

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – COMMUNITY

## COVID Winter Grant Scheme

<b>STAGE I: What is being assessed and by whom?</b>	
<p>What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?</p>	<p>When considering this EIA it is important to have due regard to the public sector equalities duties imposed upon the Council by section 149 Equalities Act 2010.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are 9,900 (18.6%) children living in poverty, which is one in five. Data shows that 7,308 children under 16 are living in income deprived households with 79% living in workless households, indicating that they are more likely to be experiencing child poverty. For example, eight out of 10 children living in the Barne Barton neighbourhood are effected by income deprivation.</p> <p>There are four schemes of assistance for our most vulnerable families in Plymouth that will shortly come on-line or where they already exist will be enhanced. The first part is the Winter Grant Scheme (WGS).The funding will be ring-fenced, with at least 80% earmarked to support with food and bills, and will cover the period 18/12/2020-31/03/2021.</p> <p>It will allow councils to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over the holidays. PCC understands which groups need support, and are best placed to ensure appropriate holiday support is provided – which is why they will distribute the funds, rather than schools (but may ask schools to assist with targeting FSM cohort and publicising support), who will continue providing meals for disadvantaged children during term-time.</p> <p>The WGS is not designed to replicate Free School Meals (FSM) in its entirety, but this is a key factor. WGS is wider than children with FSM entitlement. Not all families who qualify for FSM will need this support. However, it is proposed we use the FSM register, together with other registers, to capture and target our most vulnerable families and children.</p> <p>It is clear that this support will need to cover children at risk of going hungry, but also support other vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>Responsible Officer</p>	<p>Ming Zhang, Service Director, Children, Young People and Families</p>

<b>STAGE 1: What is being assessed and by whom?</b>	
	<p><a href="mailto:Ming.Zhang@plymouth.gov.uk">Ming.Zhang@plymouth.gov.uk</a></p> <p>The Government has created a COVID WGS to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals. PCC is in the project planning stages of distributing WGS funding and other support schemes. It will be important to identify and target cohorts of our most vulnerable citizens.</p> <p>PCC has some flexibility around how they administer the funding – which may include cash, the provision of food, vouchers, or funding through third party organisations. However there are set categories of spend - one relates to household composition and one relates to the type of support being provided e.g. food, energy, water and other.</p>
Department and Service	Children’s Services, EPS and People, Strategic Cooperative Commissioning
Date of Assessment	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Author	Mark Mortimer MBE

<b>STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact</b>				
<b>Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)</b>	<b>Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)</b>	<b>Any adverse impact?</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timescale and who is responsible?</b>
Age	There 60,200 CYP aged 0-19 in the city (22.9% 2015). Of the 16 SW authorities, we have the fifth highest percentage of children and young people (under 18). CYP under 18 account for 19.8 per cent of our population, within this 88.8 per cent are under 16.	No. Children’s Programme intentions confirm the ambition to truly give every Child the “Best Start to Life”, by commissioning and providing place based Integrated Children, Young People and Families services covering wellbeing, physical and mental health, social care	Provide assistance and support for our most vulnerable children, young people and families in our society, across the full range of ages. Incorporating various schemes, including WGS and HAF	December 2020 – December 2021. Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle

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	<p>In Plymouth there are 9,900 (18.6%) children living in poverty, which is one in five. Data shows that 7,308 children under 16 are living in income deprived households with 79% living in workless households, indicating that they are more likely to be experiencing child poverty.</p> <p>The average age in Plymouth (39.0yrs) is about the same as the rest of England (39.3yrs), but less than the South West (41.6yrs). Of the 16 South West authorities we have the third lowest percentage of older people (75yrs), and the fifth highest percentage of children and young people (under 18). Children and young people (CYP) under 18 accounts for 19.9 per cent of our population, within this 90 per cent are under 16. It is estimated that 6.8 per cent of young people in our city aged between 16 and 18yrs are not in</p>	<p>and education. Children, young people and families will be supported to stay healthy, achieve and aspire. The WGS and other schemes will support our ambitions, during these challenging times, which includes support to other vulnerable groups</p>		

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	Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (DfE, 2018). The proportion of the working age population (15 - 64) is higher at 65 per cent than regionally (62 per cent) and nationally (64 per cent).			
Disability	There are 3,142 children with disability. Plymouth schools report that of every 1,000 children 17.5 have a learning difficulty. More people are living with a disability now than in the past because we're living longer and improved medical treatments are enabling more people to manage long-term health problems. The Equality and Human Rights Commission say that the majority of people over 50 will have a long-term health condition by 2020. A total of 31,164 people (from 28.5 per cent of households) declared themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability (national figure 25.7	No adverse disability related impact has been identified because of the current work package.	The children & young people and adults we care for often have complex and challenging needs. We need to target our most vulnerable children and families in our society. The most efficient way of achieving this in a timely manner is to use our existing networks to distribute grant funding and provide the MI returns required to release further funding in February and April 2021.	December 2020 – December 2021. Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle

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	per cent of households), compared with the total number of people with disabilities in UK (11,600,000). 10% of our population have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by a long-term health problem or disability. 1,297 adults registered with a GP in Plymouth have some form of learning disability (2013/14). There are 27166 adults with a disability in work. There are 23,407 carers aged between 18 and 64 in Plymouth known to our services. There are 17,937 state pension age people with disability. 2011.			
Faith, Religion or Belief	There is no specific CYP data for this category. However, data shows 32.9% of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. Those with a Hindi, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh religion combined totalled less than 1%. 58.1% of those who responded declared	This projects & its work packages will not discriminate against faith, religion or belief as those affected will have social equality proactively enhanced. The in-scope services and functions affected will work with vulnerable children, and	A periodic, comprehensive census is required to capture relevant data related to CYP and vulnerable families, within the confines of data protection legislation and requirements.	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team  Commissioning team

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	themselves Christian. 0.8% declared that they were of Islam, 0.3% Buddhist; 0.2% Hindu; 0.1% Jewish; 0.1% Sikh. 0.5% of the population had a current religion that was not Christian, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, or Sikh such as Paganism or Spiritualism.	families, irrespective of faith, religion or belief.		
Gender - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	Analysis from the Office for National Statistics shows that one in five women (compared to 4% of men) have experienced some type of sexual assault since the age of 16. Survey results have shown that 59% of girls aged 13-21 have faced some form of sexual harassment at school or college in the past year and almost a third (29%) of 16-18 year old girls have experienced unwanted sexual touching at school. In 2014, approximately 30 girls aged under 18 conceived for every 1,000 women aged 15-17 years in this area. This is higher than	The project and its work packages will not discriminate against gender, as those affected will have social equality proactively enhanced. The services affected by the requirements of the project and its work packages will work with all vulnerable CYP and families, irrespective of gender.	A periodic, comprehensive census is required to capture relevant data related to CYP, within the confines of data protection and child protection legislation and requirements  The Authority will ensure service accessibility via on-going commissioning management	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles

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	the regional average (approximately 19 per 1,000). The area has a higher teenage conception rate compared with the England average (approximately 23 per 1,000), although there is a downward trend in under 18 conceptions in Plymouth.			
Gender Reassignment	There is no specific CYP data for this category, but the average age for presentation for reassignment of male-to-females is 40-49. For female-to-male the age group is 20-29, it is anticipated the number of CYP affected in the city is small.	No gender reassignment related impact has been identified. The services affected by the project and its work packages will work with all vulnerable CYP and families, regardless of gender reassignment.	PCC will ensure service accessibility via on-going management.	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles
Race	White British boys are less likely to do well than most Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (BAME) pupils. Pupils from Indian and Chinese communities outperform White British pupils whilst children from Black Afro Caribbean, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi	The in-scope services and functions affected will work with all vulnerable CYP and families, irrespective of race.	PCC will ensure service accessibility via on-going commissioning management.  Appropriate measures need to be put in place to ensure that language barriers do not adversely	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles

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	<p>communities do less well. Roma and Irish Traveller children do least well. Locally at the current time, immigration is not significantly adding to the pressure on school places, as migrant children tend to attend schools that would otherwise have unwanted places. Some areas of the city are more diverse than others: the area around the university, the city centre, Stonehouse and the East End are among the most diverse. Plymouth's headline community cohesion rate (77 per cent) is significantly lower than the national average. The Plymouth Wellbeing Survey 2014 found that 52.7 per cent of Plymouth residents felt that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. Non-white British residents were more likely to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well</p>		affect person centred assessments and support.	

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	together (68 per cent) compared with white British residents (51 per cent). There is a strong correlation between areas with high levels of deprivation and low levels of community cohesion.			
Sexual Orientation -including Civil Partnership	There is no precise local data on numbers of Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual (LGB) CYP in Plymouth. If such data were held, specifics would not be published owing to the sensitivity of the information, especially within this most vulnerable group.	No adverse impact has been identified in services affected by the project or its work packages.	PCC will ensure service accessibility via on-going management.	December 2020 – December 2021. Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle

<b>STAGE 3: Are there any implications for the following? If so, please record 'Actions' to be taken</b>		
<b>Local Priorities</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Timescale and who is responsible?</b>
<b>Reduce the inequality gap, particularly in health between communities.</b>	The actions identified above will positively impact on vulnerable CYP and families. This project aims to minimise the impact on outcomes of COVID and the winter season, by delivering food and utility support to those that most need it.	December 2020 – December 2021. Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle

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<b>Local Priorities</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Timescale and who is responsible?</b>
	<p>Vulnerable CYP and families will experience improved support, not only during the winter months, but beyond. We and our partners are committed to being effective, caring, and ambitious in our delivery of WGS and other schemes.</p> <p>Commissioning strategies, action plans and workforce development will improve cooperation between all the services that support vulnerable CYP &amp; their families.</p>	
<b>Good relations between different communities (community cohesion).</b>	No adverse impact on community cohesion has been identified, as statutory requirements will enable vulnerable CYP and families to access good quality support and services whatever their circumstances.	December 2020 – December 2021. Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle
<b>Human Rights</b>	It is important that all CYP and families are treated fairly, their views are taken into account and that their human rights have been respected. No adverse impact on human rights has been identified.	December 2020 – December 2021. Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle

<b>STAGE 4: Publication</b>			
Director, Assistant Director/Head of Service approving EIA.	Ming Zhang and Craig McArdle	Date	9 December 2020