

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Transportation of bodies on behalf of HM Coroner



STAGE I: WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED AND BY WHOM?

<p>What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?</p>	<p>The project will look to renew a Contract for contractors to provide a service to transport deceased persons between the place of death to the Coroner's chosen destination(s). The majority of bodies are currently transported to the Department of Anatomical Pathology at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust in Plymouth. In some cases, bodies may need to be transported to other locations including long distance transfers within the UK for forensic and non-forensic post mortems.</p> <p>The Coroner for Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon is required to arrange the removal of bodies from the place of death or body holding area to the designated mortuary in order to allow the investigation of sudden unexpected death, unnatural deaths and those required to be reported to the Coroner under the Coroner's Act. This service is a statutory service in which the Coroner needs to work closely with police and other statutory agencies such as the Health and Safety Executive to preserve the evidence and establish the identity of the deceased to an appropriate level, and establish the cause of death. Removal of the body by an undertaker to a public mortuary or designed holding place is required by the Local Authority to comply with Public Health legislation especially where it is a destitute body.</p> <p>The new service arrangements will provide continuity of service to the Coronial function and it is proposed to effectively mirror the current arrangements in terms of specification and outputs.</p> <p>A joint procurement exercise with Torbay Council will ensure that any new contract for the transportation of bodies reflects the whole Coroner area (Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon) and supports the Service Level Agreement arrangement.</p>	
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<p>Department and service</p>	<p>Customer Services – Coroner's Service</p>	
<p>Date of assessment</p>	<p>1 October 2020</p>	

STAGE 2: EVIDENCE AND IMPACT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact See guidance on how to make judgement	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible
Age	<p>It is estimated that 6.4 per cent (330) of young people in our city aged 16 and 17 are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (DFE, 2019). Young people highlight training and employment opportunities, particularly apprenticeships, as a key priority.</p> <p>Of the 16 South West authorities we have the third lowest percentage of older people (75 years), and the fifth highest percentage of children and young people (under 18). Children and young people (CYP) under 18 account for 19.9 per cent of our population, within this 90 per cent are under 16.</p> <p>People are living longer and one in three people in our community is aged over 50. There will be a shift in the population structure of Plymouth over the next fifteen years as the proportion of the population aged 65 and over increases.</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of age.</p>		
Disability	<p>10 per cent of our population have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by a long-term</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of disability.</p>		

	<p>health problem or disability. – 2011 census data</p> <p>Similarly, 148,950 people were registered as partially sighted (640 in Plymouth). Our Translate Plymouth services recorded that BSL is amongst our most requested languages.</p> <p>British Sign Language (BSL) is the preferred language of over 87,000 Deaf people in the UK for whom English may be a second or third language (British Deaf Association).</p> <p>1,845 adults registered with a GP have some form of learning disability (as recorded on practice disease registers), 2017/18.</p> <p>A total of 31,164 people declared themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability in the 2011 Census.</p> <p>1,224 adults currently registered with a GP in Plymouth have some form of a Learning Disability.</p>			
Religion or belief	<p>Data shows that 32.9% of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion.</p> <p>Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Sikh combined totalled less than 1%.</p> <p>0.5% of the population had a current religion that was not</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of faith/religion or belief</p>	<p>Wherever possible, Coroners will take into account your faith and cultural needs and preferences.</p>	

	Christian, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, or Sikh such as Paganism or Spiritualism.			
Sex - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	<p>Citywide data shows that overall 50.2% of our population are women; this reflects the national figure of 50.7%</p> <p>Of those aged 16 and over, 90,765 people (42.9 per cent) are married and 78,544 (37.1 per cent) are single. 5,190 (2.5 per cent) are separated and still legally married or legally in a same-sex civil partnership. 22,272 (10.5 per cent) are divorced.</p>	<p>No adverse effect.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of gender, marriage, pregnancy or maternity.</p>		
Gender reassignment	<p>There are no official estimates for gender reassignment at either national or local level. However, in a study funded by the Home Office, the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIREs) estimate that between 300,000 and 500,000 people aged 16 or over in the UK are experiencing some degree of gender variance.</p>	<p>No adverse effect.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of gender reassignment.</p>		
Race	<p>92.9% of Plymouth's population is White British</p> <p>7.1% are Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) with White Other (2.7%), Chinese (0.5%) and Other Asian (0.5%) the most common.</p>	<p>No adverse effect.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of race.</p>		

	Our recorded BME population rose from 3 per cent in 2001 to 6.7 per cent in 2011, and therefore has more than doubled since the 2001 census. Recent census data suggests we have at least 43 main languages spoken in the city, showing Polish, Chinese and Kurdish as the top three			
Sexual orientation - including civil partnership	<p>When looking to specifically profile LGBT+ issues in Plymouth there is very little local data to draw on and much of the data refers to the LBGT+ community and therefore includes 'transgender'.</p> <p>New figures from the annual population survey have revealed that the number of people identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual in the UK has increased from 1.6% in 2014 to 2.2% in 2018, an increase of more than a third</p>	<p>No adverse effect.</p> <p>The service is provided regardless of regardless of sexual orientation.</p>		

STAGE 3: ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING? IF SO, PLEASE RECORD ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Local priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible
Celebrate diversity and ensure that Plymouth is a welcoming city.	None	
Pay equality for women, and staff with disabilities in our workforce.	None	

Supporting our workforce through the implementation of Our People Strategy 2020 – 2024	None	
Supporting victims of hate crime so they feel confident to report incidents, and working with, and through our partner organisations to achieve positive outcomes.	None	
Plymouth is a city where people from different backgrounds get along well.	None	
Human rights Please refer to guidance	None	

STAGE 4: PUBLICATION

Responsible Officer Cheryl Spear

Date 18 May 2021

Strategic Director, Service Director or Head of Service