

Equality Analysis



What are the proposals being assessed?	Proposed budget saving CH61 – Decommission the Sodexo Meals on Wheels 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 is to achieve the proposed 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 providing an alternative service through embedding support within the community, neighbourhood and voluntary support infrastructure.
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. Carers. External provider Sodexo 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 – for the meals on wheels service, current figures show there are 177 users, ranging in age from 50 – 103 years old. The ethnicity data shows 75% White British (132) and the rest of the service users from Asian British – Indian (5), Asian / British – other Asian (4), Black / British – African (3), Black / British – Caribbean (6), Black / British – other black (1), Chinese (1), other ethnic group (5), White other (8), White Irish (4) backgrounds and Declined to say or no data recorded (8).

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 for 2016/17. 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 meals on wheels contract, 18 individual open responses via email and letter from, or on behalf of, meals on wheels service users and also through targeted focus groups.

National context – there is no statutory requirement for the council to provide a meal delivery service. Access to prepared meals is widely available through specialist providers, supermarkets and local shops and telephone and internet access has enabled telephone and on-line ordering enabling service users to access meals themselves or via their own support network. However, support will continue to be provided for those that need help to order prepared meals and those that need help in heating and eating a prepared meal. Many other councils have decommissioned the meals on wheels service.

Operational level – quarterly monitoring reports from Sodexo, with number of meals delivered and type of food e.g. kosher, halal etc. and includes details of any complaints (non delivery, quality of meal etc.).

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 Positive impact		Tick which applies Potential negative impact		Reason Briefly explain what positive or negative impact has been identified
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
	Age		✓	✓	
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

This action plan should be completed after the analysis and should outline action(s) to be taken to mitigate the potential negative impact identified (expanding on information provided in Section 7 above).

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Clear communication will be undertaken and all current recipients of meals on wheels will be contacted to review their eligible needs and identify how their needs will be met under the new model of service provision, through a range of options including working with the voluntary sector and community groups, ensuring service users who need help to order prepared meals and those that need help in feeding themselves will continue to receive support. By July 2016.</p> <p>Alternative ways of accessing prepared meals or accessing telephone / online prepared meal delivery services will be publicised to service users. Merton Council has an established working relationship with the voluntary</p>

	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. On-going. 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.
How will you know this is achieved? e.g. performance measure / target	Implementation of the Ageing Well programme. Local performance monitoring of alternative service take-up and effectiveness.
By when	July 2016
Existing or additional resources?	Existing
Lead Officer	Andy Ottaway-Searle
Action added to divisional / team plan?	N/A

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

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

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