

Equality Analysis



What are the proposals being assessed?	Budget saving CH63 – Decommission the Imagine Independence service and re-commission peer led day opportunities for people with mental health
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 the independence of individuals 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 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. Carers. External provider Imagine 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?

Current service users - there are currently approximately 165 service users, for advocacy, employment support, peer support and social inclusion. The service users are vulnerable adults aged 18+, many with mental health issues.

Feedback from the consultation exercise – between 23 October until 7 December 2015 a consultation exercise was undertaken to get the views of those 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 contract, three individual open responses via email and letter from service users and also through targeted focus groups.

National context – research in to the best way of delivering Peer led support.

Operational level – new research and evidence in the Adult Mental Health Needs Assessment as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (www.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth/jsna) and quarterly monitoring reports from Imagine Independence, detailing a summary of services received e.g. advocacy and number of active and new service users and those that have left the service, details of which organisations referred the service user and service users ethnicity, gender and age.

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		✓	✓		The consultation has identified that service users have concerns and anxieties about the proposal – see the consultation report for full details. There is potentially a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of service users and carers if the alternatives put in place do not fully meet

					assessed eligible needs.
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	<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>Work is on-going to finalise the research in to best practice on peer led support and developing the pilot programmes, due to be implemented with effect from April 2016. On-going.</p> <p>Clear communication will be undertaken and all current service users will be contacted to review their 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. By March 2016.</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, ASC will work with the wider voluntary sector to find opportunities for a more generic offer e.g. advocacy, information and advice. Regular review meetings will be in place to monitor service provision to ensure the potential for any negative impact has been removed. On-going.</p> <p>ASC will continue to work closely with the Housing Needs team to ensure the range of accommodation for people with mental health needs should be addressed building on recommendations from the review in 2015. On-going.</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>
How will you know this is achieved? e.g.	New service commissioned. Local performance monitoring of alternative service take-up.

performance measure / target	
By when	March 2016
Existing or additional resources?	Existing
Lead Officer	Andy Ottaway-Searle
Action added to divisional / team plan?	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

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