

## Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)



Name of proposal	The Future of Youth Services in Bristol
Directorate and Service Area	People, Children and Families
Name of Lead Officer	Ann James

### Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

#### 1.1 What is the proposal?

Proposal is to develop a business case for a Youth Zone in the South of Bristol. The Youth Zone is a new, state of the art youth provision designed to raise aspirations and provide opportunities in universal and targeted youth services. The centre will be accessible to all children and young people in the city, however, its south location is designed to contribute to building aspiration, improving equality and inclusion and reducing extra-familial risk factors which are amplified in the south of the city. It will be designed with young people, for young people.

The proposal includes a request to extend the existing Targeted Youth services for 12 months from July 2021 to allow for a re-design of services City-wide, maximising revenue funding in the delivery of services for the city as a whole.

This proposal will positively impact all young people, with those aged 8-24 in the South of the City a priority group, by providing a safe, fun space and accessible resource for their leisure, learning and socialisation.

Young people in the North and East Central are able to access the centre but will retain their existing services pending re-design to meet their needs. Community youth organisations will be supported through the delivery model which builds a network of local providers to operate in partnership. This should strengthen their footprint and capacity. The impact of other Youth Zones in the country has been to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime through their focus on supporting vulnerable young people and diverting them

from the influence of anti-social street-based behaviours.

Extending the TYS contract for a further 12 months will ensure services do not cease for young people and will enable existing local youth organisations to work with the LA to improve their readiness for commissioning.

## **Step 2: What information do we have?**

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

### **2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?**

JSNA and Quality of Life Survey provides the data which evidences that deprivation is greater and outcomes poorer for children and young people in a number of wards in south Bristol compared to other parts of the City.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/bristol-jsna-statistics-and-data>

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/statistics-census-information/the-quality-of-life-in-bristol>

There are fewer youth and community organisations operating in the south of the city than in some other areas.

The community in the South is more adversely impacted by youth exclusion, extra familial harm, youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

Bristol's population is relatively young, with 1 in 5 people in Bristol aged under 16. Wards where more than a quarter of the population is aged under 16 include Hartcliffe and Withywood (27%), Lawrence Hill (26%), and Filwood (26%). The number of children is projected to continue to increase, with 9,900 more children in 2043 than in 2018 representing an increase of 12%. The age profile of the Black, Asian and minority ethnic population is much younger than the age profile of the Bristol population as a whole. The proportion of children (aged 0-15) who belong to a Black, Asian and minority ethnic group is 28%.

The 2011 Census shows that over the previous decade Bristol had become increasingly diverse, this has continued. The proportion of the population who

are not 'White British' has increased from 12% to 22% of the total population. The proportion of people living in Bristol who were not born in the UK has increased from 8% to 15% of the total population. In Bristol, there are now at least 45 religions, at least 187 countries of birth represented and at least 91 main languages spoken by people living in Bristol.

Some of the highest rates of poverty and child poverty are in South Wards and this is also where highest rates of children live (on par with Lawrence Hill and amongst the poorest in the country). The South has fewer community assets than some other areas of the city and long standing intergenerational unemployment. Public Health indicators are poor: smoking, drug and alcohol related hospital admissions and elevated mortality rates; childhood obesity is high with the long term implications for health. Emergency hospital admissions for childhood injuries are highest from the South, and children in South Bristol are more likely to grow up with 4 or more ACEs that will go onto significantly impact their health and ability to achieve their potential in later life.

The South of Bristol has the highest rates of serious violence and antisocial behaviour in the city. Reduction in serious youth violence was set as a top priority for the One City Plan at last year's One City Gathering. Delivery of a youth Zone continues our commitment to delivering on tis priority by building the strengths of the city's young people. South Bristol also evidences the highest rates of child criminal and sexual exploitation with hot spots in certain areas. Risks are high, with one young person losing their life in a motorbike crash when an obstacle was thrown into its path by another young person from a rival group.

Schools in south Bristol have the highest rates of school exclusion and absence in the city (directly contributing to young people's vulnerability in the community); and the South has the highest rates of Children in Need, Child Protection and Children in Care of all areas of the city along with high rates of domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse, and serious mental health problems.

## 2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

Commissioned providers are required to collect and report service user diversity monitoring. However there are gaps in our diversity data for some

protected characteristics citywide, especially where this has not historically been included in census and statutory reporting e.g. for sexual orientation.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

Consultation and co-construction of the future of youth provision in different parts of the city will be at the integral to the shape of provision in the city – starting September 2020. The Youth Zone model partners with local young people and youth organisations to develop a network of providers around the centre.

### **Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?**

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

Whilst we have not identified any significant negative impacts at this stage we need to ensure that the proposal full meets the emerging needs of children and young people on the basis of their protected and other characteristics.

As with any service redesign / recommissioning there is a risk of disruption and uncertainty for service users and delivery organisations during transition. This would be likely to have a disproportionate impact on young people (Age).

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

We will continue to update this Equality Impact Assessment with relevant finding from needs analysis, stakeholder engagement and consultation as the business plan is developed.

We will ensure that best practice / guidance is used when decommissioning existing services to mitigate the risk of disruption and uncertainty for service users and delivery organisations.

3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?

The Youth Zones can make a significant difference to the overall wellbeing and life chances of the young people participating in activities at the Centre or being reached through the Centre.

Vulnerable groups, Black, Asian and minority ethnic children, and those living

in deprived communities will receive maximum benefit of the proposed development.

Disabled children will have access to top class facilities and may be able to access education from the building.

Universal and targeted services will be accessible to all young people and staffing will ensure young women who are pregnant and those undergoing gender reassignment have somewhere safe and inclusive to go.

Investment in a Youth Zone in South Bristol will communicate clearly to young people in the city that they are valued. The targeted offer through the centre allows us to build networks within the community alongside authentic community organisations who know their children and neighbourhoods best, engaging and supporting those most vulnerable children and beginning to equalising outcomes.

3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?

Yes, through understanding the needs of young people in the area and working with them to design and deliver the provision.

#### **Step 4: So what?**

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

The EqIA has highlighted the need to carry out consultation/co-construction to ensure the needs of children and young people are met on the basis of their protected characteristics.

4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?

- Consultation must include representative groups
- A detailed analysis of demographics and need will be undertaken as part of the Youth Zone full business case development. This will be undertaken in partnership with Onside (the charity that delivers Youth Zones) as part of its preparatory work to ensure maximum impact of any proposed youth zone

development.
4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?
Services designed to meet the stated aims and needs of young people.

Service Director Sign-Off: Ann James	Equalities Officer Sign Off: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>
Date: 19-08-20	Date: 9/8/2020