

A guide to equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)

What are Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)?

- EIAs are a **tool to help you analyse and make more considered decisions** about changes to service delivery, policy and practice. An EIA will help you to identify how specific communities of interest may be affected by decisions and to consider any potential discriminatory impact on people with **protected**
- EIAs can also help to improve or promote equality by encouraging you to **identify ways to remove barriers and improve participation** for people with a protected characteristic.

Why do we need to do Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)?

- Although not a mandatory requirement, EIAs provide important **evidence** of how we have considered the implications of service and policy changes and demonstrate how we have met our legal Public Sector Equality
- The three main elements of the **Public Sector Equality Duty** are:
 - ✓ Eliminating discrimination
 - ✓ Promoting equality of opportunity
 - ✓ Fostering good relations
- In fulfilling our Public Sector Equality Duty we must ensure that we demonstrate that we have followed a number of key **principles** (based on previous case law):
 - ✓ Knowledge
 - ✓ Timeliness
 - ✓ Real consideration
 - ✓ Sufficient information
 - ✓ No delegation
 - ✓ Review
 - ✓ Proper record keeping
- We need to provide evidence that we have given **due regard to any potential discriminatory impact on people with protected characteristics** in shaping policy, in delivering and making changes to services, and
- We must always consider whether a service change, decision or policy could have a discriminatory impact on people with protected characteristics, not just any impact that is the same as it would be for everyone
- The EIA tool allows us to **capture, demonstrate and publish our rationale** of how we have considered our communities and legal responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty and is our main way of

- **But above all, EIAs are about understanding and meeting the needs of local people and supporting us to deliver our vision for Kirklees.**

When do we need to do Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)?

- Whenever you plan to **change, introduce or remove** a service, activity or policy.
- At the **VERY BEGINNING** of any process of:
 - ✓ Budget setting
 - ✓ Service review (including changes to employment practice)
 - ✓ Planning new projects and work programmes
 - ✓ Policy development and review
 - ✓ Procurement or commissioning activity

Who should do it?

- Overall responsibility for EIAs lies at a **service** level. A lead officer should be appointed from the service area that is making a proposal and all decisions should be approved by the senior management team in that
- Those directly affected (partners, stakeholders, voluntary groups, communities, equality groups etc) should be engaged with as part of the process.

How should we do it?

- Our EIA process has two stages:
Stage 1 - initial screening assessment
Stage 2 - further assessment and evidence

EIA STAGE 1 – SCREENING TOOL (initial assessment)

The purpose of this screening tool is to help you consider the potential impact of your proposal at an early stage.

Please give details of your service/lead officer then complete sections 1-3:

- 1) What is your proposal?
- 2) What level of impact do you think your proposal will have?
- 3) How are you using advice and evidence/intelligence to help you?

You will then receive your stage 1 assessment score and advice on what to do what next.

Directorate:	Senior Officer responsible for policy/service:
Adults & Health	Saf Bhuta
Service:	Lead Officer responsible for EIA:
Safeguarding & Quality	Collette Lake
Specific Service Area/Policy:	Date of EIA (Stage 1):
Domestic Abuse	23-Aug-19

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1) WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSAL?	Please select YES or NO
To introduce a service, activity or policy (i.e. start doing something)	NO
To remove a service, activity or policy (i.e. stop doing something)	NO
To reduce a service or activity (i.e. do less of something)	NO
To increase a service or activity (i.e. do more of something)	NO
To change a service, activity or policy (i.e. redesign it)	YES
To start charging for (or increase the charge for) a service or activity (i.e. ask people to pay for or to pay more for something)	NO
Please briefly outline your proposal and the overall aims/purpose of making this change:	
<p>A new Domestic Abuse Strategy is being developed- 2019-2021. The most recent strategy published was 2015-2018- https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/adult-social-care-providers/pdf/kirklees-domestic-abuse-strategy.pdf</p>	

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2) WHAT LEVEL OF IMPACT DO YOU THINK YOUR PROPOSAL WILL HAVE ON...		Level of Impact
		Please select from drop down
Kirklees employees within this service/directorate? (overall)		Positive
Kirklees residents living in a specific ward/local area?		Neutral
Please tell us which area/ward will be affected:		All
Residents across Kirklees? (i.e. most/all local people)		Positive
Existing service users ?		Positive
Each of the following protected characteristic groups ?		Please select from drop down
<i>(Think about how your proposal might affect, either positively or negatively, any individuals/communities. Please consider the impact for both employees and residents - within these protected characteristic groups).</i>		
...age	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...disability	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...gender reassignment	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...marriage/ civil partnership	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...pregnancy & maternity	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...race	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...religion & belief	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...sex	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...sexual orientation	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Neutral
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral

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3) HOW ARE YOU USING ADVICE AND EVIDENCE/INTELLIGENCE TO HELP YOU?		Please select YES or NO
Have you taken any specialist advice linked to your proposal? (Legal, HR etc)?		YES
Do you have any evidence/intelligence to support your assessment (in section 2) of the impact of your proposal on...	...employees?	NO
	...Kirklees residents?	NO
	...service users?	YES
	...any protected characteristic groups?	NO
<p>There is a detailed action plan to accompany the strategy. This is still in draft and awaiting final sign off. A communications plan is in place and will be further developed.</p> <p>Link to the 2015-2018 Domestic Abuse Strategy; https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/adult-social-care-providers/pdf/kirklees-domestic-abuse-strategy.pdf</p> <p>The draft strategy 2019-2021 is expected to go to Cabinet on 10 Sept 2019 for approval. A formal launch has been provisionally scheduled for 30 September 2019.</p>		
		Please select from drop down
To what extent do you feel you are able to mitigate any potential negative impact of your proposal on the different groups of people outlined in section 2?		FULLY
To what extent do you feel you have considered your Public Sector Equality Duty?		FULLY

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STAGE 1 ASSESSMENT

IMPACT	RISK
Based on scoring of 1) and 2)	Based on scoring of 2) and 3)
1	5
SCORE (calculated) Max = - / + 32	SCORE (calculated) Max risk = - / + 40

You need to move on to complete a Stage 2 assessment if:

The final Impact score is negative and or the Risk score is negative.

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