

Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA325568826

Submitted: 15 April 2021 13:21 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: The Essex Community Wellbeing Service - Reducing Social Isolation (United in Kind)

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 lead provider. This new Service will include United in Kind, which is the existing model for tackling loneliness and social isolation in Essex, and which is delivered through a partnership of voluntary sector and community sector providers, and via various grant agreements.

United in Kind provides a whole system approach to reducing loneliness and social isolation, including befriending, training and opportunity for community led initiatives, as well as building of digital communities. Capacity was further increased by way of response to the pandemic with the mobilisation of the Essex Wellbeing Service and partners to identify, coordinate and deploy welfare support to those at risk from COVID-19 .

Thousands of Essex residents are already being supported each year to look after their wellbeing and connect with their communities. The new Service will continue to build on this further, as part of which it will ensure there is an all age approach which is able to support individuals who find themselves socially isolated or lonely as a result of key transition points which may occur in a person's life, for example, leaving school, becoming a parent, retirement and bereavement. The new Service will also build on supporting those with complex needs, for example, people with Dementia, as part of which will focus on prevention of escalating need and thereby reduce demand on health and social care services.

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

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

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 provided separately

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, 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): One fifth of the Essex population identify as being isolated or lonely; this equates to 250,000 people (or 1 in every 5).

According to the Essex Residents Survey in 2018, 25.5% of residents aged from 16 to 65 plus years across Essex reported feeling isolated from others. This would support findings from engagement activity and research carried out which has revealed some key trends, ie that social isolation and loneliness can occur at key transition points in an individual's life. For example, these include leaving school, becoming a parent, retirement and bereavement etc. There is therefore an interest in and need for an all-age service to support across all ages and including particular groups who may be particularly vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness. For example carers:

Only 26.8% of carers aged 18+ in Essex had as much social contact as they would like, lower than average for England (35.5%) and East of England (31.6%). 25.4% Carers aged 65+ said they had as much social contact as they would like compared to the England (38.3%) and East of England (31.6%) averages.

As stated above, the new Essex Community Wellbeing Service will continue to build on the existing approach to both support challenges faced as a result of health inequalities but also to foster a communities ecosystem for Essex that focuses on a digital first, citizen led model of civic infrastructure. This has the potential to substantially increase scale of Essex residents engaged and being supported, but also ensure a hyperlocal approach, with the opportunity to shape health and wellbeing support to reflect and respond to the differing social, cultural and economic needs which exist across the County, as well as an opportunity to maximise the use of digital solutions to connect people eg through social media channels and building online communities.

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: Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment, Pregnancy / maternity, Race, Religion / belief

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: As stated above, thousands of residents are already being supported through the approach to tackling social isolation and isolation in Essex.

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The new Service will continue to build on the approach which recognises that a person can become socially isolated and lonely as a result of key transition points which may occur during their life at any age, for example, leaving school, becoming a parent, retirement and bereavement.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Many people are already being supported through United in Kind. The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The new Service will build on supporting those with more complex needs, including those who may have a learning disability, and to help people to access information and support to stay healthy and well using the principles of social prescribing, while at the same time preventing needs from escalating and reducing demand on health and social care services.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: As part of the mobilisation of the Essex Wellbeing Service, Care Navigation Plus was developed and embedded into the Service, to support people with increased complex needs. The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The new Service will build on supporting those with more complex needs, including those who may have mental health issues, and to help people to access information and support to stay healthy and well using the principles of social prescribing, while at the same time preventing needs from escalating and reducing demand on health and social care services.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: As part of the mobilisation of the Essex Wellbeing Service, Care Navigation Plus was developed and embedded into the Service, to support people with increased complex needs. The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The new Service will build on supporting those with more complex needs, including those who may have a physical impairment, and to help people to access information and support to stay healthy and well using the principles of social prescribing, while at the same time preventing needs from escalating and reducing demand on health and social care services.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: As part of the mobilisation of the Essex Wellbeing Service, Care Navigation Plus was developed and embedded into the Service, to support people with increased complex needs. The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The new Service will build on supporting those with more complex needs, including those who may have a sensory impairment, and to help people to access information and support to stay healthy and well using the principles of social prescribing, while at the same time preventing needs from escalating and reducing demand on health and social care services.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: As part of the mobilisation of the Essex Wellbeing Service, Care Navigation Plus was developed and embedded into the Service, to support people with increased complex needs. The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The new Service will continue to build on the approach which recognises that a person can become socially isolated and lonely as a result of key transition points which may occur during their life, for example, when becoming a parent.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Many people are already being supported through United in Kind. The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Race

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The existing model already has strong links with faith communities embedded through the Essex Faith Covenant, which was launched on 14th October 2017. It continues to drive the partnership between faith communities and public services through a set of principles that guide engagement. They are key to shaping and driving the United in Kind Social movement to tackle loneliness.

The new Service will continue to build on this, with the potential to substantially increase scale of Essex residents engaged and being supported, but also ensure a hyperlocal approach, with the opportunity to shape health and wellbeing support to reflect and respond to the differing social, cultural and economic needs which exist across the County.

Extent of impact: Medium

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The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The existing model already has strong links with faith communities embedded through the Essex Faith Covenant, which was launched on 14th October 2017. It

continues to drive the partnership between faith communities and public services through a set of principles that guide engagement. They are key to shaping and driving the United in Kind Social movement to tackle loneliness.

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Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Many people are already being supported through United in Kind.

The new Service will continue to build on this hence assessment of impact as medium.

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: 15/04/2021

Name of person completing the EqIA: Claire Bartoli

Email address of person completing the EqIA: 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 EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: Kirsty.OCallaghan@essex.gov.uk