

Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

Summary of proposal

Name of proposal	Supported Accommodation for young people
Reference number (if applicable)	
Service Area	Strategic Commissioning and Investment
Date screening completed	16/01/2024
Screening author name	Ramone Samuda
Fairness and Equality team sign off	Monika Milewska
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	Jodi Pilling

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?

To commission supported housing accommodation for young people in Islington via competitive procurement. The current pathway requires remodelling to improve and modernise the accommodation offer for young people, deliver efficiencies for LBI, and meet the standards required by the Supported Housing regulations.

The primary purpose of this provision will be to prepare young people for independent living by building up their skills and resilience in areas such as payment of bills; cooking; CV writing; education, employment, or training; and attendance at appointments.

Following a review of the current pathway and stakeholder engagement in 2023, a set of proposals for the new pathway are being developed.

The current contracts are to be extended whilst the requisite procurement activity takes place. This will allow time for robust co-production and codesign with young people, providers, and other partners. The timeline for the procurement is set out below:

- Procurement strategy approval and new pathway development: Dec '23 – July '24
- Tender activity: Sept/Oct '24
- Contract award: Dec '24
- Mobilisation: Jan-March '25

The new procurement will seek to expand the number of units in the pathway, which will increase local capacity and reduce the overspend on spot placements. The new contracts will also include the flexibility to increase the unit supply (as / when required) during the contract term, without the need to undertake a full procurement exercise.

The new procurement aims to increase the number of units in the pathway, this will deliver savings to LBI by reducing the number of SPOT placements. Spot placements are on average £380 per week (£19,760 yearly) more expensive than the commissioned units and are less likely to be within LBI.

Engagement with the market and stakeholders during August 2023 identified several improvements that will be made to the new service. A summary of these changes is set out below:

- Procure specific accommodation for 16/17-year-olds.
- Procure a specific lot for move on accommodation.
- Increase the number of units in the pathway.
- Include a contract mechanism to allow for additional units to be added throughout the contract term.
- Tender to include fair rents for young people.
- Contract to include restrictions on rent / service charge increases.
- Tender to include robust property standard requirements,

The changes will affect young people aged 16-25 in Islington. Supported housing for young people provides housing and housing related support to young people under the Children Act 1989, the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. These services provide support to looked after children, care leavers, unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, and homeless young people aged 16-25.

On whom will the proposal impact? Delete as appropriate.

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

Please see below for a summary of the existing engagement

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Engagement	Dates	Who is it for	Online or face to face	Attendance
Service Managers and Support Worker Survey	17th July to 7 th August	Managers and support workers of the service	Online survey	14
Young people survey	28th July to 18 th August	Young people who access the service	Online survey	26
Market Warming Event	3 rd August 2023 – 2pm to 3pm	Islington Landlords & Support providers	Online	9 providers
121 Meetings with current providers	24 th to 31 st July	Organisation lead	Online	All 4 current providers
Stakeholder workshop	27 th July	Front line staff working with young people and providers	Face to Face	8 people
Young people's engagement	28 th September	Young people who have previously lived in LBI supported	Online	2 young people

The following engagement activity is planned for 2024:

Engagement	Dates
Wider stakeholder engagement – partners, staff etc	Feb 2024
Young people engagement and co-production of service design	Feb 2024 and throughout the duration of the procurement
Market engagement	Feb 2024

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

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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.	<p>The service will provide supported housing for young people ages 16-25.</p> <p>New providers will be required to register with OFTSED as any supported accommodation provider accommodating a looked after child or care leaver aged 16 or 17 are required to register. This prevents these young people being placed in unregulated semi-independent or independent settings provided in accordance with other arrangements.</p>
Disability (include carers)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	All services will be autism friendly with some specialist support for young people with mental health needs
Race or ethnicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	Around 90% of care leavers and care experienced young people currently accessing the service are

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Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
				<p>Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers. The new procurement will seek provides who can offer a strength based, trauma informed services. In line with good practice in other neighbouring authorities, support will be available for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers to access specialist services, including immigration solicitors, torture and trauma counselling, sexual violence support services and trafficking advisors. The Service will ensure that Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers are empowered to understand the asylum system, their place within it and their legal and support options.</p>
<p>Religion or belief (include no faith)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Choose an item. Choose an item.</p>	<p>Providers will be encouraged to try and support those with religious belief to access the right communities.</p>
<p>Gender and gender reassignment (male, female or non-binary)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Choose an item. Choose an item.</p>	<p>There is a higher percentage of males in supported accommodation as it is not always appropriate for females to live in mixed accommodation for safety reasons. The new</p>

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Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
				pathway will provide a small number of female only units.
Maternity or pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	Supported accommodation for teenage parents was previously commissioned as part of the block arrangement. Due to the specialist nature of this provision, children's services prefer to commission this support on a SPOT basis outside the on this pathway.
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.	
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 service will provide supported housing for young homeless people, care experienced young people, care leavers and UASC to prepare for independent living by building up their skills and resilience in areas such as payment of bills; cooking; CV writing; education, employment, or training; and attendance at appointments.

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Description of the impact (if applicable)
				<p>Supported Accommodation for young people has a positive impact on young people who are socio-economically disadvantaged, as it helps to provide them with stable accommodation in a safe and secure environment.</p> <p>Affordability of the accommodation has been a concern for some young people, the new procurement will seek providers who are able to offer fair rents for working young people. The contracts will include restrictions on rent / service charge increases to further limit any negative financial impact on young people.</p>

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

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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

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Screening Decision	Outcome
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.