

Disability Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire

<p>Policy/Service/Change being assessed: Review of support and consultation with older people</p>	<p>Department: People, Development and Commissioning</p>
<p>Person Responsible for Assessment: Mary Hall</p>	<p>Date of assessment: 27th January 2012 based upon Focus Groups with GOLD on 15th November and with lead officers also general corporate events relating to impact</p>

Brief description of service and to whom provided/available:
GOLD stands for Growing Old Living in Darlington and it is an organisations aimed at enabling the voices of people over 50 years of age to be heard and to influence service design and delivery. It is jointly funded by NHS County Durham and Darlington and Darlington Borough Council. The proposal is to cease Council support to this service in 2015/6 which will also be at the time when public health functions transfer to the local authority.

GOLD supports the over 50's population of Darlington which is 34,400 people by providing opportunities for engagement in services reviews and by acting as a sounding board for consultation exercises. It is not the only mechanism for supporting older people as organisations such as Age UK also have a role in consultation, engagement and campaigning. **GOLD** have over 820 members and as such represent a substantial voice and it is important that this voice is not lost.

The financial position that the Council finds itself in has lead to the need to reduce funding to none statutory services and this has including reducing support for consultation across the whole spectrum of residents. This proposal if agreed will not be implemented immediately and there is time to look at a number of delivery options including:

- **GOLD** setting up as a totally independent organisation that sources its own funding through applications to outside bodies or other fundraising activity or social enterprise activities
- Look at transferring the activities of **GOLD** to other providers or deliverers
- Encouraging members to link to other groups in the area to strengthen the voice of older people
- To use the expertise to develop prevention services through a sustainable Community Support Network

Some work is already taking place to implement a gradual change in the self-sustainability of **GOLD**.

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.

If, after reading the guidance, you require further information on how to implement the assessment, please contact David Plews, Policy Advisor (Social Inclusion) on 01325 388023.

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.

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Physical or mobility impairment	X		Activities are provided to support the accessibility of consultation including the use of accessible venues for meetings and events. This principle will need to be embedded in any options developed in the future	
Sensory impairment			Large print and audio options are used to ensure accessibility of information Future impact work must be undertaken to ensure this is included in any future options.	
Learning disability or mental impairment			Specialist debates and consultations are organised relating to issues faced by these and other client groups. The impact of withdrawing funding for GOLD could lead to a reduction in activity but this could be included in any future options. Further impact assessment will be required.	
Other disabilities and health conditions covered by the DDA 2005 (eg. diabetes, HIV, multiple sclerosis, depression and cancer)			As many of the members of GOLD have long-term conditions the health group within GOLD have supported consultation on a number of these issues. Again further work will be required to build in consultation mechanisms through HealthWatch and other opportunities.	
Any other disability issue (e.g. frail/vulnerable people, people with mild impairments who do not perceive themselves as disabled, people with			GOLD is an effective mechanism for engaging with these people and the continuing work of health group and work with frail older people supports this. The impact of reducing funding could lead to a reduction in low level support if this is not built into other forms of delivery.	

multiple impairment)				
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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.

All consultation activity aims to be accessible to all groups.

(b) What needs to be done to prevent any potentially adverse impact?

Work on developing services for older people and disabled people needs to ensure that they consult with older people and disabled people and build in principles to ensure consultation takes place through a range of forum and engagement methods.

Q.3 (a) Do you promote disability equality within your service? (e.g. through departmental equalities group, innovative marketing or community engagement techniques)

Yes
No

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

Yes

For example GOLD has a reading group to ensure that key information is accessible to people. This group has looked at information provided by the Borough Council and PCT. GOLD has also supported work on the development of a Single Equality Scheme and will continue to do so in the next 12 months.

(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
No

x

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

See above

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

Yes

No

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

Service planning will support the use of equality impact assessments when service planning and as part of any future consultation and service review.