

Equality Impact Assessment



Name of project/proposal

Cease evening openings from April 2016

Contact name

Jane Harris

Department

Culture, Communities and Business Services

Date to be published on Hantsweb

29 Feb 2016

Purpose for project/proposal

Notification of change in public opening hours: closure of evening openings at Hampshire Archives and Local Studies from 1 April 2016.

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) is currently open on one evening per week (Thursdays, 5-7pm). The average number of Thursday evening visitors (based on a customer headcount at 6pm) has declined from an average of 7.5 visitors in 2012/13 to just 4.3 for April to December 2015. Currently 3 members of staff cater for evening visitors which is not an effective use of resources and the decision has been made to close on Thursday evenings from 1 April 2016. Remaining options for the public to visit will be 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday every month. The provision of evening opening in neighbouring counties is mixed; while Surrey, Dorset and Wiltshire do not have evening opening hours, Berkshire and West Sussex are open on one evening per week (West Sussex is currently considering suspension of their evening opening).

Staff hours worked on Thursday evenings will be deployed to the daytime to make more effective use of resources in delivering HALS services.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

No

The decision is being communicated via various routes (website, on site, e-newsletters, Customer Liaison Group, Hampshire Archives Trust, national archive e-mailing list and in person to most evening visitors). We do not have the data to provide information on pattern of usage or demographic details for our customers visiting in the evening.

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Low
Disability	None
Sexual orientation	None
Race	None
Religion and belief	None
Gender reassignment	None
Sex	None
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None

Other policy considerations

Poverty	None
Rurality	None
Other factors	None
If other please describe	

Geographical impact

All Hampshire Other

Other

National and international

Have you identified any medium or high impact?*

Yes

No

Why do you consider that your project/proposal will have low or no impact?

The impact has been evaluated as low or no impact for all groups as very few people will be affected. The last Public Services Quality Group survey of visitors to UK archives in June 2014 showed that 56% of visitors who answered the question relating to age were aged 65 or over so the impact has been evaluated as low impact for age as our customer profile is relatively high for this group. The customer survey also showed that 9% of visitors considered themselves as having a disability and 1% of people were from ethnic groups. No data concerning other groups was collected.

Final decision date

Final decision date due
Decision to be made by

29 Jan 2016
DMT