

Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights Screening Template

*****Completed Screening Templates are public documents and will be posted on the Trust's website*****

See 'Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights Screening Guidance Notes' (on SharePoint) for further background information on the relevant legislation and for help in answering the questions on this template.

(1) Information about the Policy/Proposal

(1.1) Name of the policy/proposal

Provision of advocacy support service to Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People.

(1.2) Is this a new, existing or revised policy/proposal?

Revised

(1.3) What is it trying to achieve (intended aims/outcomes)?

The aim of this service is to improve the wellbeing of Children In Care and Care Experience young people to help them achieve their full potential in line with their peers. The service is focused on improving the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people within the meaning of the wider Children and Young People's Strategy and the Children Services Co-operation Act (2015). The service also aims to create equality of opportunity for care experienced children and young people and to close the outcome gap between them and their non care experienced peers.

On 31 March 2024 there were 3,999 children in the care of the five HSC Trusts. This demonstrates a year on year increase in the number of looked after children and cumulatively represents a 51% increase in the looked after population since 2012. Of these, 50.5% were in kinship foster care with 24.5% in non-kinship foster care, 9.1% were with independent fostering providers and 5.5% were in statutory/voluntary/secure residential care. There were 1850 care experienced young people aged 16+ within the Trusts, representing a 25% increase in the number of care leavers across HSC Trusts, 654 of which were aged 16/17 years and in care.

As of 31 July 2025, there are 695 Children In Care in Southern Health & Social Care Trust.

The Children (NI) Order 1995, together with the associated regulations and guidance, set out the requirements for the effective care of Children In Care. Particularly, Articles 26(2), 76(2) and 92(2) state that before making any decision with respect to a child in care or accommodated by a responsible authority, the responsible authority should obtain and take

account of the wishes and feelings of the child.

With the establishment of the Multi-Agency Panel for Admission to Secure Care mechanisms require to be in place to ensure that the voice of children and young people are represented in the process of decision-making, either directly, or through a competent advocate. The Panel, in adhering to the UNCRC principles of 'the right to be heard', 'best interests' and 'detention as a last resort', recognises the importance of independent advocacy support to help express the young person's views to the panel.

In addition, Article 45(3) of the Children Order requires the establishment of a procedure for the consideration of any representation (or complaint) by a child in care.

The Minimum Standards for Children's Homes, April 2014, and in particular standards 1, 13, 16, and 21, require the engagement of young people in the operation of a children's home and in the provision of their own care.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines that children and young people have the right to participate in decisions and issues that affect them. Children In Care are a disadvantaged group, and a group with diverse and often complex needs are impacted upon by many decisions taken at all levels; legislative; policy; strategy; service development and delivery.

The National Standards for the Provision of Children's Advocacy Services (2002) describe advocacy as "*speaking up for children and young people empowering children and young people to make sure that their rights are respected and their views and wishes are heard at all times..... representing the views, wishes and needs of children to decision makers and helping them to navigate the system*".

Research (Lawner; Beltz; Moore (2013), Clayden and Stein (2005)) has shown mentoring to be highly valued by young people in helping them with relationship problems, building their self-confidence and improving their emotional well-being. It has also been shown to be more effective when it focuses on helping young people with their education, social skills and relationships. To ensure the views of children in care and care experienced young people are heard and contribute to influencing and shaping service design, delivery, policy and legislation an on-going, sustainable and flexible participation process must be put in place to develop their ability to actively and meaningfully participate in dialogue with service providers, decision makers, commissioners and policy makers.

In 2017 The Health & Social Care Board appointed VOYPIC to deliver: Advocacy support for Children looked after by the Health and Social Care Trusts; this contract is now up for renewal.

(1.4) Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy/proposal?

Yes – Children In Care and Care Experienced Young People

(1.5) Who owns and who implements the policy/proposal - where does it originate, for example DoH, HSCB, the Trust?

The original contract was held by SPPG. Moving forward, there will be one regional contract owned by 5 HSCT Trusts including SHSCT.

(1.6) Are there any factors that could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/proposal/decision? (Financial, legislative or other constraints?)

None

(1.7) Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy/proposal/decision could impact upon? (E.g. staff, service users, other public sector organisations, trade unions, professional bodies, independent sector, voluntary and community groups etc.)

Service users – Children In Care aged 8 years plus and Care Leavers aged 18-25 years, inclusive of those with disabilities and separated and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (S/UASC).

The Families of Children In Care and Care Experienced young people.

Staff within the 5 Health and Social Care Trusts who provide services to Looked After and Care Experienced young people.

Potential Service users – vulnerable young people within our population who might require support from Social Work Services during their life span up to the age of 25 and their families.

Other public sector organisations

Education Authority - Education/ Training setting staff who are supporting Children In Care and Care Experienced young people within mainstream or further and higher education placements (Regional Further Education Provisions, and Universities e.g. University of Ulster and Queens University, Open University).

Youth workers/ Support workers within Voluntary and Community based organisations who provide Joint Commissioned Accommodation for Care Experienced young people (e.g. Praxis/ Barnardos/ Housing First/ Simon/ MACs).

Department of Justice – staff within Youth Justice Agency or staff within Juvenile Justice Centre who would support Children In Care or Care Experienced young people.

Staff within NI Probation Service who would support care experienced young people who are over 18 yrs old and with whom probation services are involved due to criminal activity.

Voluntary/community/trade unions

Children's Law Centre, Children's Commissioner NI

(1.8) Other policies with a bearing on this policy/proposal (for example regional policies) - what are they and who owns them?

What Are They?

- The Children (NI) Order 1995, together with the associated regulations and guidance, set out the requirements for the effective care of Children in Care.
- Article 45(3) requires the establishment of a procedure for the consideration of any representation (or complaint) by a Child In Care.
- Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, reforms the legislative framework and procedural arrangements governing adoption in Northern Ireland and introduces a range of new measures to give effect to the Department of Health's policy and strategy relating to adoption. The Act will also extend and strengthen the provisions of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (the Children Order) to improve outcomes for children and families in need, children in care and care leavers, providing greater opportunities for children in care to experience permanence and stability, and placing greater focus on children and young people's rights. The Act places Advocacy on a statutory footing, ensuring that children in care and care experienced young people have legal entitlement to access these services.
- The Minimum Standards for Children's Homes, April 2014, and in particular standards 1, 13, 16, and 21, require the engagement of young people in the operation of a children's home and in the provision of their own care; and,
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines that children and young people have the right to participate in decisions and issues that affect them.
- The Departments of Health and Education's "A Life Deserved: A strategy on 'Caring' for children and young people in NI" 2021 aims to improve the wellbeing and outcomes of children and young people in care and care leavers in line with their peers and support them to achieve their full potential through a range of interventions and services including independent advocacy to have their voice heard and fully participate in all areas affecting them.
- The HSCB, HSCT and those providing services on their behalf are required to comply and adhere to the Data Protection Act 2018. The General data protection regulation (GDPR) implemented in May 2018, advises on the principles, rights and obligations organisations must abide by regarding data protection. The Information Commissioners Office also publish codes of practice and guidance relevant to the collection and use of data.
- The Racial Equality Strategy 2015-25 for Northern Ireland provides a framework for Government departments as well as other organisations to address racial inequalities and put an end to racism and hate crime.

Who Owns Them?

- Department of Health/ SPPG
- Department of Education
- United Nations
- Northern Ireland Executive.
- RQIA

(2) Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? *NB: Specify the details for each of the Section 75 categories for any staff affected, the Trust Workforce, any patients/clients affected and the Trust general population in the following tables **if appropriate**.*

2.1 Staff Affected by this Policy/Proposal

As the Trust is not the direct employer of the advocacy staff this information is not available.

Section 75 Group	Make up of Staff Affected	Percentage
Gender	Female Male	unknown
Religion	Protestant Roman Catholic Not Known/Other	unknown
Political Opinion	Broadly Unionist Broadly Nationalist Other Do Not Wish To Answer/Not Known	unknown
Age	16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+	unknown
Marital Status	Single Married/Civil Partnership Other/Not Known	unknown
Caring Responsibility	Caring for a Child/Children/Dependant Older Person/Person(s) With a Disability None Not Known	unknown
Disability	Yes No Not Known	unknown
Ethnicity	Bangladeshi Black African Black Caribbean Black Other Chinese Filipino Indian Irish Traveller Mixed Ethnic Pakistani White Not Known	unknown
Sexual Orientation towards:	Opposite Sex Same Sex Same and Opposite Sex Do Not Wish To Answer/Not Known	unknown

2.2 Composition of Southern Trust Workforce

(please contact the Equality Unit on 028 375 64152 to ensure the figures below are the most recent)

Section 75 Group	Southern Trust Workforce Profile as at 1 January 2025	Percentage
Gender	Female	85.6%
	Male	14.4%
Religion	Protestant	34.1%
	Roman Catholic	55.9%
	Neither	10.0%
Political Opinion	Broadly Unionist	8.9%
	Broadly Nationalist	9.7%
	Other	7.4%
	Do Not Wish To Answer/Not Known	74.0%
Age	16-24	6.7%
	25-34	22.5%
	35-44	27.9%
	45-54	21.2%
	55-64	17.8%
	65+	3.9%
Marital Status	Single	31.7%
	Married	56.8%
	Not Known	11.5%
Dependent Status	Caring for a Child/Children / Dependant Older Person / Person With a Disability	14.7%
	None	31.3%
	Not Known	54.0%
Disability	Yes	2.6%
	No	73.9%
	Not Known	23.5%
Ethnicity	Bangladeshi	0.01%
	Black African	0.45%
	Black Caribbean	0.01%
	Black Other	0.03%
	Chinese	0.09%
	Filipino	0.6%
	Indian	1.2%
	Irish Traveller	0.01%
	Mixed Ethnic	0.2%
	Pakistani	0.15%
	White	74.2%
Not Known	23.0%	
Sexual Orientation towards:	Opposite Sex	57.9%
	Same Sex	1.03%
	Same and Opposite Sex	0.26%
	Do Not Wish To Answer/Not Known	40.81%

2.3 Patients / Clients Affected

Information taken from SHSCT LAC Register as of 31 July 2025

Section 75 Group	Make up of Patients/Clients Affected	Percentage	
Gender	Female	46%	
	Male	54%	
Religion	Protestant	15%	
	Roman Catholic	59%	
	Other	26%	
Political Opinion	Broadly Unionist	Information not known	
	Broadly Nationalist		
	Other		
	Do Not Wish To Answer/Not Known		
Age	0-15	78%	
	16-24	12%	
	25-44		
	45-64		
	65-84		
	85+		
Marital Status	Single	100%	
	Married/Civil Partnership		
	Other/Not Known		
Caring Responsibility	Caring for a Child/Children/Dependant Older Person/Person(s) With a Disability	Not Known	
	None		
	Not Known		
Disability	Yes	Not Known	
	No		
	Not Known		
Ethnicity	Bangladeshi	4%	
	Black African		
	Black Caribbean		
	Black Other		
	Chinese		0.3%
	Filipino		2%
	Indian		
	Irish Traveller		1.6%
	Mixed Ethnic		3.5%
	Pakistani		
	White		85%
Not Known	3.6%		
Sexual Orientation towards:	Opposite Sex	Not Known	
	Same Sex		
	Same and Opposite Sex		
	Do Not Wish To Answer/Not Known		

2.4 Southern Trust's Area Population Profile – Census 2021

(NB: in some instances you may need to be more specific and use local District Council areas – please contact the Equality Unit on 028 375 64152).

Section 75 Group	Trust's Area Population Profile (Population of 390,973)	Percentage
Gender	Female	50.2
	Male	49.8
Religion	Protestant	35.5
	Roman Catholic	57.0
	Other	7.5
Political Opinion	Not collected	
Age	0-15	22.5
	16-24	10.2
	25-44	26.5
	45-64	25.2
	65-84	13.8
	85+	1.8
Marital Status (aged 16+ years)	Single	28.1
	Married/Civil Partnership	37.7
	Other	34.2
Dependent Status	Caring for a dependent Child/Children	25.8% care for a dependent child/children
Disability	Yes	21.8
	No	78.2
Ethnicity	Asian Other	0.4
	Bangladeshi	0
	Black African	0.4
	Black Caribbean	0
	Black Other	0.4
	Chinese	0.3
	Filipino	0.1
	Indian	0.2
	Irish Traveller	0.3
	Mixed Ethnic Group	0.8
	Arab	0.06
	Roma	0.08
	Other	0.2
	Pakistani	0.1
White	96.5	
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual	69.8
	LGBTQ+	1.1
	Not Stated	29.1

2.5 Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Workforce Key Statistics

According to the 2025 Census figures some key stats for the HSC are:

- The HSC workforce grew by 22% (11,944.8 WTE) between the 2016 and 2025 Censuses.
- The largest employer in the HSC was the Belfast Trust with 21,191 (19,038.9 WTE) staff or 28% of all HSC staff.
- The largest Occupational Family was Nursing & Midwifery with 24,887 (22,269.3 WTE) staff or 33% of all HSC staff.
- Over two thirds (34%, 22,402.2 WTE) of WTE HSC staff were employed at Agenda for Change Bands 1 to 4.
- Over three quarters (78% or 58,354 headcount) of HSC employees were female.

(3) Needs, experiences and priorities

- (3.1) Taking into account the information above what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the Section 75 categories and for both service users and staff.
(NB: Use relevant statistical and qualitative data to complete the table below)

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs, Experiences and Priorities	
	Staff	Service Users
Gender	N/A	Advocacy services are open to Children In Care regardless of gender. The DOH statistical returns would demonstrate that male's form 54% of the overall Children In Care population in Northern Ireland, and 55% of the overall care experienced 18-25 age population.
Age	N/A	The focus of this Service is on children between the ages of 8 to 17 with Advocacy supports provided for care experienced young people up to the age of 25. The age range is being expanded to reflect new legislations which provides enhanced support to Care Experienced Young People up to the age of 25. <i>(Children and Adoption Act 2022)</i>
Religion	N/A	<p>Advocacy Services must be provided in a culturally sensitive and informed manner, with access to appropriate translation services.</p> <p>The Service Provider of the Advocacy Service are required to address the cultural and language needs of Children in Care generally and particularly the needs of separated and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.</p> <p>The Service Provider is required to give consideration to how they can assist the target service user to address their spiritual and cultural needs in a safe way. The specific provision of Independent Guardians for this cohort of children recognises their additional challenges and is intended to ensure that all agencies act in their best interests.</p>

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs, Experiences and Priorities	
	Staff	Service Users
		<p>Advocacy, Support service must be provided in a culturally sensitive and informed manner, with access to appropriate translation services. Staff need to have training in regards to the cultural and religious needs of our SUASC population to effectively advocate for their needs.</p> <p>The specific provision of Independent Guardians for this cohort of children/ young people recognises their additional challenges and is intended to ensure that all agencies act in their best interests.</p> <p>SUAM young people have a specific forum 'New to NI' to ensure they are supported to make connections with other young people within their communities and raise their voice on their specific needs.</p> <p>Advocacy services will be promoted and provided in a trauma informed manner, taking cognisance of the potential impact organic or developmental trauma may have on the cognitive abilities of the young people they serve.</p>
Political Opinion	N/A	The Advocacy Service should contribute to building children in care's self-confidence and freedom to express political opinions.
Marital Status	N/A	As noted above due to the age range of these young people who can avail of Advocacy Services, there wouldn't be any indication that the marital status would be a defining feature.
Dependent Status	N/A	The Advocacy Service Provider should contribute to improvements in female care leaver's self-confidence and decision making, and help to bring the number of Teenage Mothers in / leaving care in line with the overall population trend.
Disability	N.A	<p>The Advocacy Service Provider is required to develop and implement services to deliver improved support to this group and deliver improved outcomes in physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and education attainment.</p> <p>The service provider is required to ensure appropriate communication support for those who have additional communication needs.</p>
Ethnicity	N.A	<p>Advocacy Services must be provided in a culturally sensitive and informed manner, with access to appropriate translation services.</p> <p>The Service Provider of the Advocacy Service are required to address the cultural and language needs of Children in Care generally and particularly the needs of separated and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.</p> <p>The Service Provider is required to give consideration to how</p>

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs, Experiences and Priorities	
	Staff	Service Users
		<p>they can assist the target service user to address their spiritual and cultural needs in a safe way. The specific provision of Independent Guardians for this cohort of children recognises their additional challenges and is intended to ensure that all agencies act in their best interests.</p> <p>Advocacy, Support service must be provided in a culturally sensitive and informed manner, with access to appropriate translation services. Staff need to have training in regards to the cultural and religious needs of our SUASC population to effectively advocate for their needs.</p> <p>The specific provision of Independent Guardians for this cohort of children/ young people recognises their additional challenges and is intended to ensure that all agencies act in their best interests.</p> <p>SUAM young people have a specific forum 'New to NI' to ensure they are supported to make connections with other young people within their communities and raise their voice on their specific needs.</p> <p>Advocacy services will be promoted and provided in a trauma informed manner, taking cognisance of the potential impact organic or developmental trauma may have on the cognitive abilities of the young people they serve.</p>
Sexual Orientation	N.A	The Advocacy Service Provider should contribute to building self-confidence and the ability of children in care to assert their sexual orientation.

(3.2) Provide details of how you have involved stakeholders, views of colleagues, service users and staff etc when screening this policy/proposal.

The SHSCT 14 Plus Service User Group are actively involved in helping inform areas of service development. The Service User Group will be consulted in September in respect the Advocacy Contract. In addition, The SHSCT Service User Involvement Team will be involved in consultation involving service users. Please note this contract is regional and is informed by representatives across the five Trusts and SPPG.

(4) Screening Questions

You now have to assess whether the impact of the policy/proposal is major, minor or none. You will need to make an informed judgement based on the information you have gathered.

(4.1) What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?			
Section 75 category	Details of policy/proposal impact		Level of impact? Minor/major/none
	Staff	Service Users	
Gender	None	None	None
Age	None	Minor	Minor positive
Religion	None	None	None
Political Opinion	None	None	None
Marital Status	None	None	None
Dependent Status	None	None	None
Disability	None	None	None
Ethnicity	None	None	None
Sexual Orientation	None	None	None

(4.2) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?	
Section 75 category	Please provide details
Gender	Advocacy services will continue to be open to all Children In Care and Care Experienced young people no matter their gender orientation. Advocacy services will continue to proactively engage with care experienced young people who might feel marginalised due to their gender alignment and ensure they feel supported and included in services. Advocacy services will continue to promote LGBTQ rights within their advocacy role.
Age	The Tender requires the Service Provider to develop services to enable children in care and care experienced children to take more ownership and control of what happens to them as they reach a level of maturity where they can be enabled to influence and contribute to their care

(4.2) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?	
Section 75 category	Please provide details
	experience.
Religion	In relation to the population of separated and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (S/UASC) and those who are care leavers, the development of a new regional purpose-built residential facility for S/UASC and policy proposals for a new regional service model to provide a dedicated social work service, delivering assessment, reception and advisory support and interventions for separated, trafficked and unaccompanied asylum seeking children are expected to impact positively on this group. There are dedicated resources including a Commissioner to ensure service are developed at pace and in line with the SUAM population need as it diversifies.
Political Opinion	The implementation of the Northern Ireland Framework for therapeutic Care will support a more trauma informed perspective when caring for Children In Care and Care Experienced young people. This knowledge and framework will be provided to services who are part of the 'team around the child.' Advocacy Services would be part of this implementation plan. This will further support those that provide Advocacy to Children In Care and Care Experienced young people in NI to be aware of the intergenerational political divides that can impact on young people lives.
Marital Status	If a young person was to present for Advocacy Services who was married, this would have no direct impact upon them availing of services, as long as they fulfilled the criteria of having been a Looked After and Care Experienced young person and below the age of 25.
Dependent Status	The Service provider will continue to proactively support young care experienced parents in a holistic manner to navigate transitions for them and their family into early adulthood and also if they are engaged with Social Services for their child. The service would ensure the adult and child have independent advocates identified to ensure the rights of both are upheld.
Disability	The chosen provider is required to ensure appropriate communication support for those who have additional communication needs is continued to be revised and enhance to meet the ongoing needs of children Looked After and Care Experienced young people who have a disability. The Service will proactively promote their services within disability teams within each Health and Social Care Trust to ensure young people and staff are aware of the services they offer.
Ethnicity	In relation to the population of separated and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (S/UASC) and those who are care leavers, the development of a new regional purpose-built residential facility for

(4.2) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?	
Section 75 category	Please provide details
	S/UASC and policy proposals for a new regional service model to provide a dedicated social work service, delivering assessment, reception and advisory support and interventions for separated, trafficked and unaccompanied asylum seeking children are expected to impact positively on this group. There are dedicated resources including a Commissioner to ensure service are developed at pace and in line with the SUAM population need as it diversifies.
Sexual Orientation	The provider will continue to advertise their services as an inclusive service, no matter a young person's sexual orientation. Training to ensure they can support and advocate for young people from particular sexual orientation minority groups will be encouraged to enhance inclusiveness.

(4.3) To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none		
Good relations category	Details of policy/proposal impact	Level of impact Minor/major/none
Religious belief	In relation to the population of separated and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (S/UASC) and those who are care leavers, the development of a new regional purpose-built residential facility for S/UASC and policy proposals for a new regional service model to provide a dedicated social work service, delivering assessment, reception and advisory support and interventions for separated, trafficked and unaccompanied asylum seeking children are expected to impact positively on this group.	Minor
Political opinion	The implementation of the Northern Ireland Framework for therapeutic Care will support a more trauma informed perspective when caring for Looked After and Care Experienced young people. This knowledge and framework will be provided to services who are part of the 'team around the child.' Advocacy Services would be part of this implementation plan.	Minor
Racial group	The Advocacy Service can complete work with Children In Care and Care Experienced young people within group living settings Residential Care and Joint Commissioned Accommodation to support thematic issues that might arise, such as racial needs or identity.	Minor

(5) Consideration of Disability Duties

(5.1) How does the policy/proposal encourage disabled people to participate in public life and promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

The service specifically includes Advocacy for children in care and care experienced young people including those with a disability, to enable them to avail of service entitlements, and promotes positive engagement with these young people, advocating for their rights and entitlements.

(6) Consideration of Human Rights

The Trust has a duty to act compatibly and must take Human Rights considerations into account in its day-to-day functions/activities.

(6.1) How does the policy/proposal impact on Human Rights?

Article	Positive impact	Negative impact = human right interfered with or restricted	Neutral impact
Article 2 – Right to life			X
Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment			X
Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude & forced or compulsory labour			X
Article 5 – Right to liberty & security of person			X
Article 6 – Right to a fair & public trial within a reasonable time			X
Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law & no punishment without law			X
Article 8 – Right to respect for private & family life, home and correspondence.	X		
Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience & religion			X
Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression	X		
Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly & association			X
Article 12 – Right to marry & found a family			X
Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights			X
1 st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property	X		
1 st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education	X		

Please note: If you have identified potential negative impact in relation to any of the Articles in the table above, speak to your line manager and/or Equality Unit on tel: 028 375 64151. It may also be necessary to seek legal advice.

(6.2) Please outline any actions you will take to promote awareness of human rights and evidence that human rights have been taken into consideration in decision making processes.

Advocacy services will promote and advocate for Human Rights and UNCRC The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines that children and young people have the right to participate in decisions and issues that affect them. Children in Care as a disadvantaged group, and a group with diverse and often complex needs are impacted upon by many decisions taken at all levels; legislative; policy; strategy; service development and delivery.

(7) Screening Decision

(7.1) Given the answers in Section 4 of this template, how would you categorise the impacts of this decision or policy/proposal? *(Please tick one option below and list your reasons for the decision in 7.2 below)*

Major impact		EQIA Required? <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i>	
		No	No
Minor impact	√ Positive	Mitigation Required	Alternative Policy Required
		No	No
No impact		Screened Out	

(7.2) Please give reasons for your decision and detail any mitigation or alternative policies considered.

The aim of this service is to improve the wellbeing of Children In Care and Care Experienced young people to help them achieve their full potential in line with their peers. The service is focused on improving the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people within the meaning of the wider Children and Young People's Strategy and the Children Services Co-operation Act (2015). The service also aims to create equality of opportunity for care experienced children and young people and to close the outcome gap between them and their non-care experienced peers.

The service will have a minor positive impact on children in care and care experienced young people.

(7.3) Do you consider the policy/proposal needs to be subjected to ongoing screening? NB: for strategies/policies that are to be put in place through a series of stages – screen at various stages during implementation.

Yes	
No	x

(8) Monitoring

(8.1) Please detail how you will monitor the effect of the policy/proposal for equality of opportunity and good relations, disability duties and human rights?

The Services are subject to quarterly and annual monitoring with both activities completed and outcomes achieved.

As Advocacy is being placed on statutory footing it will also be collected on a 6monthly basis within the Statutory Functions Report to the DoH.

Approved Lead Officer: Stella Kelly

Position: Assistant Director

Email: stella.kelly@southerntrust.hscni.net

Telephone No: 02837561091

Date: 06/08/2025

Policy/proposal screened by: Ruth Pearson

Please forward completed screening template to Equality.Unit@southerntrust.hscni.net for inclusion in the Trust's Policy Screening Reports which are uploaded to the Trust's website.