



Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
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Title:	Stop Smoking
Related EIAs:	EIA Number: Public health Stop Smoking June 2021

EIA for Savings Programme:	Yes EIA - Adults Health & Care - Stop Smoking - 2021/09/30
Service affected	Stop Smoking
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	The current specialist stop smoking service, Smokefree Hampshire, is commissioned by Hampshire County Council and provided by Solutions4Health Ltd. It is available to all smokers in Hampshire. The service provides behavioural support and licensed medications or nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), known as pharmacotherapy, that can make it easier to stop smoking. Behavioural support is provided in a number of ways: face to face in person, over the telephone and by video call. Currently, residents can access medications and NRT on prescription from their GP or through the Smokefree Hampshire service. When prescribed by GPs, patients receive the medication/NRT but do not receive behavioural support.
New/changed service/policy/project	The proposed change is to reduce unsupported prescribing - the number of prescriptions written by GPs for stop smoking pharmacotherapy that are not accompanied by a referral to Smokefree Hampshire. Instead of this, GPs would be encouraged to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service where they will receive both behavioural support as well as the pharmacotherapy, which is an added benefit over pharmacotherapy only that would have been supplied by the GP. This is proposed as a more effective and cost-effective way of providing smoking cessation and pharmacotherapy, since evidence suggests pharmacotherapy is most effective for helping people to stop smoking when it is prescribed in tandem with behavioural support .

Engagement
An 8-week public consultation on these proposals took place from 14 June to 9 August 2021. 766 respondents provided feedback on these proposals via the consultation.
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The consultation was promoted through a range of channels, including (but not limited to):

- emails to local voluntary and community sector partners, district and borough councils, MPs, NHS trusts, GP surgeries, pharmacies, sexual health clinics, schools, local parent and carer networks, charities, and constabulary and fire service partners; social media posts on Twitter and Facebook;
- press release information for the local media;
- school communications with the request that the consultation be shared with parents via, for example, school newsletters; and
- internal communications with staff at the County Council, including the services being consulted upon.

The proposal to stop unsupported prescribing by GPs divided public opinion with 50% of respondents disagreeing and 40% agreeing with the proposal. Current and previous service user and organisations that work in the health sector returned 72% and 75% disagreement respectively.

Although stakeholders expressed some concern it will be proposed to work with health partners over the coming months to introduce this change. Residents will still have access to support to stop smoking by the commissioned stop smoking service.

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking

Mitigation	
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Disability

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

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Mitigation	

Sex

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Mitigation	

Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking

Mitigation	
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Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Poverty

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	GPs would be asked to refer patients to the Smokefree Hampshire service to access medication or NRT alongside tailored support. Residents would still be able to access medication and evidence suggests that this would increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking and provide a more cost-effective way of helping people to stop smoking
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact: All Hampshire

Equality Statement

Additional information:

The service has been running since October 2019. It is important to note that there is an opportunity for the service provider to receive additional incentivisation payments if 60% of 4-week quitters are from priority groups. The priority groups for the service are:

Sociodemographic groups:

- - People living in the most deprived Hampshire Lower-Level Super Output Area (LLSOA) and/or
 - People who fall into the following socio-economic classifications: Routine and manual workers / never worked or unemployed for > 1 year / sick/disabled and unable to return to work / carers
- Clinical groups (self-reported)
 - People with a diagnosed mental health condition
 - People with a chronic respiratory condition such as asthma or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
 - People with a diagnosis of circulatory disease, metabolic disease or active cancer
 - Pregnant women who smoke

This key performance indicator aims to reduce health inequalities. Smokers from these groups would benefit most from stopping smoking. This aims to ensure continued focus on delivering quits from priority groups even with a reduction in the budget from 2022/23. The provider successfully met the key performance indicators. This means that the service succeeded in reaching the priority groups listed above. This was achieved in the context of COVID-19 and the suspension of all face-to-face support at the time. Face to face support is now gradually being introduced in a phased approach across Hampshire.

Overview Statement:

Assessment to show that due regard has been given and that there is no requirement for a full EIA:

EIA reference number: 00140

Date of production of EIA for publication: 12/10/2021