

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA220662822

Submitted: 24 June 2020 11:02 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Implementation of the Essex County Council Contact Tracing Service

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): To seek agreement to make the necessary arrangements to have a contact tracing service in place in Essex and Southend on Sea by 29 June 2020. This follows the announcement of the Department of Health and Social Care (DoHSC) on 27 May 2020 regarding its plan to launch the national 'NHS Test and Trace' service.

As part of the DoHSC plans, it was confirmed that although the central service will be run by Public Health England, local authorities would be asked to support, and set up contact tracing services within their respective local areas, and as part of this would need to develop their own outbreak control plans, working in partnership with their regional Public Health England (PHE) colleagues, local NHS and other stakeholders. Local authorities are to be responsible for identifying and containing potential outbreaks in high risk settings such as schools, care homes and workplaces.

The Council proposes to deliver the service by commissioning an external provider to deliver the contact tracing service (the "Service") on behalf of Essex and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. This will be delivered through a dedicated call handling service with the provision of specialist staff with skills in contact tracing investigations.

Officers have developed a local outbreak control plan for Essex and Southend-on-Sea which provides the governance for the contact tracing service, and includes specific outbreak control plans for particular settings such as schools, care homes, workplaces, vulnerable groups and high-risk settings or communities.

As outlined above as part of DoHSC plans, the Council will be working with other District, Borough and City Councils in relation to outbreaks who will provide the support of Environmental Health Officer support for outbreaks in particular settings, such as prisons, workplaces, care homes etc.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Help people get the best start and age well

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well: Improve the health of people in Essex

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: This will be made available in due course

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents: This will be made available in due course

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): Not applicable. The setting up of the contact tracing service is a national requirement imposed by DoHSC

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?: No

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: Yes

Please describe the steps you have taken to meet the digital accessibility requirements: The Council's Public Health Commissioners are working with ECC's Technology Services to commission and install new technology that will allow for data sharing from a single platform for stakeholders to have access so as to minimise the amount of data sharing. Further details will be available shortly regarding the system and access.

Please describe the steps you have taken to test the accessibility of the website, system or application:
Please see above

Please describe the steps you have taken to maintain accessibility once it has gone live: Please see above

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: No impact on any of the above groups

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: NA

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: 24/06/2020

Name of person completing the EqIA: Claire Bartoli

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

Your function: Economy, Localities & 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: chris.french@essex.gov.uk