

Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.9]



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| Title: Extending current domestic abuse support contracts for 6 months | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state] | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing |
| Directorate: People | Lead Officer name: Carol Slater |
| Service Area: Public Health | Lead Officer role: Health Equity Lead Public Health |

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to assist decision makers in understanding the impact of proposals as part of their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Detailed guidance to support completion can be found here [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

The current contracts BCC has with providers of services to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence are due to end on 31st March 2022. We need to extend the current contracts by a further 6 months until 1st October 2022 to ensure we have a robust and fully consulted commissioning plan. The need to extend the current contract has arisen due to two major changes in national policy and additional local guidance which need to be fully considered in our commissioning plan. The Domestic Abuse Bill received Royal Assent and became Law on the 29th April 2021. The Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse was convened in the summer of 2020 and published its report in March 2021.

The DA Act has required substantial programmes of work to successfully deliver as required by law over the last few months, including new governance processes and spending plans. In addition, a raft of new waves of Ministry of Justice and MHLG funding grants have also been published over Spring and summer 2021 which have given Bristol the opportunity to increase investment in Domestic abuse and grow services collaboratively with local providers. This includes increasing the number of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, and MHCLG funding to create a number of safe spaces (short term accommodation 5/6 weeks) with specialist domestic abuse support, for the most vulnerable women experiencing domestic abuse in Bristol.

We need to ensure that policy change implications and programmes outcomes are appropriately reflected in our consultation process and commissioning intentions to ensure the new model takes account of this and provides sustainable benefit to our citizens and service users. However, the current timescale would require going out to consultation within the next 2 weeks and after internal review, we have concluded that for the reasons above we are not in an optimal position to do this well. We are asking for a 6 month deferral to the commissioning process and publication of the consultation in November 2021 to:

- Engage the newly formed survivor's forum in the pre-engagement process
- Ensure that we have fully engaged with wider domestic abuse community and not just the most well-established providers as part of the pre-commissioning process market readiness
- Take account of the cross LA Joint Needs Assessment (due Sept 2021)

- Utilise the newly established domestic abuse partnership board, delivery group and commissioning group governance arrangements
- Take advantage of the very recently established increased capacity and new leadership in the public health DA team
- Critically, ensure a strategic approach to the inclusion of the DA Act duties and mayoral commission recommendations, and shaping of the model and approach by members, providers and communities.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce | <input type="checkbox"/> Service users | <input type="checkbox"/> The wider community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services | <input type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations | |
| Additional comments: | | |

1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by Equality and Inclusion Team.


If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment, or if you plan to complete the assessment at a later stage please state this clearly here and request review by the Equality and Inclusion Team.

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|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | [please select] |
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We have not identified any significant impact for staff or citizens from the proposal to extend the contracts for existing services for 6 months. If the extensions are agreed there will be no change in current service provision and the existing EQIA's for domestic abuse services will remain unchanged. The commissioning process for the new services will be subject to a full equality impact assessment process to ensure we are commissioning with full consideration of impact on equalities groups.

Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the Equality and Inclusion Team before requesting sign off from your Director¹.

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| Equality and Inclusion Team Review: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i> | Director Sign-Off:  |
| Date: 14/7/2021 | Date: 14/07/21 |

¹ Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.