

Disability Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire

<p>Policy/Service/Change being assessed: 2012/2013 Budget Proposal : Fundamental Review of Social capital Equalities and Talking Together Budgets.</p>	<p>Department: People</p>
<p>Person Responsible for Assessment: Chris Sivers – AD Development and Commissioning Person responsible for strategy where different from above:</p>	<p>Date of assessment: January 2012</p>

Brief description of service and to whom provided/available:

This is a proposal to reduce this service to the absolute minimum. This will reduce the corporate consultation (Talking Together) budget, the Darlington Together budget and the support for equalities work. As well as a reduction in the WHAT is delivered as a part of Darlington Together, the proposal would also see a change in the WHO delivers this.

There will be significant reduction in the amount of consultation activity and the amount of support to facilitate development of equality policy and impact assessments and the resultant consultation processes. There will be no dedicated staff within the Council to support Darlington Together and Community Partnerships activity.

The impact of the reduced support available for consultation process may increase the risk of public confidence in the Council, and potentially increases the risks associated with poor decision making due to the lack of understanding of full impact of decisions. There is also potentially risk to the success of the Darlington Together Strategy. These proposals will therefore impact on community groups, residents, elected members as well as other service areas across the Council. Indirectly the voluntary sector, health care partners and joint agencies who we currently support for consultation events will also be impacted. The following financial saving has been identified against this proposal.

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
£000	£000	£000	£000
157	216	216	216

The above savings include an employee impact of 5 to 7 people been made redundant and the new service offering a much reduced team.

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 Peter Roberts, Social Enterprise Development Manager on 01325 388713

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	√		Maintaining resources for equalities work and talking together events.	
Sensory impairment	√		All communications is available in Braille, large print format and sign interpreters	
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)				
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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.

Impact is a positive impact, disabled people are treated more favourably in terms of consultation. Individual groups are consulted on a regular basis on Council services and businesses which may impact on them as well as ensuring community cohesion, inclusion and networking. Examples of groups attended include Disability Equality Steering Group (monthly meeting) Deaf Club (monthly meeting) Learning Disabilities People's Parliament (monthly meeting)

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

Not an adverse impact, there is not a proposal to reduce the attendance at these meetings as part of the proposal. The attendance at such events / forums assists with the understanding of impacts on disabled groups. There is a concern re low attendance at the various consultation groups and the same individuals attend the same groups. It is proposed that we need to continue to work with more representative groups of disabled people / groups which are proportionate to the resources of the team that is available.

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.

In addition to the Council commitment to promote equality of opportunity in all services and policies, this is a key function of the team.

(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

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

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
No

√

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

No.