

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23



Our Ref:
Date: January 2021
Enquiries to: Tina Hines
Tel: 01473 265083
Email: tina.hines@suffolk.gov.uk

Dear Partner

We are writing to share our strategic commissioning direction for children, young people and families. To support economic recovery, it is important for our markets to understand what opportunities are coming up over the next couple of years and to plan their business accordingly.

Our financial position is such that we will have to make difficult decisions, but we wish to work closely with the provider market to deliver services that meet the best outcomes.

The Covid pandemic has affected everyone in a profound way. The work that we are planning to do may change, and we must be agile as an authority in how we respond. Please note that this letter is without commitment or prejudice to any tender process or commissioning decisions.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support. We welcome our strong and productive relationships between our commissioners and valued providers – we wish to work closely and honestly in designing services, and, where we can, have the difficult conversations about efficiency improvement and commercial models to get the best outcomes for Suffolk children and young people.

We look forward to working with you to meet the challenges we all face together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Cadzow".

Allan Cadzow
Corporate Director for Children and Young People

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

Our Strategic Direction

Our vision is that all children and families in Suffolk have the right to: be kept safe, the best education, physical and emotional health, and successful preparation for adulthood and employment.

Too many children do not have these opportunities and we are committed to changing this. We must be brave and change the way we work to deliver this.

The Children's and Young People's Board partners embrace the need for system wide change. True transformation cannot take place without us thinking and acting as one Suffolk system.

Our key programmes, forming our CYP priorities are:

- Children and Young People's Alliance
- Be Safe
- Implementing the SEND strategy
- Managing demand in Children's Services
- Raising the Bar
- Developing Suffolk Talent

Our Commissioning intentions and potential opportunities 2021-23

Please note that the following are the headline commissioning intentions only, linked to our priorities.

Plans may change, and other activity may come on-stream. Please refer to the [Suffolk County Council](#) and [Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG](#) / [West Suffolk CCG](#) / [Lowestoft & Waveney CCG](#) websites for updates to these intentions.

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

Children and Young Person's Alliance

Children's services draw on a complex support system across health, social care, community and education. We will achieve the best outcomes for children within a framework of services that work together to put children and their families first

The Children and Young People's Board will be focussing on the re-design and implementation of new models of care and support in relation to the following priorities:

1. **Speech, Language and Communication** – delivery of the new integrated model of Speech, Language and Communication support
2. **Childrens Emotional Health and Wellbeing** – implementing the priorities in the Suffolk Childrens Emotional Wellbeing Plan, and review and redesign of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services as part of the implementation of the two mental health strategies developed for Suffolk. This will include a mental health crisis outreach service for children and young people.
3. **Neurodevelopment and Behaviour that Challenges** – completing the redesign of services which meet neurodevelopment and behaviour that challenges needs and any subsequent commissioning needed to implement the new model.
4. **Children and Young Peoples Community Health Services.** Delivery and implementation of service specification for Integrated Community Paediatric Services.
5. **Agreement of Acute/Emergency Paediatric Pathway.** Clarity on urgent care pathways in, out and via Ipswich Hospital and West Suffolk Hospital.

High Cost Demand: Children in Care

Working to reduce the need for children to come into Care and ensuring the value for money of services for Children in Care

Our Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2018-21 is a dynamic document, which is under constant review. The full strategy can be viewed at [Suffolk Sufficiency Strategy](#) , and will be refreshed in 2021.

- We will review our Supported and Supervised Accommodation Contract, and our Supported Lodgings offer for children in care.

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

- We will review Housing Related Support with Adult & Community Services and our partners, to ensure sufficient and suitable accommodation is available for young people and care leavers
- Our Independent fostering agency rolling select list will review opportunities for new entrants annually, and our contract will be reviewed in 2022
- We will work with housing providers to ensure there is a suitable provision for care leavers 18+, including shared accommodation and specialist provision. We are keen to engage with accommodation providers, particularly those interested in providing accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Please contact chris.howard@suffolk.gov.uk for further information.
- We wish to make the the best placements for children in Suffolk. If you wish to develop services in the Suffolk area for complex young people in care, with a history of trauma, we would like to hear from you. Please contact tracey.curtis@suffolk.gov.uk to have a discussion.
- Staying Close is providing an offer for our young people moving on from residential homes to cohabit in semi-independent accommodation, receiving continued support from the home, in a property where they can settle. Staying Close is keen to engage with providers of accommodation. Please contact Julia.vernon@suffolk.gov.uk for further information.

Be Safe

Supporting children and their families in Suffolk that are living in difficult circumstances through prevention and early help services. Protecting children at risk of harm through timely and effective multi-agency support and intervention.

Early Help

- We will continue to use our Early Help Commissioning Board to provide oversight and direction to the Early Help and Health & Children Centre's commissioning arrangements in Suffolk, which oversees pooled, non-pooled budgets and resources. The Board ensures there is joined up and collaborative approach to commissioning which is used to improve outcomes for families in Suffolk through effective support and early intervention reducing the risk of a family going into crisis and requiring support from social care.

We will:

- Commission a range of voluntary and community organisations to improve the range of family support interventions based on local need.

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

- Explore options to deliver an independent offer for children and young who are reported missing.
- Investigate opportunities to contract providers who can deliver re-engagement opportunities for young people who are at risk of or are not in employment, education, training (NEET).
- Explore options to commission a county wide offer of postnatal groups.
- Consider the need to commission additional counselling support for young people

Advocacy Service

- We are reviewing our Advocacy and Independent Visiting service with our Adult and Community Services colleagues to ensure that we have a flexible service for children that meets their need for a greater digital service.

Mentoring Services

- We will commence a review of our mentoring services to ensure that we have an appropriate offer across Suffolk.

Safe Accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse

The arrangements with current providers are due to end on the 31st March 2022 and as such we will be looking to re-commission these services during 2021 with pre-procurement work starting in Spring 2021. This comes with a backdrop of the Domestic Abuse Bill which places a Statutory Duty on top tier local authorities from the 1st April 2021 to:

- Assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support.
- Develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.

The Council has been working closely with the University of Suffolk to evaluate our current provision and this will form a basis for our needs assessment work and subsequent strategy in the coming months.

Raising the Bar

All children in Suffolk have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential, fulfil their ambitions and are given the right support based on their needs.

Early Years and Childcare Service

- Suffolk County Council has a duty to ensure there is sufficient funded early education and childcare to meet parental demand, and for providing information, advice and assistance for parents.

Childcare Sufficiency

- Suffolk childcare providers are a mix of private, voluntary and independent organisations, including schools (maintained, academy and free) who provide childcare and government funded early education places for two, three- and four-year olds. In this changing market we assess demand for, and availability of, childcare across the county.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/childcare-information-and-support-for-parents-and-providers/childcare-sufficiency-report/>

- There is no direct commissioning of childcare providers to provide the grant funded early education. Providers need to meet the requirements of Suffolk's List of providers agreement.
- The council and third tier local authorities and other organisations may have premises that are suitable for providing childcare. Where the previous childcare provider is unable to continue providing childcare at a venue, the council will seek interested parties and conduct a selection process based on a formal expression of interest process.

<https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/list-of-providers/list-of-providers-suffolk-agreement->

Early Years and Childcare Training

- The Early Years and Childcare Service provides training for the childcare sector in Suffolk. It retains a number of tutors to deliver the courses. Any future opportunities to become a tutor will be advertised in line with the council's recruitment policy and will be found on the Suffolk Jobs Direct website.
- Where courses are commissioned from external suppliers this will be through a competitive quotation and in line with the council's tendering process (the approach will depend on the value of the contract).

Family Information Service (Service Directory)

- We will be reviewing our service directory and associated digital tools. This may lead to engagement with potential suppliers as we test the market and / or a tender process for IT suppliers with the relevant government accreditation. This work will be coordinated with other directorates, teams and partners that have dependencies on these systems.

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

- Requirements could include community service directory, the two year old childcare eligibility checker and the Local Offer.

Implementing the SEND strategy

Working together with the Suffolk Parent Carer Network, families and communities to support children and young people with SEND to meet their potential, and live healthy, fulfilling lives in their community.

- We are currently in the process of developing our SEND Strategy. Please [click here](#) for further detail, and an opportunity to influence the Plan.
- Over the next two years we continue work to expand and develop our local offer through a systematic response to capacity and demand forecasts; this will include the second round of new Specialist Units and Special Schools.
- These settings will be categorised into one of four pathways; Cognition and Learning; Communication and Interaction; Sensory, Physical and Medical; and Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- To complement the work being undertaken to improve our Local Offer, we continue to forecast that we will need to purchase independent and non-maintained school places. To ensure we are able to purchase these places in a way that offers flexibility and value for money, we will implement a Dynamic Purchasing System from September 2021, which will streamline the way we purchase and monitor these placements going forward.
- The Activities Unlimited Short Break Service includes an annual grants-giving process for Short Break Activity Providers. We have a longer-term aim of converting some of our grant-supported activities to contracted services, and hope to commence that process during 2020/21.
- We have also secured capital grants through the sale of two holiday lodges which will be re-invested to our providers through a grants process to enhance inclusion for families with SEND living in Suffolk.
- Our Short break contract for regular overnight breaks is currently under review; it is extended to September 2020 to enable a co-produced review.
- As part of our SEND Strategy, we will carry out a collaborative review in 2021 of our social care services for children with disabilities, which will influence our future commissioning and allow us to further develop our markets, as required.

Developing Suffolk Talent

Supporting people to develop the skills they need get into work and progress. Working with employers to meet the skills need and grow talent in our priority sectors to drive economic growth.

- We will commission small providers across Suffolk to offer community-based learning opportunities to adult learners. This provision will improve wellbeing as well as move unemployed adults closer to the labour market.
- Working in partnership with the Borough and District Councils across Suffolk we will commission place-based youth employment and NEET reduction programmes. These projects will move young people into Education, Employment or Training and reduce youth unemployment across Suffolk.
- We will commission grant programmes that enable economic growth through skills innovation.
- CYP and ACS Workforce Development will work with local and national training providers to support ongoing development of apprenticeship opportunities for new and existing CYP staff. This will include the development of entry point routes into early help and social care roles.

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

Procurement Opportunities 2021-23: Services for children and young people

Please register on [Suffolk Sourcing](#) for details of existing contracts and to receive notification of new tenders.

For further information on the below tenders please contact:

- Katrina Browning, Senior Commercial Business Partner
katrina.browning@suffolk.gov.uk, or the Lead Commissioner

Service	Current end date of contract / grant	Lead Commissioner
Foster Care Rolling Select List – Suffolk	Opportunity for new entrants on an annual basis Contract ends 2022	Tracey Curtis
Adult Learning Service DPS	Open for new entrants	Andrew Mawby
Independent Advocacy and Visiting Service	31 st March 2022	Julia Illott
Residential short break service	30 th September 2021 (currently under review by CCG)	Paula Benneworth
Accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse	31 March 2022	Richard Baldwin
Home to School Transport for pupils in Suffolk DPS	Opportunity for new entrants Please see Suffolk Sourcing	Tracey Vobe
Special Educational Needs (SEN) placements	Currently Spot purchased. A Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) is being developed to be available for supplier registration from May for placements from September 2021.	Gemma Morgan
Education for learners 16+ with learning disabilities	Currently Spot purchased	Gemma Morgan
Key Stage 1 and 2 Alternative Education	Due to be Advertised on Suffolk Sourcing by January 2021. Contract is due to end 31 August 2021.	Gemma Morgan
Short Breaks Activities Unlimited	Annual Grant Process – advertised Sept/Oct each year on Suffolk Sourcing	Paula Benneworth
All Services hub and digital tools (including the online	November 2022	Anita Abram (CYP), Sam Bassett (ACS)

Commissioning Intentions 2021-23

Service	Current end date of contract / grant	Lead Commissioner
community services directory and the Local Offer)		
Social work care support	Planned to have a contract in place in 2021	Rachel Rowe
Therapy and Support Services including Counselling	Various – currently under review	Rachel Rowe
DCYP Residential Services for Children and young people with MLD / Autism	Currently spot purchased	Tracey Curtis
DCYP Residential Service- Hestia House	Current Contract Expiring 2022	Chris Howard
Supported and Supervised accommodation for children in care	Contract is due to end November 2021.	Chris Howard
Supported lodgings for children in care and UASC	Current Contract Expiring 2022	Chris Howard
Residential provision for children in care aged 7-11	New opportunity. Due to be Advertised on Suffolk Sourcing Spring 2021.	Chris Howard
Tier 3 Supported Housing for people aged 18+	Framework contract to 2022, access to new applicants reviewed annually	Nic Roper
Housing Related Support	31 March 2022	Shirley Mutumburi
Day, evening and weekend opportunities and short breaks for people 18+ with learning disabilities and / or autism	Framework contract to 2023, access to new applicants reviewed annually	Nic Roper
Work Force Development Training	Various – advertised on Suffolk Sourcing	Loretta Greenacre