

## Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA325191014

Submitted: 13 April 2021 12:24 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** The Essex Community Wellbeing Service - Tier 1 and Tier 2 Weight Management Support

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** To procure a single, integrated, countywide Essex Community Wellbeing Service, and which will be delivered by a single lead provider. This new Service will include Tier 1 and 2 weight management support.

Weight management is a defined Local Authority commissioning responsibility, but not a mandated service or prescribed function (weight management, including prevention of overweight and management of those who fit into weight management criteria for tier 1 prevention and tier 2 lifestyle weight management service; but excluding clinically led multidisciplinary tier 3 service, which is a CCG commissioning responsibility).

Obesity is a major cause of type 2 diabetes, as well as other conditions including high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. Diet and physical activity are the major contributors to obesity, however, underlying factors can have an impact, for example mental health issues and access to outside space, as well as other associated behaviours eg poor diet.

The new Community Wellbeing Service will work much more directly with local people in Essex on how they can support themselves and others by building resilience and social connection to sustain healthy weight behaviours over time; and a commissioning approach which more explicitly sets weight management (and other lifestyle) behaviours in context of the overall circumstances of people's lives and the overall care and support that they need in order to achieve change in weight and other associated behaviours .

The new Service is aligned to the Council's organisational strategic aims and priorities, and supports the Council in meeting the overarching objectives of the Public Health Outcomes Framework (2019 - 2022).

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Enable inclusive economic growth, Help people get the best start and age well, Help create great places to grow up, live and work, Transform the council to achieve more with less

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Enable inclusive economic growth:** Help people in Essex prosper by increasing their skills

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well:** Enable more vulnerable adults to live independent of social care, Improve the health of people in Essex

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work:** Help to secure stronger, safer and more neighbourly communities

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Transform the council to achieve more with less:** Develop the capability, performance and engagement of our people, Re-imagine how residents' needs can be met in a digital world

**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 EqlA relates:** This will be provided separately

**Please upload any documents which relate to this EqlA, for example decision documents:** This will be provided separately

## 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):** The current service is of a high quality, but only reaches a limited number of service users as compared to the Essex population who are considered to be obese (10% overall). The new Community Wellbeing Service will provide a community asset based approach to increase numbers engaged, but will also target resources where they are most needed, for example areas of high deprivation where there is high prevalence of obesity.

For example, the highest prevalence can be seen in Tendring, Maldon and Harlow. Harlow and Tendring also have some of the highest rates of adults classified as physically inactive. Similarly Tendring, Maldon and Harlow have the highest overall prevalence of diabetes (2 - 3% higher compared to other areas such as Uttlesford).

Similarly, there will be a focus on addressing wider /underlying causes that lead people to becoming overweight and obese, for example social isolation and poor mental health. It is anticipated that Covid-19 will also compound these factors, as well as obesity also being a risk factor for severe illness and death from the disease itself.

Obesity and related health inequalities can transmit across generations with evidence suggesting strong correlation between maternal obesity and subsequent development of obesity in their children. In Essex, Tendring and Harlow have some of the highest prevalence and which is significantly higher than the England average.

Source:

Essex County Council Health Inequalities and COVID-19 Report: <https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/v85jw/health-inequalities-and-covid19>.

Essex County Council COVID-19 Risk and Vulnerability Mapping Dashboard.

<https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/2ydz7/covid19-risk-and-vulnerability-mapping-dashboard>.

[www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2237](http://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2237)

**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?:** Yes

**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: Disability - mental health issues, 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:** Not applicable

## Disability - mental health issues

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** There is research to suggest that obesity/being overweight can lead to mental health issues; and similarly that poor mental health can lead to obesity/being overweight. The new Service will take a holistic approach, looking at wider circumstances or factors which affect a person's health. It will also seek to empower people to support themselves and each other through a community asset based approach.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** The new Service will need time to develop and therefore the extent of the impact is marked low at this time.

## Pregnancy / maternity

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** As stated above, Obesity and related health inequalities can transmit across generations with evidence suggesting strong correlation between maternal obesity and subsequent development of obesity in their children. The new Service will refocus resource and target particular groups and areas most in need, including those where there is a correlation between high prevalence of obesity and areas of deprivation.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** The new Service will need time to develop and therefore the extent of the impact is marked low at this time.

## 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:** 13/04/2021

**Name of person completing the EqIA:** Claire Bartoli

**Email address of person completing the EqlA:** Claire.Bartoli@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Place and Public Health

**Your service area:** Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities

**Your team:** Wellbeing and Public Health

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

**Email address of Head of Service:** Adrian.Coggins@essex.gov.uk