

Equality Analysis



Please refer to the guidance for carrying out Equality Impact Assessments is available on the intranet
Text in blue is intended to provide guidance – you can delete this from your final version.

What are the proposals being assessed?	Proposed budget savings CSF2018-03
Which Department/ Division has the responsibility for this?	CSF/Education Division

Stage 1: Overview	
Name and job title of lead officer	Jane McSherry (AD Education)
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)	<p>Raise income or cease some services in preparation for 2020 where we would consider withdrawing from direct provision of a childcare offer:</p> <p>The proposal is to raise income, by raising fees, to achieve the proposed saving in 2019/20 of 49K.</p> <p>The objective is to raise fees for a relatively small cohort of families who access the Lavender Nursery at a universal level of need, whilst protecting targeted services for more vulnerable families.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to introduce a new fee structure which protects services for vulnerable families and raises income for fee paying customers to deliver the 2019- 2020 savings</p> <p>The impact of this proposal will mean increased fees for the 71* fee paying customers using the Lavender Nursery. Whilst the support to vulnerable children and their families will remain, the increase in charges will impact on families where household income is lower. However, the monthly charges for childcare will continue to be broadly in line with the average hourly rate for childcare in Merton. Since September 2017 children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 30 hours of free childcare, which will contribute to mitigating the impact of these fee increases for this cohort of families. There is a wide choice of childcare services available in the borough, and families are</p>

	<p>able to source alternative provision if required. The majority of families using the paid for services at Lavender Nursery are not considered to be vulnerable/in need. The **60 places for children aged 2 who meet eligibility for 2 year funded places (low household income, LAC and children claiming DLA) will not be affected</p> <p>(*To note the number of 71 is not fixed and can move up or down depending on patterns of take up. **To note the number of 60 is not fixed and can move up or down depending on patterns of take up.)</p>
<p>2. How does this contribute to the council's corporate priorities?</p>	<p>This is contributing to the councils' corporate priorities in ensuring we manage our resources to provide value for money, high standards of governance, financial and budget management. The Early Years' Service contributes significantly to giving our children and young people the best start in life and is a key component of our Child, YP and Family Well Being Model. It contributes significantly to our MSCB priorities of Early Help; Think Family and the cross cutting theme of neglect. By raising income through an increase in fees for working households, the remaining targeted services are protected in this financial year and support for families eligible for 2 year funded places continues and remains a priority</p>
<p>3. Who will be affected by this proposal? For example who are the external/internal customers, communities, partners, stakeholders, the workforce etc.</p>	<p>Families affected by this proposal will be the *71 fee paying families that currently use the Lavender Nursery, and new customers taking up places once existing service users leave. (*To note the number of 71 is not fixed and can move up or down depending on patterns of take up)</p>
<p>4. Is the responsibility shared with another department, authority or organisation? If so, who are the partners and who has overall responsibility?</p>	<p>No</p>

ASGS

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).

We have substantial data sets and information to identify need, vulnerability and risk. We are aware of the overall impact of this proposal.

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				*	Whilst it is families with young children who use the services, the negative impact is minimal as there are sufficient alternative services available locally which families could access, if they so choose to do so. For children who are eligible for 2 year funded places there is no impact in terms of this proposal
Disability				*	Existing levels of support will continue for children where there may be disabilities, therefore there is minimal negative impact. For parents where there is a disability there may be a negative impact in terms of the increase in fees and accessibility to alternative provision may be more challenging. However, overall the potential impact is generally minimal but this proposal may impact more so on some individual families depending on their particular circumstances.

Gender Reassignment				*	
Marriage and Civil Partnership				*	
Pregnancy and Maternity				*	The nursery provides childcare for children aged 2 and above and therefore will not directly impact on pregnancy and maternity. However, families with more than one child and with a baby, will see their overall childcare costs increase. Costs for childcare tend to be highest for children between the ages 0 – 2. Overall the potential impact is generally minimal but this proposal may impact more so on some individual families depending on their particular circumstances.
Race				*	
Religion/ belief				*	
Sex (Gender)				*	
Sexual orientation				*	
Socio-economic status			*		For families with lower household income, a raise in childcare fees will have an impact on their disposable income, possibly causing stress and debt for some families. Families are supported to take up the free childcare entitlement and maximise tax credits and tax free childcare

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	Action required to mitigate	How will you know this is achieved? e.g. performance measure/ target)	By when	Existing or additional resources?	Lead Officer	Action added to divisional/ team plan?
Page 57 This level of saving will impact on the fee paying customers using Lavender Nursery.	Provide sufficient notice to families so they can plan for the increase and maximise use of free entitlements, tax free childcare and credits	Fee structure introduced and take up in the nursery by fee paying customers is stable	March 2020	existing	Allison Jones	Y
	Provide information about alternative providers and their costs so parents/families can make informed decisions					

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)

Please refer to the guidance for carrying out Equality Impact Assessments is available on the intranet for further information about these outcomes and what they mean for your proposal

OUTCOME 1

OUTCOME 2

yes

OUTCOME 3

OUTCOME 4

Stage 5: Sign off by Director/ Head of Service			
Assessment completed by	Allison Jones Head of Early Years	Signature:	Date: 30/10/18
Improvement action plan signed off by Director/ Head of Service	Rachael Wardell, Director CSF	Signature: 	Date: 30/10/2018