



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)
Proforma

Appendix 3

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Proforma

An EqIA is a tool to assess whether a decision, policy, service or function pays 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

This Duty requires public bodies to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

The Equality Duty covers the following **9 protected characteristics**:

Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership. In addition, this EqIA process includes; **care experience, rurality, socio-economic status** and the **armed forces community**.

The EqIA process has two stages:

- **Screening EqIA:** This checks whether a decision, policy, service or function pays due regard to the Equality Duty; to provide any high-level advice or take immediate action; to determine if a full EqIA is required.
- **Full EqIA:** Sometimes called Equality Analysis, this looks at a decision, policy, service or function with supporting data, information, research and evidence from consultation/engagement. The EIA covers the nine protected characteristics as well as rurality, socio-economic status, care experience and armed forces personnel/ veterans. A full EqIA includes an action plan.

Where an EqIA relates to a Council Member Decision it should be included as an appendix to the committee report.

Equality Impact Assessment – Screening

1) Decision/Policy/Service/Function

Westmorland and Furness Council Plan Delivery Framework 2024/25 and Westmorland and Furness Council Performance Management Framework

2) Background and summary of Equality Advice

The Delivery Framework provides the overarching framework for the delivery of council services during 2024/25. It identifies 10 strategic themes, related missions and lists of service delivery activity for the coming year that will support achievement of those missions. The framework also identifies equity as one of the three underpinning sustainability principles that the council has adopted (alongside economy and environment), and as such sets the overall context for the council's approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.

The Performance Management Framework provides the overarching framework for how council performance will be monitored and managed, including a set of corporate performance indicators that will be used to help assessment of progress towards achieving goals set out in the delivery framework and the mechanism by which that will be publicly reported.

Neither document relate to specific service decisions, and as such in themselves do not have equality impacts. However, within the Delivery Framework are identified many projects, programmes, strategies and activities that will require their own Equality Impact Assessments. The Delivery Framework also specifically identifies delivery of the recently agreed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action plan as one of the council's priorities for 2024/25 and a set of performance indicators related to that are intended to be included in corporate performance reporting.

3) Consultation

Neither the Delivery Framework or Performance Management Framework have been the subject of formal consultation, however, both have been shared informally with a range of internal and external stakeholders for feedback. Scrutiny Members and Locality Board Chairs and Vice Chairs have all had opportunity to comment on draft versions of the documents and their feedback has been taken into consideration.

4) Equality screening

Equality protected characteristic	Impact Y/N	Describe impact (if Yes)	Measures to address impact (if Yes)	Full EqIA needed Y/N
Age	N			
Disability	N			
Gender reassignment	N			
Marriage or civil partnership	N			
Pregnancy or maternity	N			
Race	N			
Religion or belief	N			
Sex	N			
Sexual orientation	N			
Care Experience	N			
People in rural areas	N			
Socio-economic status	N			
Armed-forces personnel/veterans	N			
General (other considerations)	N			

5) Full EqlA required (evidence of substantial impact)?

Yes

No

Full Equality Impact Assessment template

Section 1: About the Decision, Policy, Service or Function

Name and relevance of Decision/Policy/Service/Function being assessed to the PSED	
Job Title of Officer completing EIA	
Department/service area	
Telephone number and email contact	
Date of Assessment	
Objectives of decision/policy/service/function. Which objectives relate to the PSED?	
Key stakeholders and consultees	

Section 2: Information Gathering

What **relevant** information, evidence, data and research have you used to build up a picture of the likely impacts of your decision/policy/service/function on the protected characteristic and other groups listed below.

Information source	Location of information (give a link here if applicable)	What does the data/information tell us?

Add rows as necessary.

Section 3: Assessment of impact

From the information above identify the impacts on each of the groups below of your proposal.

Equality group	Positive (tick)	Adverse (tick)	Neutral (tick)	What is the impact?	Mitigating actions proposed (to address adverse impact)
Age					
Disability					
Gender reassignment					
Marriage and civil partnership status					
Pregnancy and maternity					
Race					
Religion and/or belief					
Sex					
Sexual orientation					
Care Experience					
People in rural areas					
Socio-economic status					
Armed-forces personnel/veterans					

Section 4: Action Planning

What is the negative/adverse impact or area for further action	Actions proposed to reduce/eliminate the negative impact	Who will lead on the actions?	Resource implications/ resources required	When? (target completion date)	Monitoring Arrangements

Add rows as necessary.

Section 5. Outcome of Equality Impact Assessment (tick appropriate box)

No major change needed - the analysis shows the policy is robust and evidence shows no potential for discrimination.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjust the policy/service/function - alternatives have been considered and steps taken to remove barriers or to better advance equality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete the action plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adverse impact(s) identified but continue - this will need a justification or reason. Complete the action plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 6. Review

Date of next review of the Equality Impact Assessment	Who will carry out this review?