

Sensory Needs Commissioning Strategy Equality Impact Assessment Record

Date of EIA **13th January 2009**
 Directorate **Social Care & Learning**

Initial Screening Record	
Activity to be assessed	Commissioning strategy for adults who experience sight loss, hearing loss or who are deafblind
What is the activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change
Is it a new or existing activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing
Aim / objective / purpose of the activity – who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>The purpose of the activity is to: set out the strategic direction and priorities for support and services to people with a sensory impairment and for whom this is their primary disability over the next 5 years</p> <p>The activity is designed for: people who experience sight loss, hearing loss or who are deafblind</p>
Who is responsible for the activity?	The person/section/team responsible for this policy/function is: Head of Older People and Long Term Conditions - Mira Haynes
Did Step 1: Initial Screening indicate that a full EIA was necessary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – full EIA completed and recorded below. <input type="checkbox"/> No – full EIA not completed therefore record ends here.
Full EIA Record	
Who are the members of the EIA team?	Val Bray, Jane Bremner and Ilona Cowe Policy & Commissioning Officers. Ali Melabie Team Manager for Older People and Long Term Conditions.
What evidence has been found to indicate that the activity might need to be amended? (Include any consultation undertaken)	<p>The evidence drawn upon for this EIA has been collated from work with a variety of stakeholders we engaged with during the period of consultation and information drawn from national statistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevalence of sight loss and hearing loss is closely linked to people aged over 60 • There is evidence to suggest that some minority ethnic groups may experience higher levels of deafness. This is especially true of people who have come from regions with greater levels of poverty, poor health care and low levels of immunisation against diseases such as rubella • There is a higher prevalence of visual impairment in some black and ethnic minority groups. People of African Caribbean descent are four times more likely to have glaucoma and South Asian people more likely to have diabetic retinopathy • Stigma and discrimination have been identified as reasons why people conceal their sensory loss • People who experience sensory impairment are more likely to be unemployed and therefore to be living on low

	<p>incomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven out of ten people with a visual impairment are in rented accommodation as opposed to three in ten of the general population • Many people with a learning disability have a sight problem which is undiagnosed • More women than men report having a visual impairment • More men than women who have a hearing problem. This is more prominent in people aged over 75. • We do not currently have the data available to be able to compare sexual orientation or religion or belief with the prevalence of sensory impairment. 	
<p>With regard to the equalities themes, which groups might be impacted by the activity? Might any of these groups be impacted adversely?</p>	<p>Groups Impacted</p>	<p>Groups impacted adversely</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Race and ethnicity ✓Disability ✓Gender ✓Age ✓Sexual Orientation ✓Religion or belief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief
<p>What evidence is there to suggest an impact/adverse impact?</p>	<p>See section 3/4</p>	
<p>On what grounds can impact or adverse impact be justified?</p>	<p>The commissioning strategy is directed at adults who experience a sensory impairment which is their main or only disability.</p> <p>The consultation was tailored to engage stakeholders involved with people who experience sensory impairment</p>	
<p>Is there any current action that addresses issues for any of the groups impacted/adversely impacted?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the needs analysis which is informed by the JSNA • Increase the ways in which we try to access harder to reach groups 	
<p>What changes will you make to the activity reduce or remove any differential/adverse impact?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the needs assessment • Obtain the missing data for people with a sensory impairment in regard to sexual orientation and religion or faith • Develop a specialist worker role for people who are deafblind • Ensure information is available in appropriate formats • Promote training in sensory impairment to staff in all sectors • Respond to the needs of relatively small numbers of ethnic groups whose needs are diverse • Maximise people's access to financial benefits • Make links with local employers to help them understand the needs of people with a sensory impairment 	
<p>Into which action plan/s will these actions be incorporated?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation plan will be devised from the commissioning strategy after this has been approved by The Executive • Social Care & Learning Service Plan • Business plan for Older People and Long Term Conditions Team 	

Who is responsible for the action plan?	Mira Haynes Head of Older People and Long Term Conditions
Have any examples of good practise been identified as part of the EIA?	<p>The expertise of a specialist team was sought – The Sensory Needs Service which comprises of the Visual Impairment Team and the Deaf Services Team. They undertake referrals on behalf of BFC.</p> <p>Involvement of stakeholders in the development of the commissioning strategy</p> <p>Bracknell Blind Club – Support Group</p> <p>Bracknell Hard of Hearing Club - Support Group</p> <p>All published information was available in a range of formats including Braille, large font, audio cassette and other languages.</p>
Has the EIA been published on the Council website?	Yes / No
Who is the relevant Chief Officer and have they signed off the EIA?	<p>Glyn Jones</p> <p>Signature.....</p>
Which PMR will this EIA be reported in?	