



## 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
Fariyah Choudhury	Senior Public Health Practitioner Adults' Health and Care	fariyah.choudhury@hants.gov.uk Tel:TBA

Title:	Physical Activity Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) Grants Proposal
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Physical activity delivering organisations who are eligible for the grant - leisure centres, voluntary sector partners, District/Borough Councils
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	The County Council propose to distribute up to £1.5 million in grants to community organisations, to support physical activity projects across Hampshire, through procurement of a provider, for the purpose of recommending community organisations to receive funding. The source of the proposed funding is the Control Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). In December 2022 the Council was informed of a change of criteria for COMF due to the formal end of the pandemic and emergency powers. This stated that criteria for use of COMF are now: Public health action on the impact of COVID-19 on health outcomes and health inequalities, and Public health recovery projects aimed at directly addressing health inequalities.
New/changed service/policy/project	This £1.5 million will enhance and improve the current physical activity offers across Hampshire through grant-funding, with a view to reducing health inequalities.

Engagement
<p>As this process will involve procuring a service to recommend and work with grant recipients, we have carried out market engagement for this service. Those who were engaged felt positive about the proposal. When the contract begins, we expect the service provider to carry out further service engagement and advertisement of the available grants to suitable organisations. As this project is intended to give more, rather than take away resource, feedback has been positive. It should be noted that the purpose of issuing grants is to mitigate/reduce inequalities that were exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. Due to the nature of the project (procuring a service who will then allocate grants), service users have not been consulted. We will be working with the service provider to ensure grant recipients carry out appropriate service user consultation.</p>

## Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity across the life course, from young to old, to positively impact all age groups. According to the most recent Sport England Active Lives data, activity levels generally decrease with age, with the sharpest decrease coming at age 75+ where only 41% of the demographic are physically active. The Chief Medical Officer guidelines on physical activity state that older adults should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, independence and social functioning. Currently in Hampshire, 27.1% of people experience falls, and 11.8% of the population of Hampshire are frail or severely frail. This funding will unlock opportunities to increase physical activity initiatives for older people, for example through Hampshire's Live Longer Better and falls prevention workstreams.</p>
Mitigation	

## Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst those with learning disabilities as well as physical disabilities through working with the relevant partners, as this is a group who have lower prevalence of physical activity. According to the most recent Sport England estimates, activity is less common for adults with a disability or long-term health condition (47%) than those without (68%). Opportunities to work with existing partners such as Learning Disability nurses will be unlocked as a result of this funding opportunity.</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst those who have undertaken gender reassignment. This is a group who likely have lower prevalence of physical activity due to barriers in accessing physical activity initiatives, but there is need for more insight and evidence around the LGBTQ+ community more broadly, and physical activity. Whilst we are not currently aware of any groups working to reduce physical inactivity in this group, the nature of the grant means that organisations with this aim would be eligible to apply.</p>
Mitigation	

## Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst new parents and pregnant mothers as this is a group who have lower prevalence of physical activity. We aim to continue to work with Hampshire Public Health Nursing and maternity/pregnancy organisations to seek projects supporting pregnant and new mothers to be physically active, for example through funding health walks for new parents.</p>
Mitigation	

## Race

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst ethnic minority groups who we know are on average less physically active than White British groups. Active Lives data indicates that inactivity is highest in Asian (excluding Chinese) groups. An example of potential initiatives include working with ethnic minority groups in known areas such as the Nepalese community in Rushmoor, with key organisations who have a wide range of activities to increase physical activity.</p>
Mitigation	

## Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst minority religious groups who we know are on average less physically active than other groups. For example, working with religious leaders in known areas such as the Muslim community in Havant - recent Hampshire Insights have indicated that this community experiences barriers to physical activity, hence working with community leaders as part of this grant funding could support increased physical activity. Active Lives data indicate that Muslim and Sikh communities experience greatest physical inactivity.</p>
Mitigation	

## Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst both male and female groups as the data suggest male and female groups experience different barriers to accessing physical activity. According to Active Lives data, female inactivity is slightly higher than male inactivity. Initiatives to increase female participation in sport and physical activity could be implemented through this funding.
Mitigation	

## Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst those from the LGBTQ+ community. This is a group who likely have lower prevalence of physical activity due to barriers in accessing physical activity initiatives, but there is need for more insight and evidence around the LGBTQ+ community more broadly, and physical activity. Whilst we are not currently aware of any groups working to reduce physical inactivity in this group, the nature of the grant means that organisations with this aim would be eligible to apply.
Mitigation	

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral

Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	Whilst this funding does not specifically support people within this defined characteristic, the funding is open to those who need support irrespective of marriage or civil partnership status. There are no anticipated impacts on this protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

## Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, a significant aim of this funding is to support our most deprived communities as we know they face significant barriers to being physically active. This will continue the work carried out by Public Health and partners in districts/boroughs in the IMD 20% most deprived deciles - for example, Leigh Park in Havant, parts of Rushmoor as well as Gosport.</p> <p>Some population groups are more likely to be inactive than others. This includes those from certain socio-economic profiles and residing in areas of greater deprivation. For example, Rushmoor experiences greater deprivation than much of the County, Aldershot Park and Cherrywood have the highest level of inactivity (27% and 26% respectively) and are also two of the most deprived areas in Rushmoor and indeed in Hampshire – in the 20% most deprived as per the Index of Multiple Deprivation Indices 2019. We expect therefore that this group will experience a positive impact from projects focused on reducing barriers presented by Poverty on physical activity.</p>
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>As the goal of this funding is to reduce health inequalities, we aim to support increasing physical activity amongst those living in rural areas of Hampshire who may experience isolation. This can be achieved through grant funding projects with the aim to reduce rural isolation through physical activity initiatives. The Health Needs Assessment: Social Isolation and Loneliness in Hampshire report states 'Social isolation poses particular challenges in a large rural county like Hampshire. Good transport links are important for helping people build and maintain social relationships. People without access to their own transport can find it difficult to get out to see friends and family or take part in community activities. In addition, delivering social care or other services is more challenging and costly due to inevitable additional costs in rural areas such as diseconomies of scale and travel'. We anticipate therefore that this project will have a positive impact on those in rural areas.</p>
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact:All Hampshire

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

As part of this funding pocket, we are procuring a Provider to support in the allocation and recommendation of grants. As part of this contract, we expect the Provider to report back outcomes from each project according to the criteria as set by the COMF fund objectives.

The applicants to the grant will be subject to the three agreed criteria to ensure they are undertaking physical activity projects that tackle health inequalities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, matching the purpose and proposed outcomes to the criteria. The Provider will be required to ensure that their projects meet these requirements and that there is a mechanism for evaluating the spend of the grant.

We would expect the Provider to periodically report their progress and performance to Public Health at a frequency and in a format agreed between Public Health and the Provider.



## Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00421

Date of production of EIA for publication: 05/06/2023