

Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA389090739

Submitted: 30 December 2021 15:50 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Integrated Community Equipment Service 2023-2028

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): The overarching aim is to deliver the right equipment, at the right time, in the right place and right first time through an integrated community equipment service in partnership with the NHS and Thurrock Council. Equipment, such as commodes, shower chairs and hoists, and adaptations, such as grab rails and chair raisers enable people to remain independent, and to live as full a life as they can in their own home, as well as supporting carers (formal and informal) in their roles. Equipment and adaptations support people of all ages and needs across the county to gain, regain and maintain skills, as well as preventing hospital admissions and facilitating discharges. The council has contracted with ECL and the Integrated Procurement Hub in Croydon since 2014 to provide this service and is looking to procure a new solution via a competitive tender process, to fit with the landscape post Covid and the Discharge to Assess pathway (D2A).

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work: Healthy lifestyles, Promoting independence, Carers, Levelling up health

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?: a new policy (or decision)

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates: In draft

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents: In draft

Assessing the equality impact

Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision): Lived experience was sought via a telephone survey of everyone in one week who received equipment/adaptations. This was generally positive about the quality of the service at the point of delivery which is supported by the low number of service user complaints received by the incumbent.

Prescriber feedback was gathered by online survey and through multiple cross system forums. It identified communication, IT and customer service improvements that could be made in a new service model.

Market engagement feedback indicates that there is scope for improvement and advancement across the current service.

Evaluation of all engagement indicates that the vision and ambition of the Council and it's partnership with the NHS and Thurrock, will be most effectively realised through a procurement process.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users: Yes

Employees: Yes

The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities: Yes

Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?: All Essex

Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?: Yes

Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?: No

Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?: Yes

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Description of impact

Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment, Pregnancy / maternity

I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics: I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics: All providers as part of the tender process, the contract and ongoing quality monitoring are required to evidence that they can and do offer an inclusive and diverse service to people of all ages, cohorts and demographic backgrounds which respects individual values and beliefs.

Coproduction and using lived experience to continuously improve service delivery throughout the life of the contract is an integral social value requirement.

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Community equipment enables older people to remain living in their own homes for longer. It also supports informal older carers in their role.

Extent of impact: High

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Community equipment gives older people more choice and control over their lives, allowing them to receive a personalised service which respects them and their dignity.

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Community equipment enables people with a learning disability and autism to remain living in their own homes for longer. It also supports their carers (formal and informal) in their role.

Extent of impact: High

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Community equipment gives people with a learning disability and autism more choice and control over their lives, allowing them to receive a personalised service which respects them and their dignity.

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Community equipment enables people with mental health issues to remain living in their own homes for longer. It also supports carers (formal and informal) in their role.

Extent of impact: High

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Community equipment gives people with mental health issues more choice and control over their lives, allowing them to receive a personalised service which respects them and their dignity.

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Community equipment enables people with a physical impairment to remain living in their own homes for longer. It also supports carers (formal and informal) in their role.

Extent of impact: High

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Community equipment gives people with a physical impairment more choice and control over their lives, allowing them to receive a personalised service which respects them and their dignity.

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Community equipment enables people with a sensory impairment to remain living in their own homes for longer. It also supports carers (formal and informal) in their role.

Extent of impact: High

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Community equipment gives people with a sensory impairment more choice and control over their lives, allowing them to receive a personalised service which respects them and their dignity.

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Community equipment allows those who are pregnant - be they people we are supporting or carers (formal or informal) - to be more independent and to more safely undertake personal and domestic activities of daily living.

Extent of impact: High

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Community equipment gives those who are pregnant more choice and control over their lives, allowing them to receive or deliver a personalised service which respects the limitations that pregnancy can cause in undertaking activities of daily living either for themselves or others.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date EqIA completed: 30/12/2021

Name of person completing the EqIA: Jo Rogers

Email address of person completing the EqIA: Jo.Rogers@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Adult Social Care

Your service area: Commissioning

Your team: Older People

Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: Matthew.Barnett@essex.gov.uk