

Risk Register - Children's Services															
Print Date: 13 Mar, 2025															
Risk Code	Risk Event	Primary Risk Category	Risk Type	Responsible Person	Causes	Risk Effects	Initial Impact	Initial Likelihood	Initial Risk Rating	Existing Controls	Risk Treatment	Revised Impact	Revised Likelihood	Revised Risk Rating	Risk Action Title
ES&CSCS01	Clients are at risk of significant harm	Reputational	Operational Risk	Jack Libby - Chief Officer, Children's Services (Chief SWO)	More cases with a greater degree of complexity. Rate of referrals to Children and Families has increased of the last two years coinciding with efficiency savings. Service has now had to introduce a waiting list for outreach respite and short break care.	Significant harm comes to the client. The Comhairle could face reputational and financial damage. Legal action against Comhairle.	4.00 Major	2.00 Possible	Medium	Enhanced governance structures in place. Self evaluation and quality assurance. Supervision and more regular case file audits	Retain the threat	4.00 Major	2.00 Possible	Medium	
ES&CSCS04	Lack of sufficient local placements	Budget/Financial	Operational Risk	Jack Libby - Chief Officer, Children's Services (Chief SWO)	Lack of Foster Carers Lack of Residential Capacity due to budget cuts Lack of suitable educational provision	A Young person in a placement that does not match their needs. Young person may have to move from their own community or to the mainland.	3.00 Significant	3.00 Likely	High	Regular reporting a review of placements. Audit activity. Regular management meetings to ensure that the service is prioritising effectively. Service has now had to introduce a waiting list for outreach respite and short break care. Thoroughly exploring kinship placements. Progressing with family group conferencing.	Reduce the threat	3.00 Significant	2.00 Possible	Medium	Review existing service delivery model through the use of WFWF in order to manage and reduce the number of referrals coming to Children & Families.
															Review the current fee paid fostering scheme.
ES&CSCS05	Statutory assessments are not completed in time	Reputational	Operational Risk	Jack Libby - Chief Officer, Children's Services (Chief SWO)	The level of need for assessments exceeds the staff resource available. Staff sickness absences. Inability to recruit suitably qualified staff.	Children's and Young People's needs going unmet for longer and possibly remaining at risk. Failure to meet statutory deadlines would be a key focus of the next inspection of children's services.	2.00 Moderate	3.00 Likely	Medium	A Social Work Trainee post has been established using existing resources. Working in partnership with SCRA to reduce level of reports requested e.g. level of requests for early reviews.		2.00 Moderate	3.00 Likely	Medium	
ES&CSCS06	Elements of a Child's Plan fail to be delivered	Reputational	Operational Risk	Jack Libby - Chief Officer, Children's Services (Chief SWO)	Insufficient staff and/or financial resources to respond to all elements of a Child's Plan.	Lack of mitigation to reduce the level of risk and or need to the child or young person and others resulting in possible harm to the Child or young person. Any increase in the risk or the needs of the child or young person will increase the demand for resources both staffing and financial. Particular types of intervention for young people involved in offending behaviour not undertaken.	2.00 Moderate	3.00 Likely	Medium	A Social Work Trainee post has been established using existing resources. Reviewing the terms of reference of the locality planning group.	Retain the threat	2.00 Moderate	3.00 Likely	Medium	