

SP23 Equality Impact Assessment - Registration Service workforce and asset changes – staff

EIA writer(s) and authoriser

No.		Name	Department	Position	Email address	Phone number	Date	Issue
1	Report Writer(s)	Sophia Vowels/ Jane Bartlett	CCBS	Senior Project Officer	sophia.vowels@outlook.com	03707 798408	10.06.21	3
2	EIA authoriser	Emma Noyce	CCBS	Assistant Director of Cultural and Information Services	Emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk	03707 79 8373	10.06.21	3
3	EIA Coordinator	Rebecca Prowting	CCBS	Transformation Manager	eia.ccbs@hants.gov.uk	03707 798946	30.06.21	3

Section one – information about the service and service change

Service affected	Registration Service
Please provide a short description of the service / policy/project/project phase	The Registration Service is responsible for recording key life events for the people of Hampshire in line with the correct legal procedures. Its statutory functions include the registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships occurring within Hampshire, alongside other statutory obligations such as conducting Citizenship ceremonies, licensing venues where civil marriage and civil partnerships may be solemnised, and being the custodian of registers (birth, death and marriage) dating back to 1837. It also has a part to play in combating fraud and protecting the public, particularly in helping to prevent forced and sham marriages. The Service registers

	<p>approximately 8,000 births and 10,000 deaths every year and delivers nearly 5,000 ceremonies.</p> <p>As well as upholding its statutory obligations, the Registration Service also offers a number of 'choose to use' services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of alternative ceremonies including renewal of vows; welcoming, commitment and private Citizenship ceremonies • The 'Tell Us Once' service for all customers attending to register a death • Commemorative certificates
<p>Please explain the new/changed service/policy/project</p>	<p>To support the Registration Service to deliver an effective yet sustainable service to the people of Hampshire and beyond, the following two proposals are being considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Withdrawal of the weekend market supplement (for ceremony work) paid to staff undertaking additional work outside of their contracted hours, and implementation of associated changes to the resource model to recognise the well-established service delivery model for ceremonies now in place. This includes structured training and continuing professional development for ceremony staff, as well as on-call support to help answer technical queries during weekends and out-of-hours. 2. A rationalisation of Service assets (Register offices and ceremony rooms) based on a cost/benefit review. The outcomes of this review may include proposals to close/relocate specific Register Offices which in turn could require workforce changes, including updates to work base and/or contractual changes, to be considered. It is not anticipated at this stage that this review would result in proposals to reduce the number of roles within the Service. <p>Hampshire Registration Service currently operates from 15 delivery points across a geographically diverse area. Any changes proposed as part of the asset rationalisation are therefore likely to only impact a small percentage of the workforce depending on their work base.</p>

Engagement and consultation

The County Council's *Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget* consultation (2021-2023) will seek residents' and stakeholders' views on strategic options for funding the Authority's budget gap. Where applicable, detailed proposals for making savings will be subject to further, more detailed 'stage two' consultation before any decisions on service specific changes are made.

Has any pre-consultation engagement been carried out?

(Delete as appropriate)

	No, but is planned to be undertaken
--	--

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform.

Describe who was engaged or consulted. What was the outcome of the activity and how have the results influenced what you are doing? If no consultation or engagement is planned, please explain why.

Consultation with staff regarding removal of the market supplement is expected to take place December 2022, and Trade Unions will be engaged as part of the consultation launch. Advice will be sought from HR on the potential withdrawal of the market supplement (as well as any other proposed contractual changes arising out of the review of Service assets) to ensure Hampshire policies are fully observed during every step of the process.

Until the review of Service assets is concluded, and the recommendations known, it is not possible to comment on whether a more detailed 'stage two' consultation on service specific changes may be required. This is because the rationalisation exercise may result in proposals to relocate/close specific Register Offices which could be deemed to impact on the local area and local residents to a level which require prior consultation. Comments and suggestions made as part of any consultation process would be evaluated and used to inform any final decisions taken. This would include a consideration of whether any protected characteristic group would be disproportionately affected by the changes being proposed, as well as whether mitigating action could be taken to minimise any negative impacts.

Section two: Assessment

Table 1 Impact Assessment

Protected characteristic (see EIA Guidance for considerations)	Positive	Neutral	Negative - low	Negative - Medium	Negative - High	Affects staff, public or both?
Age			X			Staff
Disability		X				Staff
Gender reassignment		X				Staff
Pregnancy and maternity		X				Staff
Race		X				Staff
Religion or belief		X				Staff
Sex			X			Staff
Sexual orientation		X				Staff
Marriage & civil partnership		X				Staff

Poverty			X			Staff
Rurality			X			Staff

Table 2 Geographical impact

Does the proposal impact on a specific area?

Area	Yes / no	Area	Yes / no	Area	Yes / no
All Hampshire	Yes	Fareham		New Forest	
Basingstoke and Deane		Gosport		Rushmoor	
East Hampshire		Hart		Test Valley	
Eastleigh		Havant		Winchester	

Section three: Equality Statement

Table 3 Consideration of and explanation for neutral or low negative impacts

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having neutral or low negative impact
Age	<p>Low negative – The age profile of the Registration Service is weighted towards the upper end of the scale with 59% of staff aged 50 or over. The age profile of the 43 members of staff in receipt of a market supplement is more balanced with 9 (21%) aged between 16 and 29, 20 (46.5%) aged between 30 and 49 and 14 (32.5%) aged 50 and over.</p> <p>Until the asset review is completed, and any required workforce changes confirmed, it is not possible to know the true extent of the impact on this protected characteristic, however, there is currently no evidence to suggest that it would be disproportionately affected by removal of</p>

	<p>the market supplement or by any other workforce changes. If required, stringent criteria would be employed to support any associated decision-making process to ensure that individuals are not unfairly disadvantaged because they possess a particular characteristic.</p> <p>In contrast to the statement made above regarding the potential negative impact on this protected characteristic, it should be noted that removal of the market supplement is expected to lead to the removal of the contractual obligation to work at the weekends. This may have a disproportionately positive impact on those with caring responsibilities which could include older members of staff and those with young families.</p>
Disability	<p>Neutral – There are currently two staff members within the Registration Service with a declared disability (1.7%). This compares to 3.9% across the organisation as a whole (as of November 2020). There is, however, no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes.</p>
Gender Reassignment	<p>Neutral – There is no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Neutral – There is no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes. Any staff on maternity leave – or paternity or adoption leave – at the point of staff consultation would be afforded the opportunity to engage in the process and would be contacted individually to ensure they are able to participate and ask any questions they might have.</p>
Race	<p>Neutral – There is no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes.</p>
Religion or belief	<p>Neutral – There is no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes.</p>
Sex	<p>Low negative – Within the Registration Service, 89% of employees are female and 11% are male. This diverges from HCC as a whole where 76% of employees are female and 24% are male (as of November 2020).</p>

	<p>Until the asset review is completed, and any required workforce changes confirmed, it is not possible to know the true extent of the impact on this protected characteristic, however, there is currently no evidence to suggest that it would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes. If required, stringent criteria would be employed to support any associated decision-making process to ensure that individuals are not unfairly disadvantaged because they possess a particular characteristic.</p> <p>In contrast to the statement made above regarding the potential negative impact on this protected characteristic, it should be noted that removal of the market supplement is expected to lead to the removal of the contractual obligation to work at the weekends. This may have a disproportionately positive impact on those with caring responsibilities which could include more women than men.</p>
Sexual orientation	Neutral – There is no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes.
Marriage & civil partnership	Neutral – There is no evidence to suggest that this protected characteristic would be disproportionately affected by removal of the market supplement or by any other workforce changes.
Poverty	<p>Low negative – The grade profile of staff working for the Hampshire Registration Service is skewed towards the lower grades with 7% at Grade C and 84% at Grade D. Whilst the outcome of the asset rationalisation is not yet known, there is a possibility that it could result in the relocation/closure of specific Register Offices which in turn could lead to increased travel costs for staff members whose main office base has changed. Whilst it is recognised that lower pay does not necessarily equate to poverty, workforce changes at lower grades may have a disproportionate impact in relation to this characteristic.</p> <p>If required, stringent criteria would be employed to support any associated decision-making process to ensure that individuals are not unfairly disadvantaged because they possess a particular characteristic. There is also already an expectation for staff within the Service to travel to different offices as part of their current roles.</p> <p>Additionally, whilst the removal of the market supplement could disproportionately impact people within this group, the option to provide paid additional ceremony hours at the weekend to supplement their income will remain, subject to business needs.</p>

Rurality	Low negative – Whilst the outcome of the asset rationalisation is not yet known there is a possibility that it could result in the relocation/closure of specific Register Offices which in turn could lead to increased travel costs/times for staff members whose main office base has changed. If required, stringent criteria would be employed to support any associated decision-making process to ensure that individuals are not unfairly disadvantaged because they possess a particular characteristic. There is also already an expectation for staff within the Service to travel to different offices as part of their current roles.
----------	--

Table 4 Explanation and mitigation for medium and high impacts

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having medium or high negative impact	Is there a Geographical impact? If so, please explain - use list below to identify geographical area(s)	Short explanation of mitigating actions
N/A			

Table 5 Consideration of and explanation for positive impacts

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having positive impact
N/A	

Box 1 Please set out any additional information which you think is relevant to this impact assessment:

The impact on staff will depend in part on the scope and breadth of changes proposed as part of the rationalisation of Service assets. It is anticipated therefore that further, more detailed EIAs will need to be undertaken once the outcome of this review is known to better assess the impact on protected characteristics, with appropriate consideration and action taken in respect of their findings.

Box 2

If appropriate, (i.e., it is immediately evident that a full EIA is not necessary) please provide a short succinct assessment to show that due regard has been given and that there is no requirement for a full EIA:

N/A