

Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

Summary of proposal

Name of proposal	Reprocuring Integrated Community Equipment Service
Reference number (if applicable)	
Service Area	Strategic Commissioning and Investment
Date screening completed	15/12/2021
Screening author name	Ruby Pearce
Fairness and Equality team sign off	Imogen Resnick
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	Nikki Ralph

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?

The Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) facilitates the provision of equipment to enable someone to live safely and independently in their own home. This could be a simple aid such as a walking stick or raised toilet seat or more complex equipment like beds and hoists. ICES is a key health and social care service which plays an important preventative role and reduces pressure on other parts of the system.

In in 2020/21, c.4466 residents received items through the service and 13,654 items of equipment were ordered.

The provision of community equipment enables the Council and the CCG to meet the needs of residents under a range of legislation including the Care Act 2014, the Children Act 1989 and the NHS Act 2003. The outcomes delivered by the service include:

- supporting people to remain living at home for as long as possible;
- reducing unscheduled hospital admissions;

- facilitating hospital discharges and reducing the length of stay in hospitals;
- reducing care costs by avoiding or delaying admissions to residential care and the need for paid carers;
- promoting independence, safety, social inclusion, quality of life and improved end of life care.

The current contract expires 30 March 2023 and therefore will need to be recommissioned. The contract is procured through the London Community Equipment Consortium, a Pan-London Consortium, led by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, consisting of 21 London Boroughs. The commissioning team and ICES board's recommendation is to continue as a London Consortium member borough and participating in the Consortium's forthcoming re-procurement.

The service is accessible to all residents with Care Act eligible needs. Equipment is often prescribed by Nurses, Occupational and Physical Therapists to support hospital discharge or allow someone to remain independent in their home.

Key benefits to the recommissioned service:

- Seven day working including evening and out of hours cover
- Improved, fit for purpose delivery speed options
- Improved, Local Authority driven, tailored IT system to support service delivery and reporting
- More robust targets around recycling and re-using of equipment
- Provision to move to electric fleet over the life of the contract
- Greater service user engagement

On whom will the proposal impact? Delete as appropriate.

Group of people	Impacted?
Service users	Yes
Residents	Yes
Businesses	No
Visitors to Islington	No
Voluntary or community groups	No
Council staff	Yes
Trade unions	No
Other public sector organisations	No

Group of people	Impacted?
Others	Please specify:

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.

Surveys have been completed with service users and practitioners regarding what they would like from the new service. The responses from these surveys will be fed into the new service specification. The survey was coordinated by each borough so the new service will be reflective of all service users and professionals working across the 21 boroughs.

There has also been local engagement with the ICES board which has representation from Islington Council, NCL CCG and Whittington Health, and our clinical leads meeting.

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.	Older people are one of the larger resident groups who benefit from this service, the recommissioning of this service should have a positive impact.
Disability (include carers)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	As above, residents with disabilities also benefit from this service, the recommissioning of this service should have a positive impact. The service should also have a positive impact on carers because community equipment enables the safe care and support of their loved ones.
Race or ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	

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

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
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.