

Assessment No	1320	Owner	rickeera.kaur
Resource	HSCP	Service	Joint
	FirstName	Surname	Job Title
Head Officer	Rickeera	Kaur	Contracts & Commissioning Officer
Members	Mark Mulvenna; Children's Services Manager; WD HSCP Allan White; Senior Social Worker; WD HSCP Laura Evans; Service Improvement Lead; WD HSCP Kirsty Porterfield; Improvement Officer; WD HSCP		
	<i>(Please note: the word 'policy' is used as shorthand for strategy policy function or financial decision)</i>		
Policy Title	Accommodation for care experienced young people - contract		
	The aim, objective, purpose and intended out come of policy		
	The HSCP intends to commission a service to deliver supported tenancy type support to care experienced young people age 16-26. The commissioning plan includes consultation with young people, HSCP throughcare team and with Providers, in order to co produce a service specification that is reflective of need and ensures the service is as accessible as possible.		
	Service/Partners/Stakeholders/service users involved in the development and/or implementation of policy.		
	Young people - consulted through survey and in working relationships with Throughcare SW team allocated workers. A provider's forum is planned, to allow consultation, shared learning and coproduction of service specification.		
Does the proposals involve the procurement of any goods or services?			Yes
If yes please confirm that you have contacted our procurement services to discuss your requirements.			Yes
SCREENING			
<i>You must indicate if there is any relevance to the four areas</i>			
Duty to eliminate discrimination (E), advance equal opportunities (A) or foster good relations (F)			Yes
Relevance to Human Rights (HR)			Yes
Relevance to Health Impacts (H)			Yes
Relevance to Social Economic Impacts (SE)			Yes
Who will be affected by this policy?			
Young people with care experience, who require supported transitions to independent living. The throughcare team who support those young people. Provider who is awarded the contract, and their workforce.			
Who will be/has been involved in the consultation process?			
Young people WDHSCP staff Provider's management team			

Please outline any particular need/barriers which equality groups may have in relation to this policy list evidence you are using to support this and whether there is any negative impact on particular groups.

Specific group to consider	Needs	Evidence	Impact
Age	The service will require to support young people age 16-26, as per national policy and legislation that direct the authority's duties to care experienced people. This allows a bespoke service that it tailored to the needs of young people who have care experience, who are likely to have experienced trauma and adversity in their childhoods. It also allows safeguarding and age appropriate support, specialist to supporting and maximising independence. The Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill proposes extending the aftercare support currently available for 16-to-26 year olds who were in care on their 16 th birthday to those who had left care before that point – including providing help with accommodation, education, employment and wellbeing, and therefore the service may require to be responsive to changing eligiblity/ resourcing as legislation and policy evolves.	The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Children (Scotland) Act 1995 UN convention on the rights of the child The Promise, Scottish Gov, 2020	Positive - there are a lack of options for young people requiring supported tenancies at present. Having a range of options would allow the authority to meet statutory duties by allowing young people choice, being able to monitor outcomes and manage quality of provision.

Disability	It is likely that young people referred to the service will have a wide range of unique and individual needs. The assessment of suitability for the service will be undertaken by their allocated worker from within the HSCP and agreed by the resource group. The provider is expected to have the resource, skills and experience to be responsive to individual need and accommodate for changing needs. This will include ensuring that a tenancy and the support package offered with this, is suitable to the young person's needs. It may include supporting young people to access additional supports, particularly those related to independent living, managing income, engagement with supporting services, and all other aspects of wellbeing. The provider is expected to have experience of working with young people with varying needs, including diagnosed or undiagnosed disabilities or additional support needs. Care experienced people often encounter barriers to accessing services and supports, therefore this aspect of the service will be crucial to supporting positive outcomes.	United Nations Convention for Disabled people WhoCares? Scotland	Positive - the service will provide young people with support tailored to their needs, and support to access additional services as required.

Gender Reassign	As above, the provider will be expected to understand and respond to the needs of individual young people, and to provide support that promote wellbeing. It is known that people who consider or transition gender are likely to have additional support needs, vulnerabilities and experience differing forms of oppression. Therefore the provider must be able to support the young person to manage and overcome barriers, access information about their rights, and ultimately to promote their independence in their community through building links with appropriate services and learning life skills, as well as building social connections. There are new policies and legislation regarding transgender people and this impacts access to public services. It has been highly publicised and the trans people have experienced high level discrimination and attempts to socially exclude them. The impact of this cannot be minimised for young people's wellbeing and the Provider supporting a number of young people must be aware of best practice in supporting each young person's human rights, as well as responding to their individual needs.	Guidance on the inclusion of transgender including non-binary young people, Care Inspectorate 2025	Positive - person centered service founded on individual assessment of needs. However evidence shows that this remains a current issue, and therefore individual outcomes are important to review and monitor.

Marriage & Civil Partnership	People with care experience are likely to have experienced disrupted relationships in childhood, for many people this may impact on their abilities and opportunities to identify, form and maintain positive relationships in adolescence and young adulthood. The provider must have an understanding of young people's experiences and how this may impact their current presentation and relationships, in order to offer support that meets the individual where they are. This includes emotional support and guidance as appropriate, and respecting young people's right to making choices in their own lives.	Plan 24-30, The Promise, Scottish Government, 2024	Neutral.
Pregnancy & Maternity	The service may require to support pregnant people and young parents, who have care experience. They may also support the young person's wider family, to a certain degree, such as by including them in the care planning process when a young person requests this. The service will require to work in partnership with young people and with other services around them, to refer, support engagement and understanding, and to promote overall wellbeing outcomes. A personalised assessment for each young person will allow focus on prioritising the young person and the child's best interest. There may be times when there are competing interests or demands and the Provider must be able to manage this collaboratively with the allocated worker from the social work team. Pregnancy or parenting should not exclude a young person from accessing the service, but may require additional or adjusted support planning.	The Village, Annual Report, 2024-25, Why Not Trust.	Positive - increases range of options for pregnant people & care experienced parents to access support, where there has been a lack of this currently.

Race	Children from black, asian or other minority ethnic groups are more likely to have care experience than white Scottish children. They can experience unique challenges in care, such as having carers from different backgrounds or ethnicities who aren't able to/ immediately understand their care needs, cultural needs or preferences. There are reported complexities and barriers for children and young people to maintain their identity and associated impact on mental health and wellbeing. Unaccompanied asylum seeking young people may also become care experienced, or require access to this service. These young people will also each have unique needs, have experienced significant adversity and may require additional supports to settle in West Dunbartonshire and understand their new area, environment and the systems around them. Therefore it is pertinent that the Provider have experience and expertise in supporting people from a wide range of backgrounds, skills in supporting people who speak other languages, have varying care and support needs.	Black, Asian and Mixed Ethnicities in Adoption and Fostering, CORAAM BAAF. Incorporating International Human Rights: The protection of Care Experienced People's Rights in the Scottish Human Rights Bill - Who Cares? Scotland & Human Rights Consortium Scotland, The experience of care for children and young people who are Black, Asian or part of other ethnic minorities. Scottish Throughcare Aftercare Forum.	Positive - there is currently a lack of range of options for young people.

Religion and Belief	As above, all young people accessing the service require a person-centred assessment and support plan, in which they have space to express their cultural and religious needs, and support to access/maintain these if required.	Black, Asian and Mixed Ethnicities in Adoption and Fostering, CORAAM BAAF. Incorporating International Human Rights: The protection of Care Experienced People's Rights in the Scottish Human Rights Bill - Who Cares? Scotland & Human Rights Consortium Scotland, The experience of care for children and young people who are Black, Asian or part of other ethnic minorities. Scottish Throughcare Aftercare Forum.	As above, positive.
Sex	Statistics show that male children are still more likely to be brought into care, and to remain in long term care, than female children. They are also more likely to experience disruptions in their care placements and to live in residential children's houses or group living settings. Significantly more unaccompanied asylum seeking children who arrive in the UK are male - almost 9/10 according to some reports relevant to England and Wales. Due to the National Transfer Scheme, this is likely to be similar in Scotland. Therefore the service may receive more referrals for males than females. However the priority of a person centered assessment remains and the service must respond to the relevant housing support needs of each young person as they are.	Statistics briefing: children in care, NSPCC, 2024. Care population falls for first time in 16 years but remains at historically high levels - Community Care	Neutral - although the service may be required more by male young people, the service delivered should remain consistent.

Sexual Orientation	Reports continue to show that around 52% of people had "come out" - disclosed their sexuality - in a care setting and many of those said their experience of coming out in care was negative. Negative experiences regarding identity and sexual orientation can contribute to increased mental health struggles and poorer health outcomes.	CREATE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBT PEOPLE IN CARE SETTINGS. LGBT Youth Scotland Care Experienced Youth Commission RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CARE SECTOR. LGBT Youth Scotland, 2024 Listening to the voices of care experienced LGBT people in Scotland. CELCIS, 2020 LGBT Youth Commission: care experience. Independent Care Review.	Positive - the service is available to all young people dependent on assessment of eligibility and suitability to meet needs, and referral from the social work teams.
Human Rights	Around 1% of the UK's population are Care Experienced, 32 with nearly 15,000 children in care across Scotland today.³³ However, evidence shows that Care Experienced people have vastly different life outcomes compared to non-Care Experienced people. Care experienced people's rights are reflected somewhat in Scottish law and the provider must have an awareness and commitment to promoting corporate parenting duties and the rights of each young person. An understanding and application of human rights approaches for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people is also crucial, to promote best outcomes for each individual.	Public attitudes to care experienced young people, CELCIS, 2018 Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 UNCRC The Promise, Scottish Government, 2020	Positive - additional support for care experienced young people.

Health	According to national data collected by the Independent Root and Branch Review of Care, Care Experienced people in Scotland are almost twice as likely to have poor health outcomes compared to people with no care experience. Studies have found worrying trends that include: care experienced children had more frequent contact with services related to mental, sexual and reproductive health. Care experienced children also had a higher rate of prescriptions for depression, psychiatric outpatient clinic attendances and acute inpatient admissions due to mental and behavioural disorders. The proportion of care experienced children hospitalised due to injuries, drug poisoning and other external causes was also high compared to children in the general population. Although rare, mortality among care experienced children and young people was five times higher compared to children in the general population. This can also vary depending on their experiences in care. Young people are more likely to experience mental health problems too, and barriers to accessing support, being heard and understood by services. The provider must undertake an assessment of each young person's need and although the service is housing support focused, this will include supporting young people to manage their wellbeing, to access and remain engaged with services and to understand and make positive choices.	Children's Health in Care in Scotland (CHiCS) study, 2021	Positive - support to access services and in accessing lifestyle choices.

Social & Economic Impact	The Independent Root and Branch Review of Care reports that care experienced people are over twice as likely to have no educational qualifications and less than half the chance of having a degree, are over one and a half times more likely to have financial difficulties and that several barriers to access to services remain currently in Scotland.	“Exclusion labelled as support” Care Experienced children in Scotland's education system; Who Cares? Scotland & Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Public attitudes to care experienced young people, CELCIS, 2018. Reaching back earlier for care experienced learners: An evaluation of the Learning Explorers pilot - The Hub for Success, Edinburgh City Council & Higher Education Establishments in Edinburgh	Positive - the service will support young people to maximise and manage their income, access education, training and employment support and to understand and manage housing related issues.
Cross Cutting	There are several cross cutting considerations for young people with care experience come from a wide variety of background and each have unique individual needs. It is crucial that the service spends time with young people to get to know them as individuals and therefore be more able to identify and respond to support needs.	Incorporating International Human Rights: The protection of Care Experienced People's Rights in the Scottish Human Rights Bill - Who Cares? Scotland & Human Rights Consortium Scotland,	Neutral.

Actions

Policy has a negative impact on an equality group, but is still to be implemented, please provide justification for this.

Although the issues described above are recognised and should be responded to, they are continuous and long standing. There must be direct and focused work to reduce inequalities and their impact.

Will the impact of the policy be monitored and reported on an ongoing basis?

Monitored through each young person's social work care plan, provider support plan, and wider contract monitoring and quality assurance processes.

Q7 What is your recommendation for this policy?

Introduce

Please provide a meaningful summary of how you have reached the recommendation

More supporting services are required by West Dunbartonshire's care experienced young people and unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. Increasing the range of provision, from experienced and specialist providers, can help to reduce inequalities, if delivered effectively and in collaboration with all stakeholders.