

Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

Summary of proposal

Name of proposal	Procurement Strategy for the provision of a Homeless Outreach Service
Reference number (if applicable)	2122-0350
Service Area	Homes and Neighbourhoods
Date screening completed	4 th January 2022
Screening author name	Sarah Turley
Fairness and Equality team sign off	Lisa Koduthore
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	Jo Murphy

Before completing the EQIA Screening Tool please read the guidance and FAQs. For further help and advice please contact equalities@islington.gov.uk.

Please provide a summary of the proposal.

Please outline:

- What are the aims/objectives of this proposal?
- Will this deliver any savings?
- What benefits or change will we see from this proposal?
- Which key groups of people or areas of the borough are involved?

This EIA relates to the re-procurement of the homeless assertive outreach service, who provide first contact and support for people who are rough sleeping on the streets of Islington. The team go out early in the morning and late at night to make contact with people bedded down and support them to access accommodation and support services based on their individual needs.

The social benefits of this contract are immense. This service provides a lifeline for individuals who find themselves street homeless, by offering rapid contact, support to access housing and other support services, to move away from the streets.

It is a responsive service, which offers intensive support, including around drug and alcohol and mental health support needs, (through joint outreach with other agencies). Making services accessible in this way is thought to provide cost savings to emergency services through reduced 999 call outs.

It also offers considerable value to local residents, business and communities, as it significantly reduces the formation of encampments and unsanitary conditions, ensuring that everyone has a route away from the street. This reduces resultant anti-social behaviour, which suggests that less complaints will be received by the Council regarding rough sleeping, thus less officer time will be spent in investigating and responding to these complaints.

It is expected that the provider will build capacity of other voluntary and community sector groups, by working collaboratively, in partnership to support people rough sleeping and prevent rough sleeping wherever possible, sharing knowledge and resources.

The visibility of the outreach team on the streets provides re-assurance to members of the public, who can visually see that tangible help is available to people rough sleeping. This provides confidence in the Council's commitment to a fairer Islington, offering support one of the most vulnerable groups.

As part of the tender process there will be a dedicated question on social value with a weighting of 20%. We will want to see that the selected provider has given consideration to the Council's Progressive Procurement Strategy.

In particular we want the winning provider to be able to show that the service benefits not only people rough sleeping, but the wider population and economy of Islington. We would expect job opportunities within the contract to be advertised locally and also look to employ local people with lived experience of using homeless services, this will enhance the prospects of some of our local residents. The London Living Wage will be a condition of this contract where permitted by law.

We will also ensure that they have robust policies and procedures in place to achieve our goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. We will be looking for innovation and growth in partnership working which will add value to the contract and bring the social value through supply chains.

We are expecting this service to play a fundamental part of the Council's ambition of reducing and eliminating rough sleeping in the borough, as outlined in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2023.

The benefits expected to be realised from this contract are a continued reduction in the number of people sleeping rough, immediate help for those who are, to prevent them becoming entrenched on the streets leading to deterioration in health.

This will also benefit the wider community – local residents and businesses, as there will be less associated ASB caused if the above is achieved, this should cause less alarm and distress to the local community, knowing there is support readily available for those in greatest need.

On whom will the proposal impact? Delete as appropriate.

Group of people	Impacted?
Service users	Yes – this will offer a responsive service to those in need
Residents	Yes – positive impact
Businesses	Yes – positive impact
Visitors to Islington	Yes – positive impact through promotion of Streetlink
Voluntary or community groups	Yes – builds capacity through joint working
Council staff	Yes
Trade unions	Yes
Other public sector organisations	Yes

Group of people	Impacted?
Others	Please specify: N/A

What consultation or engagement has taken place or is planned?

Please outline:

- Which groups or communities you have consulted/plan to consult
- Methods used/will use to engage (for example, focus groups)
- How insight gained from engagement or consultation has been/will be fed into decision making or proposal design

If you have not completed any engagement activity and do not plan to, you should outline why this decision has been made.

Consultation 'Market events' have been carried out with three providers of outreach services individually through arranged meetings, to explore what works well elsewhere in areas they deliver outreach and also to garner interest for this contract. It is

hoped these meetings will maximise the number of providers applying to run this service, providing competition to ensure maximum quality.

Consultation has recently been carried out with service users about their experience of moving from the streets into accommodation, where a supported transition was highlighted as a theme. This includes, being supported to interviews and booking in process by an outreach worker, not having to re-tell 'life story' to a new person, leading to re-traumatisation and a gradual handover. This is something the new provider can include in their work.

What impact will this change have on people with protected characteristics and/or from disadvantaged groups?

Of the groups you have identified above, please now indicate the likely impact on people with protected characteristics within these groups by checking the relevant box below. Use the following definitions as a guide:

Neutral – The proposal has no impact on people with the identified protected characteristics

Positive – The proposal has a beneficial and desirable impact on people with the identified protected characteristics

Negative – The proposal has a negative and undesirable impact on people with the identified protected characteristics

You should then assess whether the negative impact has a low impact, medium impact or high impact. Consider the level and likelihood of impact. Please also think about whether the proposal is likely to be contentious or perceived as a negative change by certain groups, as this could justify the completion of a full EQIA. See the guidance for help.

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	
Disability (include carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
Race or ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	
Religion or belief (include no faith)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	
Gender and gender reassignment (male, female or non-binary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	
Maternity or pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	
Sex and Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
Marriage or Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	
Other (e.g. people living in poverty, looked after children, people who are homeless or refugees)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	The outreach service work with anyone they meet rough sleeping – there are no exclusions. As such, most of the impacts on the protected characteristics are neutral, with there being a positive impact on people who are homeless, vulnerable, experiencing poverty and desititution.

How do you plan to mitigate negative impacts?

Where there are disproportionate impacts on groups with protected characteristics, please outline:

- The other options that were explored before deciding on this proposal and why they were not pursued
- Action that is being taken to mitigate the negative impacts

Action	Lead	Deadline	Comments

Screening Decision	Outcome
Neutral or Positive – no full EQIA needed*.	No
Negative – Low Impact – full EQIA at the service director’s discretion*.	Yes/No
Negative – Medium or High Impact – must complete a full EQIA.	No

Screening Decision	Outcome
Is a full EQIA required? Service decision:	Yes/No
Is a full EQIA required? Fairness and Equality recommendation:	No

* If a full EQIA is not required, you are still legally required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts.

Please send this completed EQIA Screening Tool to equalities@islington.gov.uk for quality checking by the Fairness and Equality Team.