



## 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:	Sexual Health
Related EIAs:	EIA Number: Public Health Sexual Health June 2021

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Sexual Health
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	<p>Public Health is required to deliver sexual health services for all residents under a Government Public Health grant to provide mandated sexual health services that must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open access sexual health services for the prevention of, treatment, testing and caring for people with sexually transmitted infections</li> <li>• contraceptive services, including access to a broad range of contraceptives</li> <li>• providing advice preventing unintended pregnancy</li> </ul> <p>Most of these services are provided by Solent NHS Trust (<a href="https://www.letstalkaboutit.nhs.uk/">https://www.letstalkaboutit.nhs.uk/</a>) on behalf of the County Council and is delivered from clinics across Hampshire, online, postal and outreach services. The service should be accessible to anybody in Hampshire, irrespective of their usual place of residence. Other elements including long-acting reversible contraception and emergency contraception are provided by GPs and local pharmacies on behalf of the County Council.</p>
New/changed service/policy/project	<p>The County Council is proposing to reduce the budget for sexual health services by £8,000 per year by: Removing the HIV and syphilis self-sampling service operated by SH:24. A service provided by Solent NHS Trust will still be available</p>

Engagement
<p>The County Council's Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget 2019 consultation sought residents and stakeholders' views on the strategic options for funding the Authority's budget gap. In addition, an 8-week consultation on these proposals took place from 14 June to 9 August 2021.</p> <p>The consultation was promoted through a range of channels including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emails to local voluntary and community sector partners</li> <li>• district and borough councils</li> <li>• MPs</li> <li>• NHS trusts</li> <li>• GP surgeries</li> <li>• pharmacies</li> <li>• sexual health clinics,</li> <li>• schools</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

- local parent and carer networks
- charities
- police 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 vis, for example school newsletters
- internal communications with staff at the County Council including the services being consulted upon

There was significant majority disagreement with the proposal to remove the HIV and syphilis self sampling service operated by SH:24 (74%), particularly amongst respondents aged under 25 (92%), ethnic minorities (80% disagreed) and those with experience of the service (79% disagreed).

Although there were high levels of disagreement, since there is an alternative service operating it is proposed to continue with this service change.

## Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

### Age

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>
Mitigation	

### Disability

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>
Mitigation	

## Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>

Mitigation	

### Race

Impact on public	Negative - Low
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.
Mitigation	The service was an additional service / duplication of service

### Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.  This was an additional service/duplication
Mitigation	

## Sex

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>
Mitigation	

## Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Negative - Medium
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>Gay, bisexual men and men who have sex with men (MSM) are at high risk of poor sexual health, particularly in relation to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and are a priority group for the Level 3 Integrated Sexual Health Service. Sexually transmitted infection diagnoses in MSM has risen sharply in England over the past decade. The Office for National Statistics report on Sexual orientation: 2019, suggests that an estimated 2.7% of the UK population aged 16 years and over identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) in 2019.</p>
Mitigation	<p>MSM will continue to have access to regular STI home-sampling (including for HIV and syphilis) to reduce their increased risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. In addition, MSM have access to dedicated Clinic Extra clinics in Hampshire.</p>

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>
Mitigation	

## Poverty

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.</p> <p>This was an additional service/duplication</p>
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

Rationale	There is still access to all services including on line HIV and syphilis testing.  This was an additional service/duplication
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact:All Hampshire

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

The sexual health service will continued to be monitored by their key performance indicators and through contract review meetings. The sexual and reproductive health of Hampshire residents will be continually reviewed through the data provided by Public Health England, Office of National Statistics and the public health sexual and reproductive health profiles

### Overview Statement:

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

EIA reference number: 00142

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