

## Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

<p><b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b></p>	<p>Staying Close – DFE Grant Funding. Connected Project</p> <p>Staying Close is a way to support young people who are leaving residential care to build and remain connected to strong networks that they require to reduce isolation, mental health, housing and employment challenges. Changes at the point that young people leave care can be disruptive to them, with them often losing relationships with key supporters and networks. Staying Close models therefore aim to provide positive networks for young people and enduring relationships to enhance their leaving care experiences.</p> <p>The project is to specifically support those young people who are leaving residential care or supported accommodation.</p>
<p><b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b></p> <p>This will be a specific part of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Service supporting a specific cohort young people who are care leaving residential care or support. This is a relatively small cohort in terms of the numbers who leave this sort of provision each year.</p> <p>Connected will ensure that there is additional and intensive support to this group of young people through a specific accommodation offer to those in most need, which high levels of support from a bespoke service. This will be different to the generic leaving care offer, focussing on young people who have a need for additional and intensive support after the age of 18 due to various needs.</p>	
<p><b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b></p>	

Staying Close and our successful bid for grant funding for Connected is a DFE supported project. This aims to deliver a really positive approach to this specific group of young people, and offer additional support structures around employment and education, trauma informed approaches and independence training and support. This should have a strong positive impact on the young people who are involved in the project.

**Potential Positive Impacts**

See above

<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Julian Watkins
<b>Date</b>	19/08/22
<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	Steph Murray
<b>Date</b>	

**Potential Impact**

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Age</b>	This offer is age bound to young people who are leaving care. This specific offer is for our young people between the ages of 17-21 who are leaving residential care. We offer other care leaving services up until the age of 25	N/A
<b>Disability</b>	Care leavers who are in residential care who have disabilities will of course be considered for connected. There are also different pathways for some of our young people who have diverse abilities.	N/A
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	Connected is open to all care leavers regardless of gender specification	N/A
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	Not applicable	N/A

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	There are alternative housing pathways that we explore with our young people who fall pregnant or who are parenting	N/A
<b>Race</b>	Joining Connected is something that will be considered for all young people who are leaving residential care or supported living at 18	N/A
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	Joining Connected is something that will be considered for all young people who are leaving residential care or supported living at 18	N/A
<b>Sex</b>	Joining Connected is something that will be considered for all young people who are leaving residential care or supported living at 18	N/A
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Joining Connected is something that will be considered for all young people who are leaving residential care or supported living at 18	N/A
<b>Community Safety</b>	We will work with partner agencies as needed to consider any community safety issues. The young people engaged in Connected will be highly supported	N/A
<b>Poverty</b>	This is a way of supporting more vulnerable young people who are leaving care to engage in learning strong skills to help them with education, employment and training.	N/A
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	This cohort of young people have statistically greater challenges around health and wellbeing issues. The project is specifically designed to be relationship based with various agencies engaged in support of the young people to ensure positive wellbeing.	N/A
<b>Other Significant</b>	N/A	N/A

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<b>Impacts</b>		