

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:	Public Health Primary Care Services (EHC and LARC)
Related EIAs:	None
EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Primary Care Public Health Services (EHC and LARC) are mandated public health responsibilities defined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 are funded under the terms of the Public Health Grant. The current open framework (approved list of providers) will cease on 31st March 2026. This EIA will support the commissioning of these services from 1st April 2026 for a period of 7 years including all extensions. Public Health Primary Care Services which include: Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) provided by Community Pharmacy: Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) provided by General Practice:
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	Public Health Primary Care Services to be recommissioned includes: Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) provided by Community Pharmacy: The Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) service is an enhanced public health initiative designed to improve access to emergency contraception in community pharmacies for women at risk of unintended pregnancies. This service supplements the contraceptive services offered by GP practices and the Level 3

	Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service, with a particular focus on young people as part of the Council’s Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) provided by General Practice: Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) is a public health service commissioned by the Council, supplementing the standard contraceptive services provided by GP practices under NHS contracts. This service includes the fitting and removal of long-acting contraceptive coils and implants, which are highly effective and cost-efficient methods to prevent unintended pregnancies.
New/changed service/policy/project	The current open framework (approved list of providers) will cease on 31st March 2026. Therefore, to ensure that the Council continues to meet its obligations in providing the mandated Primary Care Public Health Services, contracts will be awarded under the provision of the Provider Selection Regime (Direct Award B) to existing providers that meet the minimum standards required for each service. This proposal will contribute towards the delivery of the Hampshire Public Health Strategy 2022 – 2027 with a focus on prevention to reduce health inequalities and to improve the health and wellbeing of Hampshire residents.

Engagement
<p>Access to contraception is important to Hampshire and Isle of Wight residents. Our residents have told us that access to local contraceptive services in the community from Pharmacies and General Practice is important and preferred (Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment, 2022).</p> <p>Engagement on access to contraception by minority ethnic communities was carried out by the Hampshire Community Researchers in March 2025. Residents from minority ethnic communities told us that access to contraception from their GPs was paramount and their preferred option. Community pharmacies were also important. Therefore, a mixed economy of access points are required for our residents.</p> <p>The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.</p>

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>EHC and LARC are available to all people of reproductive age.</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy is a cause and consequence of education and health inequality for young parents and their children. Babies born to mothers under 20 years consistently have higher rates of stillbirth, infant mortality and low birthweight than average. Children born to teenage mothers have a 63% higher risk of living in poverty. Teenage mothers are more likely than other young people to not be in education, employment or training; and by the age of 30 years, are</p>

	<p>22% more likely to be living in poverty than mothers giving birth aged 24 years or over.</p> <p>Access to LARC is key to preventing unplanned teenage pregnancies. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.</p>
Mitigation	

Disability

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	EHC and LARC information is provided in Easy Read format to support people with learning disabilities. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	EHC and LARC are available to all people who require contraception this includes women and trans men. EHC and LARC are available to all people of reproductive age requiring contraception. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	This proposal will have a neutral impact on pregnancy and maternity. All forms of contraception (EHC and LARC) are available to post natal people.. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Race

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	This proposal will have a neutral impact on race for access to EHC and LARC. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	This proposal will have a neutral impact on religion or belief. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	This proposal will have a positive impact on sex for access to EHC and LARC. Reproductive health, including access to EHC and LARC contraception to prevent unplanned pregnancy, is one of the greatest reproductive health concerns for women (and trans men). 45% of pregnancies are unplanned or associated with ambivalence. This proposal will have a positive impact in supporting women (including Trans men and non binary people with wombs) to control their fertility. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	This proposal will have a neutral impact on sexual orientation. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	This proposal will have a neutral impact on marriage and civil partnership. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.

Mitigation	
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Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	Access to Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is free for all Hampshire residents and is available from participating Community Pharmacies. Access to Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) is free for all Hampshire residents and is provided by General Practice. This proposal allows residents to control their fertility. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	This proposal will have a neutral impact on rurality for access to EHC and LARC. The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact:All Hampshire

Equality Statement

Additional information:

National guidance and the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) both highlight the importance of knowledge, access and choice for all women and men to all methods of contraception to help reduce unplanned pregnancies. Good contraception services have been shown to lower rates of teenage conceptions.

The evidence base for this proposal can be found in the Hampshire Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment (2022) [Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment 2022 Draft Working Document 2022-07-12..](#)

- The total rate of long acting reversible contraception (LARC) (excluding injections) prescribed in primary care, specialist and non-specialist sexual health services (SHS) per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years living in Hampshire was 57.6 in 2023, higher than the rate of 43.5 per 1,000 women in England. The rate prescribed in primary care was 40.9 in Hampshire, higher than the rate of 25.6 in England. The rate prescribed in the other settings was 16.7 in Hampshire, lower than the rate of 18.0 in England (Fingertips, 2025).
- There are approximately 5000 consultations in Hampshire Pharmacies per year.
- The total abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years in 2021 was 16.3 in Hampshire, lower than the England rate of 19.2 per 1,000. Of those women under 25 years who had an abortion in 2021 the proportion who had previously had an abortion was 26.4% lower than 29.7% in England.

- In 2022/23, the percentage of births to mothers under 18 years was 0.5%, similar to 0.6% in England overall.

Equalities data to monitor access will be routinely collected as part of quarterly contract monitoring. An annual Equity Audit will also be undertaken.

The Sexual Health Promotion team works to raise awareness of services for Hampshire residents.

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: 00848

Date of production of EIA for publication: 24/04/2025