

# Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal Hampshire Furniture Reuse Development  
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Department Childrens Services  
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## **Description of Service / Policy**

Hampshire County Council is commissioning a service to support furniture reuse organisations and social welfare providers to work collaboratively to future proof the provision of local welfare support through furniture.

This Specification sets out the aims and objectives of the service and the anticipated levels of delivery that the successful tenderer(s) shall be expected to attain during the Grant Period. It is envisaged that after the initial grant period of two years the service will be operationally and financially sustainable.

Geographical impact\* All Hampshire

## **Description of proposed change**

Developing the links & services provided by furniture reuse organisations to help with sustainability of their provision and to increase the offer for vulnerable people across the county. It is predicted that the income generation/business development aspect of the project will help to make the services sustainable and open up new avenues of funding for them. Increasing the amount of donated and recycled furniture at reuse organisations will increase their capacity to support vulnerable and low income households as well as those facing a crisis and in furniture need.

## **Engagement and consultation**

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Information event held at Winchester Discovery Centre on 19th July 2017. Over 80 individuals representing over 30 organisations, were invited and aprox. 30 attended. We presented the local welfare case for this project as well as making links to the Waste & Recycling Team. A presentation from Care Leavers regarding the impact of furniture on young people was also given. Table discussions focussed on identifying opportunities, responsibilities for aspects of the service and barriers to making it a success.

## **Impacts of the proposed change**

This impact assessment covers Service users

### **Statutory considerations**

	<b>Impact</b>
Age	Neutral
Disability	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Neutral

Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral

**Other policy considerations**

Poverty Impact	Positive Increased provision of and access to low cost (sometimes free) furniture for low income & vulnerable groups. Providing a viable option to high cost consumer furniture providers on the highstreet with unsustainable repayment credit plans which push people into debt. Links with other supporting services, particularly the Local Welfare Assistance Line, will aim to help support the household to move out of poverty.
Rurality	Neutral

***Additional Information***

This is a countywide service which is open to all residents but focusing on those in low income households and vulnerable groups (homeless, older persons leaving hospital, individuals released from prison, domestic abuse, care leavers etc.).  
The project will aim to work with all furniture reuse organisations who are interested in being part of a furniture reuse network in Hampshire.  
The project is jointly funded by Local Welfare Assistance and Waste Management , therefore will work towards outcomes & outputs that fit with both agendas.