

Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA) Form



Overview:	
Name of service or function etc	Children's Services
Which service does this affect?	Placements
Is this a new, existing or revised function?	Revised
Summary of findings:	
Main conclusions on the likely impact of the function on different equality groups (protected characteristics)	
<p>This fair treatment assessment has been undertaken to inform the development of the Placements Strategy for Looked after Children and Care leavers, information from other Fair Treatment Assessments, including those for unaccompanied young people has also supported the development of the Strategy.</p> <p>In Solihull, the number of local looked after children is increasing, the number of Unaccompanied Asylum seeking looked after children is decreasing. The numbers of Care Leavers who are eligible for services will increase as a result of Government policy.</p> <p>The internal foster care service has not been able to increase the number of available placements at a rate to match the increasing numbers of looked after children. There is a high reliance on placements provided by external providers; these are less likely to be local placements.</p> <p>A choice of local family based placements is identified by the Government and our own looked after children and young people as being essential to improving outcomes for looked after children. Children and young people who need to be looked after should be able to be part of their local community, attend the same school, take part in the same activities and keep the same friends. As Corporate Parents, we need to ensure that they, their families and foster care families get the right support, which will include support from education, social care and health.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is to ensure that the children and young people who need to be looked after have a local family based placement, that those on the edge of care are supported whenever possible to remain with their own family and that permanent arrangements are made as soon as appropriate for those looked after children for whom a return home is not possible.</p> <p>The assessed needs of each individual child or young person who require a placement are matched with available internal and external placements, this strategy is to ensure that a range of local family based placements are available to meet needs.</p> <p>Further analysis is being undertaken to identify when specific needs such as autistic syndrome disorder or emotional, social and behavioural difficulties can not be met in a local family based placement.</p> <p>The Placement strategy also encompasses an internal foster care strategy to increase the number and range of available local foster care placements.</p>	

Actions;		
Actions required to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues		
Action	Outcome	Timescale
Recruitment and retention of internal foster carers.	Increase number and range of local family based placements available.	March 2013
Analysis of Placements Matching	Better understanding of when specific needs can not be met by a local family based placements.	March 2013
Target early intervention work in the regeneration wards – link to other strategies.	Prevent children needing to be looked after by earlier intervention and support for families.	March 2013
Additional tactics to be included in the Policy Deployment Matrix once the Placements Strategy action plan is agreed.	Agree tactics to ensure a step change in – family based placements.	June 2012
Date Assessment signed off	19 June 2012	