

Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

Summary of proposal

Name of proposal	Parks for Health Strategy
Reference number (if applicable)	
Service Area	Greenspace and Leisure
Date screening completed	12/01/2021
Screening author name	Barry Emmerson
Fairness and Equality team sign off	
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	Andrew Bedford

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 Strategy is a high-level document setting out the vision, aims and approaches of the parks and green spaces services in Islington as they progress from grant-funded programme into mainstream delivery.

Our Parks for Health vision is that Islington's public parks and green spaces are used, enjoyed and maintained as health assets for the whole community.

- Everyone feels welcome in our parks.
- More people than ever before visit and stay for longer - enjoying nature and taking part in activities, which make them healthy and happy.
- Our parks are places where people can come together or spend time alone, be active or pause and reflect.
- Our parks are at the heart of community life."

The strategy sets out how we aim to achieve our vision going forward and this is set out in the strategy across 6 themes. They are:

- Strategy Theme 1 Investing in our Parks – to Safeguard their Future.

- Strategy Theme 2 Developing our Workforce – to Strengthen our Capacity to Improve Health and Reduce Inequalities.
- Strategy Theme 3 Working with our VCSE organisations – to Support and Champion the Sector’s Role in Delivering the Parks for Health Vision.
- Strategy Theme 4 Working with our Health and Social Care Partners – to Put Parks and Green Spaces at the Heart of Wellbeing.
- Strategy Theme 5 Working with our Residents – to Share and Promote the Benefits of Parks and Green Spaces for All.
- Strategy Theme 6 Widening our Partnerships – to Maximise the Reach of Parks for Health

One of the key goals of the strategy is to provide more opportunities for the community to realise the health and wellbeing benefits that parks and greenspaces offer. While the strategy aims to provide access to quality spaces for the whole community, it also acknowledges that our communities are characterised by inequalities in health and in access to green space which affect the wellbeing and life chances of particular demographic groups and those living in specific neighbourhoods. Some of these inequalities have become more stark nationwide because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This strategy will maximize the contribution of parks to people’s health and wellbeing by preventing ill health in the first place and helping people with health problems as early as possible (also known as “early intervention” in health and care)

Our Priority Groups are:

- People living in the most deprived circumstances (identified by small area, as per the Index of Multiple Deprivation).
- People from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups.
- Women and girls.
- People with disabilities, including learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities.

By focusing on these priority groups and by ensuring that we provide a quality offer to all residents, this strategy should significantly improve the equality of opportunity for all.

On whom will the proposal impact? Delete as appropriate.

Group of people	Impacted?
Service users	Yes
Residents	Yes
Businesses	Yes
Visitors to Islington	Yes
Voluntary or community groups	Yes
Council staff	Yes
Other public sector organisations	Yes
Others	Please specify:

Group of people	Impacted?

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.

In the 2.5 years we have been working strategy, we have worked closely with 36 Friends and Parks User Groups, over 50 voluntary and community sector organisations and 9 GP practices, as well as strategic partners such as the newly formed North

London Partners which brings together councils, clinical commissioners and health and care providers. Together, we have developed our shared, long-term vision, tested new ways of working, shared our knowledge and expertise, and made joint commitments to ongoing collaboration

The strategy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholder groups from both Camden and Islington which include, AgeUK (Camden and Islington), TVC, Octopus Community Network, Voluntary Action Camden, North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group, National Trust, Parks for London, North London Cares, Camden & Islington NHS Mental Health Trust and Executive Members from both Camden and Islington.

Examples of consultation and engagement included:

- Targeted surveys of existing parks user groups
- Workshops with Health and VCS partners
- Presentations to key council boards and partnerships (Fairer Together)
- Project Reference Groups with key stakeholders

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	More people of all ages will have access to better quality parks, greenspaces, and activity programmes that will benefit their health and wellbeing.
Disability (include carers)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	Parks become more physically accessible and the activities on offer will ensure a targeted offer specifically for people with disabilities.
Race or ethnicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	There will be targeted communication to encourage and welcome more users of the spaces from different race or ethnic groups. We will also work with those community groups to put on tailored events and activities to encourage them to use parks.
Religion or belief (include no faith)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	There will be targeted communication to encourage and welcome more users of the spaces from different religious of belief groups. We will also work with those groups to put on tailored events and activities to encourage them to use parks.

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
Gender and gender reassignment (male, female or non-binary)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	On top of improving our spaces and offer for all residents and users, we are specifically looking at improving safety for female users. We also want to create more equal access to formal sports bookings for females and targeted activities, for teenage girls.
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.	
Marriage or Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
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.	

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
We do not expect any negative impacts from this programme.			

Action	Lead	Deadline	Comments

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

Screening Decision	Outcome
Is a full EQIA required? Fairness and Equality recommendation:	Yes/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.