

Equality Impact Analysis to enable informed decisions

The purpose of this document is to:-

- I. help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- II. for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence on a proposal for a project/service change/policy/commissioning of a service or decommissioning of a service evolves taking into account any consultation feedback, significant changes to the proposals and data to support impacts of proposed changes. The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker and the Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision making report.

****Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010****

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under a personal duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

Section 149 requires a public authority to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by/or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics and by evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

Decision makers duty under the Act

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a personal duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:-

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms,
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct,
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics,
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

Conducting an Impact Analysis

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision making process.

The Lead Officer responsibility

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

Summary of findings

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.

Impact – definition

An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.

How much detail to include?

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this asking simple questions “Who might be affected by this decision?” “Which protected characteristics might be affected?” and “How might they be affected?” will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data, and where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to arrive at a view as to where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such, with an explanation as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

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Proposals for more than one option If more than one option is being proposed you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.

Background Information

Title of the policy / project / service being considered	Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy	Person / people completing analysis	Andrew Morris
Service Area	Children Services	Lead Officer	Andrew Morris
Who is the decision maker?	Executive	How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?	Desk top
Date of meeting when decision will be made	01/10/2022	Version control	1
Is this proposed change to an existing policy/service/project or is it new?	Existing policy/service/project	LCC directly delivered, commissioned, re-commissioned or de-commissioned?	Directly delivered
Describe the proposed change	This is refreshed strategy setting the ethos culture and direction of service development and delivery. It does not propose to make any direct changes to services, but does set the direction for service design and aspirations		

Evidencing the impacts

In this section you will explain the difference that proposed changes are likely to make on people with protected characteristics. To help you do this first consider the impacts the proposed changes may have on people without protected characteristics before then considering the impacts the proposed changes may have on people with protected characteristics.

You must evidence here who will benefit and how they will benefit. If there are no benefits that you can identify please state 'No perceived benefit' under the relevant protected characteristic. You can add sub categories under the protected characteristics to make clear the impacts. For example under Age you may have considered the impact on 0-5 year olds or people aged 65 and over, under Race you may have considered Eastern European migrants, under Sex you may have considered specific impacts on men.

Data to support impacts of proposed changes

When considering the equality impact of a decision it is important to know who the people are that will be affected by any change.

Population data and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO) holds a range of population data by the protected characteristics. This can help put a decision into context. Visit the LRO website and its population theme page by following this link: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk> If you cannot find what you are looking for, or need more information, please contact the LRO team. You will also find information about the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on the LRO website.

Workforce profiles

You can obtain information by many of the protected characteristics for the Council's workforce and comparisons with the labour market on the [Council's website](#). As of 1st April 2015, managers can obtain workforce profile data by the protected characteristics for their specific areas using Agresso.

Positive impacts

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics – If no positive impact, please state 'no positive impact'.

Age	Directly focus service to children and young people for which we have a direct corporate parenting responsibility (cic and care leavers). The age group is 0 to 25. It will seek to make direct improvement in the lives of that age group of young people.
Disability	Directly focus service to children and young people for which we have a direct corporate parenting responsibility (cic and care leavers). The groups of young people may include those with disabilities who are eligible for service. Young people who are in our care or leave our care will receive and enhanced service
Gender reassignment	The Strategy takes account of all protected characteristics and will respond to any individual needs and implement reasonable adjustments where appropriate. We will strive to ensure that everyone with protected characteristics has equal access to support if they are a child in care or a care leaver
Marriage and civil partnership	No positive impacThe Strategy takes account of all protected characteristics and will respond to any individual needs and implement reasonable adjustments where appropriate. We will strive to ensure that everyone with protected characteristics has equal access to support if they are a child in care or a care leaver
Pregnancy and maternity	Directly focus service to children and young people for which we have a direct corporate parenting responsibility (cic and care leavers). There are specific pathways and support setups within the leaving care service to enhance the opportunity and support to young parents/pregnant young people.
Race	Directly focus service to children and young people for which we have a direct corporate parenting responsibility (cic and care leavers). There is a requirement to focus the support offer to cic and cl to ensure that race and identify are supported and that young people flourish regardless of ethnicity and background.
Religion or belief	Strategy takes account of all protected characteristics and will respond to any individual needs and implement reasonable adjustments where appropriate. We will strive to ensure that everyone with protected characteristics has equal access to support if they are a child in care or a care leaver

Sex	The service is delivered to all genders if the young person is eligible
Sexual orientation	The service is delivered to all orientations if the young person is eligible

If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.

Adverse/negative impacts

You must evidence how people with protected characteristics will be adversely impacted and any proposed mitigation to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. An adverse impact causes disadvantage or exclusion. If such an impact is identified please state how, as far as possible, it is justified; eliminated; minimised or counter balanced by other measures.

If there are no adverse impacts that you can identify please state 'No perceived adverse impact' under the relevant protected characteristic.

Negative impacts of the proposed change and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences on people with protected characteristics are detailed below. If you have not identified any mitigating action to reduce an adverse impact please state 'No mitigating action identified'.

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Age	No perceived adverse impact
Disability	No perceived adverse impact
Gender reassignment	No perceived adverse impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No perceived adverse impact
Pregnancy and maternity	No perceived adverse impact

Race	No perceived adverse impact
Religion or belief	No perceived adverse impact
Sex	No perceived adverse impact
Sexual orientation	No perceived adverse impact

If you have identified negative impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.

Stakeholders

Stake holders are people or groups who may be directly affected (primary stakeholders) and indirectly affected (secondary stakeholders)

You must evidence here who you involved in gathering your evidence about benefits, adverse impacts and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences. You must be confident that any engagement was meaningful. The Community engagement team can help you to do this and you can contact them at engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk

State clearly what (if any) consultation or engagement activity took place by stating who you involved when compiling this EIA under the protected characteristics. Include organisations you invited and organisations who attended, the date(s) they were involved and method of involvement i.e. Equality Impact Analysis workshop/email/telephone conversation/meeting/consultation. State clearly the objectives of the EIA consultation and findings from the EIA consultation under each of the protected characteristics. If you have not covered any of the protected characteristics please state the reasons why they were not consulted/engaged.

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Objective(s) of the EIA consultation/engagement activity

As part of the process of writing this strategy young people in care, care leavers, members, officer and partners were widely consulted as to the content and priorities. Many groups of young people and care leavers were offered the opportunity to feed into the strategy.

The consultation was wide ranging including focus groups, e-mail, phone conversation and direct feedback from 1-1 visits with young people.

We did to ask young people of staff about their protected characteristic when consulting, the offer is based on eligibility through time spent in care, regardless of any of the 9 characteristics, the eligibility remains the same. Access and support in the CiC and CL services are very person centred. Young people are supported through individual plans where any of the 9 characteristic can be considered and included in the bespoke plan of support or care based on their needs and identity. This high level strategy does not dictate how individual services will be delivered

As services grow and change further EIA's can be undertaken to look at how specific delivery (rather than priority setting in the strategy) could impact

Who was involved in the EIA consultation/engagement activity? Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic

Age	No specific findings
Disability	No specific findings
Gender reassignment	No specific findings
Marriage and civil partnership	No specific findings
Pregnancy and maternity	No specific findings
Race	No specific findings
Religion or belief	No specific findings

Sex	No specific findings
Sexual orientation	No specific findings
Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way? The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.	Yes, many young people and professionals were afforded opportunity to feed into this strategy.
Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?	

Further Details

Are you handling personal data?	No If yes, please give details.
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Actions required	Action	Lead officer	Timescale
Include any actions identified in this analysis for on-going monitoring of impacts.	No further actions		

Version	Description	Created/amended by	Date created/amended	Approved by	Date approved
1	Children in care and Care Leavers Strategy	Andrew Morris	14/09/2022		

Examples of a Description:
 'Version issued as part of procurement documentation'
 'Issued following discussion with community groups'
 'Issued following requirement for a service change; Issued following discussion with supplier'

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