Children and Young People (CYP). The NMISS DPS is a framework for placement of school age children and young people with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and the highest levels and complexities of needs, for whom provision within mainstream and maintained schools is not a viable option. Prior to the establishment of the NMISS DPS, placements in the independent sector had been spot purchased, with no strategic oversight of costs or of quality of provision. The DPS framework has been successful in providing a structure for measuring impact against key performance indicators and standard terms and conditions to monitor and evaluate delivery against a range of indicators. A review of the service has identified areas for improvement, not all of which can be achieved within the current terms and conditions. Extension of the contract would enable the following:</p> <p>Embedding revised KPIs to ensure performance metrics are relevant, meaningful and focused on factors that impact improved outcomes for children and young people. This also promotes accountability for both KCC and the schools, fostering a more collaborative and integrated system.</p> <p>Establish standardised and regular monitoring of performance, both in terms of quality of educational and developmental outcomes, but also more timely intervention and escalation to ensure children and young people have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in a safe and inclusive environment where their needs can be met effectively – particularly children with complex needs whose education has been disrupted or inconsistent.</p> <p>Improved data collation and data analysis to inform gaps in provision or peaks in demand. This will support strategic decision-making and improved service delivery. This is important for children and young people and their families to be able to access education closer to their local communities with confidence that the</p>

provision is fit for purpose.

The extension will also allow sufficient time to undertake market and stakeholder engagement activities with a view to re-procure the service, to address areas of improvement that cannot be achieved within the current terms and conditions or contract variation.

## **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
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race</b>
Not Applicable
<b>24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable