

# Rural Needs Impact Assessment

## Section 1: Define activity subject to Section 1(1) of Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

### 1A. Short title describing activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016:

Regional procurement of independent sector foster care placements.

### 1B. Are you Developing, Adopting, Implementing or Revising a Policy a Strategy or a Plan? (Underline or Circle) Or are you delivering or designing a public service? (Underline or Circle) What is official title of this Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public service (if any)?

Regional procurement of independent sector foster care placements.

### 1C. Give details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

The Business Services Organisation, on behalf of Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSC NI) is seeking to run a procurement process for the provision of a high quality Fostering Placements Service in Northern Ireland to ensure adequate numbers of suitably skilled Foster Carers to meet the varied needs of children coming into the care system, including short and long term placements, and specialist intensive support placements to meet the more complex needs of some children. This procurement process is seeking to identify Provider(s) who can respond flexibly to demand and to the individual needs of Looked After Children with the objective of having available the best possible choice of placement options required to meet the specific needs of a child and respective family.

### 1D. What definition of 'rural' is the Trust using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

For the purposes of this exercise rural is defined as "those settlements with fewer than 5,000 residents together with the open countryside. We will ensure adequate provision of foster care placements in rural areas.

## Section 2 - Understanding impact of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

### 2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes  No  If response is NO Go To Section 2E.

### 2B. How is it likely to impact on people in rural areas?

It is important that this exercise results in adequate provision of foster care placements across the Trusts region including rural localities to meet the needs of looked after children from rural backgrounds.

### 2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently?

Not applicable.

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<b>N</b>	Community Safety or Rural Crime	<b>N</b>	Agriculture-Environment	<b>N</b>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<b>N</b>	Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<b>Y</b>	Other, please state below;	
Rural Development	<b>Y</b>	Broadband/Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<b>Y</b>		
Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas	<b>Y</b>	Rural Business, Tourism or Housing	<b>N</b>		

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

No implications in respect of jobs, employment, education or training. Foster placements in rural areas have no impact on community safety, crime, rural business, tourism, housing, agriculture or environment.

**If you completed 2E above GO TO Section 6**

**SECTION 3 - Identifying Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

**3A. Has the Trust taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?** Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 3D

**3B. Which of following methods or information sources were used by the Trust to identify these needs?**

Consultation with relevant stakeholders / Survey or Questionnaire / Research / Statistics / Publications / Other methods.

Please provide details:

Consultation with Trusts and care experienced young people, statistics and publications.

**3C. What social and economic needs of the people in rural areas have been identified?**

Rural families and children experience significant challenges which, on occasion, result in children being placed in the care system. Therefore it is necessary to have adequate foster care provision to meet this need.

**3D Please explain why no steps were taken by the Trust to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

N/A

**SECTION 4 - Considering Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

**4A. What issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

See 3C above

## SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been changed by consideration of the rural needs identified?

Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 5C

5B. If yes, how have rural needs influenced the policy, strategy plan or public service?


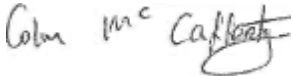
5C. If no, why have the rural needs identified not influenced the policy, strategy, plan or public service?

Consideration of rural needs have no significant implications which have not been specified in this procurement exercise.

## Section 6: Documentation:

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Trust and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Janet McConville		
<b>Job Title/Directorate</b>	Assistant Director of Corporate Planning		
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	22/07/2020
<b>Approved by:</b>	Colm McCafferty in collaboration with members of the regional work stream		
<b>Job Title/Directorate</b>	Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting		
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	22/07/2020