

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA324647738

Submitted: 12 April 2021 05:29 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: The Essex Community Wellbeing Service - NHS Health Checks

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 the NHS Health Checks programme.

In April 2013, the NHS Health Check became a statutory public health service in England. Local authorities are responsible for making provision to offer an NHS Health Check to eligible individuals aged 40-74 years once every five years.

The NHS Health Check programme aims to help prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and certain types of dementia. During the risk assessment standardised tests are used to measure key risk factors and establish the person's risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD). The outcome of the assessment is then used to raise awareness of and identify CVD risk factors, with advice and support being given to help reduce or manage risk.

Senior Health Checks:

Whilst the NHS Health Checks Programme systematically screens people aged 40 – 74 years there is no national service for older people who are at an increased risk of disease.

As part of the new Community Wellbeing Service, the provider will be required to focus on identifying older adults aged 75-84 with previously undiagnosed disease, including management of risk factors, and in turn reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

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): Essex has an excellent track record for delivery of the NHS Health Checks programme.

However, there remain marked variations across areas of Essex in terms of prevalence of related conditions including diabetes, hypertension, and coronary heart disease (CHD). These tend to be most prevalent in more deprived areas, for Tendring and Maldon, which have consistently high prevalence compared to other areas.

It is anticipated that COVID-19 may further impact, ie those with underlying health conditions may be at higher risk of mortality and higher risk of developing conditions. This may also be further exacerbated by people delaying or not seeking care during the pandemic.

Source: Public Health Intelligence Evidence Report to inform resource allocation and delivery plans
Essex County Council Health Inequalities and COVID-19 Report: <https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/v85jw/health-inequalities-and-covid19>.

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, Gender / sex, Race

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: There is already a comprehensive NHS health checks programme in Essex

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: CVD is most common in people over the age of 50, and the risk of developing it increases as people get older. In addition to the NHS Health Checks programme for those aged 40 - 74, the new Essex Community Wellbeing Service will also include Senior Health Checks. Senior Health Checks will focus on identifying older adults aged 75-84 with previously undiagnosed disease, including management of risk factors. This will reduce the risk of the ageing population developing CVD, as well as other long term health conditions.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Significant progress is already underway in respect of the NHS Health Checks programme in Essex and this is expected to continue.

Gender / sex

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Men are more likely to develop CVD disease at an earlier age than women. Early identification through screening as part of the NHS Health Checks programme can help reduce this risk.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Significant progress is already underway in respect of the NHS Health Checks programme in Essex and this is expected to continue.

Race

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: In the UK, CVD is more common in people from BAME communities, ie those of South Asian, African and Caribbean background. This is because they are more likely to have other associated risk factors, such as high blood pressure or type 2 diabetes.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Significant progress is already underway in respect of the NHS Health Checks programme in Essex and this is expected to continue.

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: 12/04/2021

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: Chris.french@essex.gov.uk