

**Disability Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire**

<b>Policy/Service/Change being assessed:</b> Proposal to close Dolphin Centre on certain Bank holidays throughout the year	<b>Department:</b> Services for Place
<b>Person Responsible for Assessment:</b> Helen Archer	<b>Date of assessment:</b> 18.01.12

**Brief description of service and to whom provided/available:**

The content of this Disability equality impact assessment is based on potential impact of the Dolphin Centre closing on additional Statutory Bank Holidays. Currently the Dolphin Centre is closed Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years Day Bank holidays throughout any year. The remaining Bank holidays the Dolphin Centre is open to public but offers a reduced service due to service demand. The reduced service relates to instant access provision such as swimming, gym and the soft play. Scheduled fitness classes do not take place on Bank holiday

It is proposed to close the Dolphin Centre on Easter Bank holidays and May Bank holiday. Over several years the Dolphin Centre has operated a reduced service on a Bank holiday however the customer usage is significantly lower than normal working Monday which would suggest the impact would be minimal to all users, however to support this an assessment a information collection exercise will be carried out in the key areas of the service on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

The management team have identified that due to an already reduced programme on Statutory Bank holidays that the impact would not restrict any protected characteristical groups directly ensuring discrimination is prevented, but would have a small impact on service users as a whole.

The Dolphin Centre provides a service contributes significantly to the Health and Well being of the population. Its provision, layout and facilities including programme is varied to meet the needs of all the characteristical groups noted in equality impact assessment and promote community cohesion and the needs of Darlington's diverse communities. This proposal is for closure of whole facility on further Bank holiday dates rather than reduce the service impacting on specific individuals

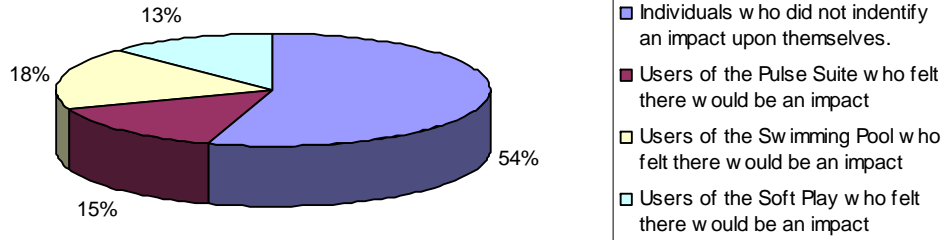
Cross negative impacts have been identified with the closure of East Row Toilets with regard to particularly limited options in accessing public toilets and the potential impact upon the quality of facilities at the Dolphin Centre as usage is increased due to higher demand. A number of individuals through the consultation sessions relating to the potential closure of East Row Toilets have identified the Dolphin Centre as the next closest facilities.

In addition to the corporate consultation events and specific meetings undertaken regarding proposals within the MTFP. In order to capture any potential specific impacts arising from the proposal to close to Dolphin Centre on certain Bank Holidays, an impact assessment data capture was undertaken on Wednesday the 25.01.12 with a sample of users of the Dolphin Centre.

Potential arising impacts were identified across the three main facilities impacted by the proposal where individuals ordinarily have direct access at their leisure. These were, the swimming pool, soft play and the pulse suite. In total across the three facilities information from 224 users was collected, 118 of these individual normally use the Dolphin Centre on a Monday, 96 of whom identified that they would be impacted if the Dolphin Centre was closed on a Bank Holiday.

A number of individuals identified that there would be an impact upon themselves by very nature of the fact that the facility would not be available. Very few individuals quantified this further, where they had it was contained to the Soft Play facility and related to the fact that Nurseries and other Child Care facilities are not open on a Bank Holiday.

**Potential Impacts overview from the closure of the Dolphin Centre on a Bank Holiday**



**Comment Received through online forum.**

Dolphin Centre should remain open on bank holidays for the reason that it is a holiday and there are usually more people in the town.

**Financial Savings**

	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's
<b>Gross Savings</b>	20	20	20	20
<b>Decommissioning costs</b>				
<b>Redundancy costs</b>				
<b>Net savings</b>	20	20	20	20

## **Introduction**

This template should be used with the Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009. Completing this template without following the rest of the disability equality impact assessment process outlined in the Scheme does not comprise a disability equality impact assessment.

**Q.1 Is your service/policy/change accessible to all disabled people? Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.**

This proposal specifically relates to the closure of the provision on specific bank holiday dates, the service provision will not be available on these dates. The Dolphin Centre as a facility when open is accessible to all.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?</b>	<b>If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?</b>
Physical or mobility impairment				
Sensory impairment				
Learning disability or mental impairment				
Other disabilities and health conditions covered by the Equality Act 2010 (eg. diabetes, HIV, multiple sclerosis, depression and cancer)				
Any other disability issue (e.g. frail/vulnerable people, people with mild impairments who do not perceive themselves as disabled, people with multiple impairment)				

**Q.2 (a) For whatever reason, does your service treat any group of disabled people differently from its other service users?**

Yes

No

**If you have answered 'yes', please specify those individuals or groups affected and whether the impact has the potential to be adverse.**

**Q.3**

Yes

No

**If you have answered 'yes', please give examples of how equality is promoted.**

Dolphin Centre provides a service which contributes to Health and Well being of the population. Its provision, layout and facilities including programme is varied to meet the needs of all the characteristical groups noted in equality impact assessment and promote community cohesion and the needs of Darlington's diverse communities.

**(b) Do you promote positive attitudes towards disabled people? (e.g. through customer care training, cultural issues awareness training, the use of images of disabled people in your publicity material)**

Yes

x

No

**If you have answered 'yes', please give examples.**

All staff working within the section have Customer Care and Equalities training. The Council as a whole promotes a positive attitude to disabled people in both the recruitment, employment and providing services to disabled members of the community.

Employees are made aware of disability issues including access to services, buildings and information. The Council is committed to ensuring that information available to the public is in an easy read format and accessible in various methods and in multiple locations



**Q.4 Are there any plans in place within your Service to promote disability equality more effectively?**

Yes

X

No

**If yes, please outline what you intend to do (including details, if known, of timescales and areas to be covered, etc.)**