

# 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 before housing costs are considered, Once housing costs are included one in three children live in poverty. 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>The department for Works and Pensions (DWP) has recently announced the launch of a Covid Local Support Grant (CLSG) extension. Additional funding (£871,567.58) is being provided, subject to Treasury final approval. The funding will be ring-fenced with at least 80% earmarked to support with food and bills. In addition to funds already allocated by the DWP the period covered is revised to 21/06/2021-30/09/2021.</p> <p>It will allow PCC to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over the summer school holidays. PCC understands which groups need support, and are best placed to ensure appropriate holiday support is provided – which is why we will distribute the funds, rather than schools (but will 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 CLSG is not designed to replicate Free School Meals (FSM) in its entirety, but this is a key factor. CLSG 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>

<b>STAGE 1: What is being assessed and by whom?</b>	
Responsible Officer	Ming Zhang, Service Director, Children, Young People and Families <a href="mailto:Ming.Zhang@plymouth.gov.uk">Ming.Zhang@plymouth.gov.uk</a>  The Government has created CLSG to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals. On 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021 DWP announced an extension and additional CLSG funding.  PCC intends to purchase and facilitate the provision of food vouchers through schools and Early Years (EY) settings and support the food element of the 'Fit & Fed' programme.
Department and Service	Children's Services, EPS and People, Strategic Cooperative Commissioning
Date of Assessment	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021
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	Children and young people (CYP) under 18 account for 20 per cent of our population, with 18 per cent being 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 and education. Children,	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	June – September 2021. Ming Zhang

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		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		
Disability	<p>When compared with its statistical neighbours, Plymouth has continued to see a year-on-year increase in pupils identified with special educational needs and disabilities. The 2020 School Census identified 6625 school age children with SEND (17.1% of the school age population and the national average is 14.8%)</p> <p>In June 2021 there are 2376 children and young people aged 0-25 years old with an Education, Health and Care Plan.</p>	No adverse disability related impact has been identified because of the current work package.	The children & young people and adults we support often have complex and challenging needs. We need to target our most vulnerable children and families in our society for support. 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.	June – September 2021. Ming Zhang

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	<p>With the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans in September 2014, early data indicates an initial fall in the number of requests for statutory assessment and the impact of the legislative changes will be monitored. Many of the children with Education, Health and Care Plans have complex medical needs, including continuing healthcare and mental health issues.</p> <p>School Census 2020 reported that of the school age children with identified SEND:</p> <p>4% - physical disability (266 children)</p> <p>0.3% - profound learning disability (21 children)</p> <p>0.3 % multi sensory needs (22 children)</p> <p>In the broader group of children with special educational needs/disability</p>			

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	<p>(including those without a Education Health and Care Plan), it has been identified that there are currently around 1,500 children and young people identified with communication interaction needs, including Autistic Spectrum Condition, on the school aged caseload for specialist support. Of these young people, 20% are identified as having significant and challenging needs.</p> <p>People with disabilities may experience harassment and discrimination. Consultation feedback tells us that children with disabilities often worry about being bullied.</p> <p>People with disabilities are less likely to feel valued and score poorly against happiness and life satisfaction measures. People with disabilities report higher levels of anxiety and this has marginally increased as a result of the COVID-19</p>			

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	pandemic (4.47 out of 10, compared with 2.91 out of 10)			
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 themselves to be 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.	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 families, irrespective of faith, religion or belief.	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
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	The project and its work packages will not discriminate against gender, as those affected	A periodic, comprehensive census is required to capture relevant data related to CYP, within the	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles

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	<p>of sexual assault since the age of 16. The Women and Equalities Select Committee are currently holding full inquiries on sexual harassment of women and girls in public places following the emergence of widespread allegations of sexual assault and harassment across the UK. A previous inquiry into sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools found that the sexual harassment and abuse of girls is accepted as part of daily life. Although there is a lack of data on this issue, 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</p>	<p>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, marital status or pregnancy.</p>	<p>confines of data protection and child protection legislation and requirements</p> <p>The Authority will ensure service accessibility via on-going commissioning management</p>	

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	<p>this area. This is higher than 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.</p>			
Gender Reassignment	<p>Many young people experiencing gender issues who decide to Transition, may do so around the onset of puberty and this can bring them into conflict with parents, family and friends, who may find it difficult to accept their gender identity. Younger children can only Transition with parental consent, when this is given, and accompanied with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, they may be given drugs to delay the onset of puberty until they reach the age of consent. There is very little data to draw on when looking to</p>	<p>No gender reassignment related impact has been identified. The services affected by the project and its work packages will work will all vulnerable CYP and families, regardless of gender reassignment.</p>	<p>PCC will ensure service accessibility via on-going management.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles</p>



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	<p>provide a local Plymouth picture of gender identity issues, particularly as LGBT+ is the commonly used acronym to describe a number of different groups; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual describe sexual orientation, (who you are emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to), and Trans to describe gender identity, (whether an individual identifies that they are male or female or some other gender which does not fit into binary terminology). The '+' refers to those with a sexual orientation or gender identity which does not easily fit into the standard terms LGBT. As information is often grouped together under LGBT+ it makes it difficult to identify issues relating just to gender identity and to separate out any supporting data.</p> <p>Evidence shows that when people reveal their gender</p>			

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	<p>preference, they are exposed to a risk of discrimination, bullying and hate crime and are more likely to report mental health conditions and to attempt suicide than the general population. Dealing with victimisation can be difficult, for those Trans individuals who decide to Transition or not, evidence shows that other emotional or psychological issues may arise which can lead to life changing events such as homelessness, loss of employment or rejection by family and friends. Other known issues include the lack of gender neutral facilities in public spaces and the feeling of frustration of having to change or explain legal documents (driver's license, passport, titles to property, diplomas, etc.)</p>			
Race	White British boys are less likely to do well in education than most Black and	The in-scope services and functions affected will work with all vulnerable	PCC will ensure service accessibility via on-going	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles

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	<p>Minority Ethnic Communities (BAME) pupils. Pupils from Indian and Chinese communities outperform White British pupils whilst children from Black Afro Caribbean, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi communities do less well. Roma and Irish Traveller children do least well. 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.</p> <p>Plymouth's headline community cohesion rate (77 per cent) is significantly lower than the national average. There is a strong correlation between areas with high levels of deprivation and low levels of community cohesion.</p>	CYP and families, irrespective of race.	<p>commissioning management.</p> <p>Appropriate measures need to be put in place to ensure that language barriers do not adversely affect person centred assessments and support.</p>	

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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.	June – September 2021. Ming Zhang

<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 health inequalities</b>	<p>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.</p> <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>June-September 2021.</p> <p>Ming Zhang</p>

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	Commissioning strategies, action plans and workforce development will improve cooperation between all the services that support vulnerable CYP & their families.	
<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.	June-September 2021. Ming Zhang

<b>STAGE 4: Publication</b>			
Director, Assistant Director/Head of Service approving EIA.	Ming Zhang	Date	05 June 2021