

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

October 2018

THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

The Council is required to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Re-assignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion, Belief or Non-Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Welsh Language*

* The Welsh language is not identified as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, however in Wales we also have to treat Welsh and English on an equal basis as well as promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

Further advice on completing impact assessments can be found on the equalities pages of Corporate Policy Unit Portal.

THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL *	Retender of Shared Care Respite Contract currently held by Action for Children
DIRECTORATE	Social Services
SERVICE AREA	Adult Services / Children with disabilities
CONTACT OFFICER	Becky Griffiths
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION	February 2020

***Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, 'proposal' is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

The Council's work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the **Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020**.

When carrying out an EIA you should consider both the positive and negative consequences of your proposals. If a project is designed for a specific group e.g. disabled people, you also need to think about what potential effects it could have on other areas e.g. young people with a disability, BME people with a disability.

There are a number of supporting guidance documents available on the **Corporate Policy Unit Portal** and the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language team can provide advice as the EIA is being developed. Please note that the team does not write EIAs on behalf of service areas, the support offered is in the form of advice, suggestions and in effect, quality control.

Contact equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

1	<p>What is the proposal intended to achieve? <i>(Please give a brief description and outline the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <p>The term for the current shared care contract held with Action for Children has expires in 31st March 2019. We are required to carry out a re-tender for the service under procurement guidelines.</p> <p>As part of this re-tendering process we will be revising the service specification and looking at a utilising a wider range of services to meet the assessed need for respite.</p>
2	<p>Who are the service users affected by the proposal? <i>(Who will be affected by the delivery of this proposal? e.g. staff members, the public generally, or specific sections of the public i.e. youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits etc. Are there any data gaps?)</i></p> <p>This proposal would affect parent and sibling carers, and individuals currently in receipt of the service or waiting for a space to become available on the service.</p> <p>However it is anticipated this will be a positive affect as families will be offered a wider range of options to meet their respite requirements.</p>

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

3	<p>Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals? <i>(What has been done to examine whether or not these groups have equal access to the service, or whether they need to receive the service in a different way from other people?)</i></p> <p>Social Services actively promotes anti discriminatory practice and nobody is treated differently in relation to protected characteristics.</p> <p>All children with disabilities and their parents, carers and sibling carers are subject to a strengths based assessment to identify their outcomes and agreement as to how these outcomes will be met.</p> <p>Individuals will be subject to review and service could be provided by the organisation or agency who are successful in the tender process.</p> <p>Where it is identified that there is a change in an individual's personal outcomes and respite at home is no longer appropriate, a range of alternative options would be considered to ensure carers continue to have respite. Including residential respite, sessional support, direct payments, community based support.</p>
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	The proposals will ensure that more children have access to respite services and reduce waiting times for respite, increasing equality in access to services.	
4	<p>Is your proposal going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? <i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect effect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people's protected characteristics?)</i></p> <p>Children with disabilities, however the proposals are for improvement in service provision and increased range of solutions/services for respite provision.</p> <p>Therefore the affect is anticipated to beneficial not detrimental.</p>	
	Protected Characteristic	Positive, Negative, Neutral
		Relevance of the Policy or Practice
	Age	Neutral
	Disability	Neutral
	Gender Reassignment	Neutral
	Marriage & Civil Partnership	Neutral
	Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral
	Race	Neutral
	Religion & Belief	Neutral
	Sex	Neutral
	Sexual Orientation	Neutral

5	<p>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1) Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. <i>(The specific Policy Making Standards requirements are Standard numbers 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The full detail of each Standard is available on the Corporate Policy Unit Portal. Although it is important that what is outlined in the proposal is available in Welsh and English, please consider wider impacts on Welsh speakers.)</i></p> <p>No effects</p>
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INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	Please outline any evidence and / or research you have collected which
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supports the proposal? This can include an analysis of service users.

(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more protected characteristic groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposal include an analysis of those affected?)

The service currently provides respite at home to 23 children. Criteria for this is currently for children up to 10 years

The service provides outreach support to 25 children. Criteria for this is currently for children 11 years and over.

There is a waiting list of 13 children at present, of individuals waiting for availability within the service.

There is no higher or lower participation or uptake by any protected characteristic group.

All children accessing the service have an assessed need due to a physical disability, sensory impairment, learning disability and/or mental health condition.

Regardless of disability all have equal access to the provision of respite.

The provision of the proposed respite provision will be 0 – 17 without age related criteria within the services, access to the service provision will be based upon personal outcomes that have been identified and how best to achieve these, making future respite provisions more person centred, removing the inequality relating to age.

The proposed range of respite solutions, will mirror solutions available to adults with disabilities, and their carers.

CONSULTATION

7 Please outline the consultation / engagement process and outline any key findings.

(Include method of consultation, objectives and target audience. What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)

Meetings were held with current provider to advise of tender process to take place.

All recipients of the service (including their carers / parents) will be written to regarding the requirement for the Local Authority to retender for the service.

All recipients of the service and on the waiting list will be provided with a review or assessment by a social worker and be consulted in respect of how best their assessed needs will be met.

These assessment and reviews will be undertaken in line with the social services and well being (wales) act 2014, identifying personal outcomes and to identify appropriate

	<p>solutions to meet these outcomes.</p> <p>Care and support plans will be outcome focused and agreed in partnership with the families to ensure they meet the respite requirements.</p>
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MONITORING AND REVIEW

8	<p>How will the proposal be monitored? <i>(What monitoring process has been set up to assess the extent that the service is being used by all sections of the community, or that the savings proposals are achieving the intended outcomes with no adverse impact? Are comments or complaints systems set up to record issues by Equalities category to be able analyse responses from particular groups?)</i></p> <p>Individuals receiving a service will be reviewed at least annually or sooner should their circumstances change. Budgets will be monitored monthly re expenditure on solutions provided.</p> <p>Any comments compliments or complaints received are recorded by equalities categories</p>
9	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated? <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>Assessment care Management will undertake individual reviews/reassessments .</p>
10	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified? <i>(Has the EIA or consultation process shown a need for awareness raising amongst staff, or identified the need for Equalities or Welsh Language training of some sort?)</i></p> <p>No</p>
11	<p>If any adverse impact has been identified, please outline any mitigation action.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
12	<p>What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment? <i>(What use will you make of this document i.e. as a consultation response, appendix to approval reports, publicity etc. in addition to the mandatory action shown below?)</i></p>

	Will be appendix to cabinet and scrutiny reports
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13	<p>If any adverse impact has been identified, please outline any mitigation actions.</p> <p>n/a</p>
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14	<p>An equality impact assessment may have four possible outcomes, through more than one may apply to a single proposal. Please indicate the relevant outcome(s) of the impact assessment below.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Please tick as appropriate:</p> <p>No major change – the impact assessment demonstrated that the proposal was robust; there was no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Adjust the proposal – the impact assessment identified potential problems or missed opportunities. The proposal was adjusted to remove barriers or better promote equality. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Continue the proposal – the impact assessment identified the potential problems or missed opportunities to promote equality. The justification(s) for continuing with it have been clearly set out. (The justification must be included in the impact assessment and must be in line with the duty to have due regard. Compelling reasons will be needed for the most important relevant proposals.) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Stop and remove the proposal – the impact assessment identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination. The proposal was stopped and removed, or changed. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Completed by:	Becky Griffiths
Date:	9 th November 2018
Position:	Service Manager, Adult Services
Name of Head of Service:	Jo Williams