

# Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.9]



Title: Budget Proposal - Reduction in contributions to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership in 2022-23	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Proposal CF3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: People	Lead Officer name: Becky Lewis
Service Area: Children, Families and Safer Communities	Lead Officer role: Strategic Safeguarding and QA Service Manager

## 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.

#### Budget context:

Bristol City Council is required by law to set a balanced budget however we face a potential gap in our core budget of around £23.1 million next year. With such a significant challenge the budget cannot be balanced without additional funding, making greater efficiencies (doing the same for less money) or by transforming the way we do things.

The Council has defined statutory responsibilities, but deliver against a far broader agenda, providing universal services benefiting the whole community, and targeted services aimed at individuals, communities with particular needs, and businesses – administered by our workforce, city partners, stakeholder organisations and commissioned services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been far reaching, with a lasting impact on our people and our economy. Our finances are stretched to the limit, and the UK Government has stopped funding local COVID-19 responses. Up and down the country councils are facing this funding crisis with less money to keep services going. This is because more money is needed to: help citizens with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; support low-income households and local businesses in need of support post-COVID-19; support more people than ever with mental health and social care services; and meet the rising need and cost of home to school transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) etc. At the same time, the pandemic saw us receive less income from business rates, commercial rentals, parking, sports facilities, and our museums, shops and cafes.

The [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) underpins the Council's financial planning process and outlines the approach we will take to meet the challenges presented by focusing primarily on delivering efficiencies, service re-design programmes which cut across directorate boundaries, and increasing external income and Invest to Save revenue.

### This proposal:

Bristol City Council has statutory responsibilities under Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 to ensure there are sufficient resources to deliver multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements. This duty is shared with Avon and Somerset Police and BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group. Bristol City Council is the biggest contributor to these arrangements and funds contributing £153,345 a year of the total budget of £215,308. This budget part funds the functions of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership alongside funding from the Domestic Abuse Bill implementation; safeguarding adults and community safety.

One statutory responsibility of the multi-agency children's arrangements is the delivery of statutory reviews following serious incidents. The 2019 implementation of Working Together 2018 brought in greater flexibility to how reviewers are commissioned and undertaken. Prior to this reviews were often undertaken by two external authors joint working. Many of the reviews are now undertaken internally through the statutory rapid review process. Where full Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are commissioned there is flexibility of methodology. These combined factors have led to a reduction in spend on statutory reviews.

It is not possible to predict year on year the number of serious incidents requiring Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and the board carries forward a small pooled budget year on year to enable partners to meet the statutory duties. This proposal is for a one-year reduction of £30,000 and ongoing reduction of £10,000 in Bristol's contribution to the partnership to reflect the reduced demand in commissioning reviews.

### 1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

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

Additional comments: This proposal will have no impact on the delivery of statutory reviews as this is a statutory requirement. Therefore there is no impact in this area. The proposal would limit the partnership's ability to redirect the funds into other projects but currently there are no intended projects aligned to this funding.

### 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.

Yes       No      [please select]

There is no impact on service users or partners. In the current financial arrangements of the Board we will be able to meet our statutory duties. This proposal will align the budget to forecast spend.

## 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 Director<sup>1</sup>.

<b>Equality and Inclusion Team Review:</b> <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	<b>Director Sign-Off:</b> Ann James – Director, Children and Families
Date: 23/12/2021	Date: 24/12/2021

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<sup>1</sup> 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.