



## 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:	Consortium Approach - Funding for Drug / Alcohol Inpatient Detoxification Services
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Inpatient medically managed inpatient detoxifications services
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	Each local authority in England received an allocation from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) to build on last years grant funding and enhance current commissioning of inpatient drug / alcohol detoxification activity. The Council has led on the development of a consortium proposal with all local authorities across the South East (except Surrey and but also including Wiltshire, Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole LAs). The Central South Coast Consortia consists in total of 20 local authorities. The proposal submitted to OHID is to continue to fund medically managed inpatient detoxification services in Hampshire. The consortium have secured ££1,077,829 for 2022/23 and further funding is expected for a further 2 years until March 2025.
New/changed service/policy/project	This is a new service in Hampshire where additional funding to increase the capacity of inpatient medically managed detoxification services for drugs / alcohol. It is anticipated that supporting a local unit in Hampshire will equate to 200 additional detoxifications. Prior to this anyone needing this level of specialist treatment would be required to travel to either Kent or Bristol. The impact of the service would allow for better access locally to inpatient detoxification and improved pathways of care for individuals with complex needs. This will have a positive impact for those with complex needs and a substance misuse addiction and those living in areas of deprivation where there are higher levels of alcohol / drug harm. A local service within Hampshire will improve access to treatment.

Engagement
No consultation planned. All service users will have opportunity to be part of ongoing service evaluation.

## Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>This funding will allow for adults over the age of 18 to access to inpatient detox services for all age groups. The consortium will monitor the age of service users accessing detoxification to ensure it is representative of need. It is expected that older adults would access the service as those requiring medically managed detoxification are usually in poor health with the cumulative impact of many years of substance misuse.</p>
Mitigation	

## Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p><b>Mental Health:</b> People with drug and/or alcohol dependencies often have complex needs and other related or unrelated health problems. For example, 53% of service users within the substance misuse service have an identified mental health need. The service will be able to meet the needs of people with very complex physical and mental health needs.</p> <p><b>Physical disability:</b> 11% of people in drug treatment in Hampshire have a disability. The service will ensure it is accessible (with ground floor provision) and work with those with lived experience to audit premises to ensure that it meets the needs of those with a physical disability.</p>

Mitigation	
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## Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There are some international studies that suggest that those people who have gone gender reassignment have an elevated risk of drug / alcohol related harm. However national and local data is very limited on understanding the prevalence in England and across the consortium area. Access to inpatient detox services which will sensitivity support an individual with gender reassignment through staff training / awareness.
Mitigation	

## Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There are very low numbers of pregnant women currently access support for their drug / alcohol use in Hampshire (3% of all women accessing treatment for their drug use are pregnant). This is mirrored by low numbers nationally. However the specialist unit will accept pregnant women and will offer women only facilities.
Mitigation	

## Race

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>Whilst most people (93%) within the Hampshire substance misuse treatment system are White British, this will vary geographically across the consortium area .Access to inpatient detoxification services will be available to individuals of any race and the service will ensure that translation services are available if required. The Council will work with the provider and consortium LAs to ensure that those from diverse communities are accessing the service.</p>
Mitigation	

## Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>In 2020-21 51% of its current service users in Hampshire had no religion; 16% identified as Christian; 29% unknown / declined to answer; 1% Sikh; 1% Buddhist. However this will vary across the consortium. Whilst there are low numbers with an identified religion the service will involve service users to ensure that specific needs are met. This includes space for worship and cultural dietary requirements.</p>
Mitigation	

## Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral

Rationale	Currently 49% of the population of Hampshire are male, however 66% of people accessing treatment for drug and alcohol misuse in Hampshire are male. Less women (33%) currently access substance misuse services than men. Referrals will be monitored by the Council to ensure that there is equal access for both sexes. There will be accommodation / living space that can be separated for both males and females.
Mitigation	

## Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	Whilst there are relatively low numbers of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) population currently accessing the substance misuse service in Hampshire (88% of service users identified themselves as heterosexual), evidence suggests that this group face a higher risk of substance misuse. However this will vary across the consortium area and will be monitored to ensure that people from LGBT communities are accessing the service. Online LGBT groups will also be available during the placement.
Mitigation	

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There is no evidence that relationship status affects drug / alcohol harm and or consumption. The substance misuse service is open to all individuals regardless of relationship status.

Mitigation	

### Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There are higher levels of alcohol / drug harm in areas of deprivation. A local unit within Hampshire will improve access to treatment.
Mitigation	

### Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	Where someone lives in the consortium area will not be a barrier to accessing the service. Individuals travel plans to the service will be supported by referring organisation.
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact:All Hampshire

### Equality Statement

Additional information:

The impact of the service will allow for better access locally to inpatient detoxification and improved pathways of care for complex individuals with co-morbidities. Unwell individuals will no longer need to travel extensively, and local substance misuse services will be able to ensure robust pathways into and out of detoxification to access additional support

## Overview Statement:

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

EIA reference number: 00264

Date of production of EIA for publication: 05/07/2022