

# Equality Impact Assessment



## Name of project/proposal

Adult Services Transport Policy

Contact name

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Department

Adult Services

Date to be published on Hantsweb

14 Apr 2016

## Purpose for project/proposal

To introduce a new departmental transport policy which will seek to introduce rules to ensure that funding provided for transport is only provided where no suitable alternative is available in order to reduce the current departmental spend.

## Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

No

It is proposed to clarify the transport policy to reduce the extent to which transport is provided and therefore reduce the on-going cost. Work undertaken as part of the corporate strategic transport review shows that transport is currently provided and funded by Adult Services when it is not necessary to do so. It is proposed that in future Adult Services would only fund transport to services where there is no suitable, safe or practical alternative. The need for and cost of transport would be taken into account when assessing the most cost effective means of meeting a service user's needs. Other resources available to service users will also be considered, including use of Mobility Allowances and adapted vehicles.

It is estimated that this proposal could impact up to approximately 550 people currently receiving transport, of whom approximately 67% have a learning disability, with the remainder consisting of older people, people with a physical disability or people with a mental health condition. This is out of a total of approximately 22,000 people across the whole of Hampshire who receive care paid for by Adult Services.

The new policy will be applied to people who currently receive transport at their their next scheduled review, no changes to transport arrangements will be made without ensuring that a safe, practical alternative method of transport can be accessed.

These proposals may have a slightly greater impact upon people living in rural communities, where the alternative of using public transport, is not as easily available to them. The proposal would ensure that a person can reach a service to meet their outcomes.

The new policy will focus on encouraging people to become more independent when sourcing and using transport which will ultimately provide people with more choice and control over their circumstances. To this end where funded transport is the only option for an individual, Direct Payments will be considered to ensure that users have control over the means they choose. We are currently engaging with service users and carers to help us develop how we can best support people to become independent when requiring transport.

Following any review and subsequent change to the department's policies, the Council would continue to ensure that it meets eligible social care outcomes for individuals under the Care Act 2014.

## Statutory considerations

### Impact

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Age                            | Low |
| Disability                     | Low |
| Sexual orientation             | Low |
| Race                           | Low |
| Religion and belief            | Low |
| Gender reassignment            | Low |
| Sex                            | Low |
| Marriage and civil partnership | Low |
| Pregnancy and maternity        | Low |

### Other policy considerations

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Poverty                  | Low |
| Rurality                 | Low |
| Other factors            | Low |
| If other please describe |     |

Geographical impact

Have you identified any medium or high impact?\*

All Hampshire

Yes

No

Why do you consider that your project/proposal will have low or no impact?

It is has been decided that the impact of this policy change will be a low one across all groups. The new policy states that before Adult Services agrees transport funding other alternatives must be considered. If there is no practical, available and safe means of transport available the department will provide funding where it is required to meet an eligible need. It is thought that the impact of this change will be that no-one will be without transport which is required to meet an eligible need, and that individuals may become more independent with regards to their transport requirements with support from AS practitioners.

## Final decision date

Final decision date due  
Decision to be made by

14 Apr 2016  
DMT