

# Equality Analysis



What are the proposals being assessed?	Proposed budget saving CH60 – Decommission the South Thames Crossroads Caring for Carers contract
Which Department/ Division has the responsibility for this?	Community and Housing, Adult Social Care

Stage 1: Overview	
Name and job title of lead officer	Andy Ottaway-Searle, Head of Direct Provision
1. What are the aims, objectives and desired outcomes of your proposal? (Also explain proposals e.g. reduction/removal of service, deletion of posts, changing criteria etc)	The aim and desired outcome of the proposal is to achieve the required budget savings in a way that the service continues to meet its statutory duties and minimises adverse impact on service users, taking in to account previous budget savings and the cumulative effect on service delivery. It is intended to do this using an approach which promotes independence and reduces reliance on council funded services, utilising the approach around the Use of Resources Framework of Prevention; Recovery; Long term support; Process; Partnership; and Contributions. This proposal supports the Adult Social Care commissioning and procurement plan and the Target Operating Model (TOM) commitment of service transformation, by decommissioning the South Thames Crossroads Caring for Carers contract and providing an alternative service through domiciliary care services, Direct payments and commissioned holistic carers and support from the voluntary sector.
2. How does this contribute to the council's corporate priorities?	The Adult Social Care Service plan and TOM contribute to the council's overall priorities and will ensure that the savings targets are achieved in line with the corporate Business Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It is also in line with the July principles, adopted in 2011 by councillors, which sets out guiding strategic priorities and principles, where the order of priority services should be to continue to provide everything which is statutory and maintain services, within limits, to the vulnerable and elderly, with the council being an enabler, working with partners to provide services.
3. Who will be affected by this proposal? For example who are the external/internal customers, communities, partners, stakeholders, the workforce etc.	Service users and carers. The external provider South Thames Crossroads and its staff.
4. Is the responsibility shared with another department, authority or organisation? If so, who are the partners and who has overall responsibility?	N/A

## Stage 2: Collecting evidence/ data

### 5. What evidence have you considered as part of this assessment?

Provide details of the information you have reviewed to determine the impact your proposal would have on the protected characteristics (equality groups).

**Current service users** - there are currently 72 service users, aged between 22 and 97 years of age. The ethnicity data shows 49% White British (35) and the rest of the service users from Asian British - Indian (3), Asian / British – Pakistani (8), Asian / British – other Asian (2), Black / British – African (2), Black / British – Caribbean (9), Black / British – other black (2), Mixed White / Asian (1), Mixed White / Black Caribbean (1), other ethnic group (3), White other (5), White Irish (1) backgrounds.

**Feedback from the consultation exercise** – between 23 October until 7 December 2015 a consultation exercise was undertaken to get the views of those people affected by all of the adult social care savings proposals. A detailed report with the feedback from the consultation has been produced and submitted for consideration, in conjunction with this EA, at Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny on 12 January 2016 and Cabinet on 15 February 2016. Specific feedback was received from the current service provider of the contract, seven individual open responses via email and letter from service users and also through targeted focus groups.

**National context** – the National Carers Strategy of 2008 sets out the national vision for recognising and valuing carers with support tailored to meet individuals' needs. National policy has focused on increasing choice for all adult social care users, including carers. The current Merton service is a one size fits all policy with very limited degrees of choice. The current service delivery model is not mandatory, however the council has a duty to offer support to eligible carers and to work towards achieving the national vision. The 2011 census revealed that there were approximately 5.8 million people providing unpaid care in England and Wales - just over one tenth of the population (ONS 2013).

**Operational level** – the carers assessments for the current service users, the estimated number of carers in Merton (approximately 17,000, with nearly 600 known young carers), the cost of the service, monitoring reports from South Thames Crossroads (quarterly with details of support provided by customer group (older people, mental health and all other adults), ethnicity, age and gender) and reviewing actual and potential alternative ways to support carers e.g. personal budgets and the holistic carers support service from the voluntary sector.

### Stage 3: Assessing impact and analysis

6. From the evidence you have considered, what areas of concern have you identified regarding the potential negative and positive impact on one or more protected characteristics (equality groups)?

Protected characteristic (equality group)	Tick which applies		Tick which applies		Reason Briefly explain what positive or negative impact has been identified
	Positive impact		Potential negative impact		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Age		✓	✓		The consultation has identified that service users have concerns and anxieties about the proposal – see the consultation report for full details. There is a potentially negative impact if alternatives do not fully meet needs.
Disability		✓	✓		As above.
Gender Reassignment		✓		✓	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership		✓		✓	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity		✓		✓	N/A
Race		✓		✓	N/A
Religion/ belief		✓		✓	N/A
Sex (Gender)		✓		✓	N/A
Sexual orientation		✓		✓	N/A
Socio-economic status		✓	✓		As above.

7. Equality Analysis Improvement Action Plan template – Making adjustments for negative impact

Negative impact / gap in information identified in the Equality Analysis	Officers initially identified that there could be a chance that some service users may feel the alternative service does not meet their needs, and that some service users will experience a reduced level of service. The consultation has identified other areas where service users feel there will be a negative impact (see consultation report for full details).
Action required to mitigate	The outcome of the EA has identified some potential for negative impact and it may not be possible to mitigate this fully. However, the following actions will be put in place.  Clear communication will be undertaken and all proposed changes to carers support will be subject to a review / re-assessment process which is based on individual need and will be reviewed before the current contract ends. Where carers are assessed as requiring a service they will receive personalised support including personal;

	<p>budgets with which they can choose the service that best meets their needs. Carers will be supported with breaks where appropriate, with a domiciliary care service, direct payment or a holistic carers support service from the voluntary sector. The voluntary sector and community groups have been invited to apply for a grant under our Ageing Well programme. <b>By March 2016.</b></p> <p>Merton Council has an established working relationship with the voluntary sector in providing a range of services on behalf of the council. Therefore, it is expected that through the Ageing Well grant, the voluntary sector will be able to provide suitable alternatives in many cases. Regular review meetings will be in place to monitor service provision to ensure the potential for any negative impact has been removed. <b>On-going.</b></p> <p>Training for staff on outcome based support planning. <b>By March 2016.</b></p> <p>Continued fair allocation of resources via resource panels. <b>On-going.</b></p> <p>Customer satisfaction will continue to be monitored annually to ensure the current satisfaction levels for 2013/14 and 2014/15 of 63.3% are maintained and where possible improved.</p>
<b>How will you know this is achieved? e.g. performance measure / target</b>	Local performance monitoring of alternative service take-up and effectiveness. Implementation of Ageing Well programme.
<b>By when</b>	March 2017
<b>Existing or additional resources?</b>	Existing
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Andy Ottaway-Searle
<b>Action added to divisional / team plan?</b>	Included in the Adult Social care re-design programme.

**Note that the full impact of the decision may only be known after the proposals have been implemented; therefore it is important the effective monitoring is in place to assess the impact.**

**Stage 4: Conclusion of the Equality Analysis**

8. Which of the following statements best describe the outcome of the EA (Tick one box only)

**OUTCOME 1**

The EA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to promote equality are being addressed. No changes are required.

**OUTCOME 2**

The EA has identified adjustments to remove negative impact or to better promote equality. Actions you propose to take to do this should be included in the Action Plan.

**OUTCOME 3**

The EA has identified some potential for negative impact or some missed opportunities to promote equality and it may not be possible to mitigate this fully.

**OUTCOME 4**

The EA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. Stop and rethink your proposals.

**Stage 5: Sign off by Director/ Head of Service**

<b>Assessment completed by</b>	Andy Ottaway-Searle, Head of Direct Provision	<b>Signature: Andy Ottaway-Searle</b>	<b>Date: 22.12.15</b>
<b>Improvement action plan signed off by Director/ Head of Service</b>	Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing	<b>Signature: Simon Williams</b>	<b>Date: 29.12.15</b>

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