

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

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Chief Officer: Elspeth Anwar - Consultant in Public Health/ Assistant Director Public Health

Directorate: Public Health

Date: 27/04/2023

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Wirral Drugs Strategy 2023-2028

Our strategy sets out our vision for uplifting communities and enabling all people in Wirral to live healthy lives free from the harmful impacts of drugs. We will do this by focusing on a few key priorities; protecting children and young people; augmenting our outstanding treatment and recovery system; and reducing drug-related crime. We will also focus on improving the health of people who use drugs, and preventing the early deaths that we see too often. Throughout all our work prevention will be key as will our vision for a positive narrative for recovery, combatting the stigma associated with drug use, and strengthening the voice of people with lived experience.

This is an overarching EIA assessment and will be reviewed and amended as the policy develops and any issues become known. Specific priorities may require a further assessment, which will be done at the earliest stage to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty under The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (s 149 2011)

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

Yes / No If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Adults, Social Care & Public Health – 13th June 2023

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- X **Services**
- The workforce**
- X **Communities**
- X **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

| Which group(s) of people could be affected | Potential positive or negative impact | Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact | Lead person | Timescale | Resource implications |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Race; religion or belief | Negative – It is accepted that some people who have protected characteristics may be affected differently by drug use and accessibility of services | This new strategy takes a partnership approach to service design and delivery to provide an effective response across communities. We will ensure any services are as accessible as possible. The strategy has been developed with input from relevant local partners. This will continue throughout any review process. | Combatting Drugs Partnership | Throughout the lifespan of the strategy | Capacity building |
| All | Negative - It is accepted that some people who have protected characteristics may be affected differently and disproportionately by | This new strategy takes a partnership approach to drug treatment and recovery | Combatting Drugs Partnership | Throughout the lifespan of the | Capacity building |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| | health inequalities | system to provide an effective, local response to improve health and wellbeing and to reduce health inequalities. We will make ensure any services are as accessible as possible. The strategy has been developed with input from local and regional partners. This will continue throughout any review process. | | strategy | |
| Age, Disability | Negative - drug-related exploitation of vulnerable people. | Working together to reduce drug-related crime and harm in Wirral. Building partnership working to prevent drug-related exploitation of vulnerable people. Protecting children and young people (CYP). Strengthen safeguarding for CYP at risk from drug-related exploitation. | Combatting Drugs Partnership | Throughout the lifespan of the strategy | Capacity building |
| All | Negative - We recognise that some people may need information in different languages and or formats. | We will ensure that any information is available in different languages and formats upon request and within a reasonable timeframe. We will be clear on how the public can request information | Combatting Drugs Partnership | We have a call off contract which can be accessed through Procurement | There may be a cost for translation and interpretation services |

Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

We will ensure that a robust governance procedure is in place from strategic level through The Combatting Drugs Partnership through to delivery priorities.

An implementation plan will be produced with key milestones, priorities and performance indicators.

Each delivery plan will have an accountable multiagency lead group who shall meet bi-monthly. Equality implications will be monitored at these meetings.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Local Combatting Drugs Partnerships have been mandated by Government to deliver the aims of the national drugs strategy.

This strategy has been developed in partnership with The Wirral Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP), including Police, Probation, NHS, drug use treatment and recovery services, lived experience, the Voluntary and Community Sector and local authority teams. bringing together a wide range of partners to reduce drug-related harms in Wirral. The Partnership is chaired by the Director of Public Health and reports locally to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Wirral Partnership Board, and to the Merseyside Policing Partnership Board regionally.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

~~Yes / No~~ – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

The strategy has been co-produced with partners and input has been given at all stages. There are no plans at present for any public consultation.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2a)**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 4)**
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**