

Initial Equalities Impact Assessment

1. Within the aims and objectives of the policy or strategy which group (s) of people has been identified as being potentially disadvantaged by your proposals? What are the equality impacts?

The funding of advice services relates to services which are used disproportionately by people on low incomes, from ethnic minorities and people who have a disability or long term illness. However the proposals are aimed at strengthening the link between the provision of services and the outcomes for customers. As such there are no anticipated equality impacts.

2. In brief, what changes are you planning to make to your current or proposed new or changed policy, strategy, procedure, project or service to minimise or eliminate the adverse equality impacts?

Please provide further details of the proposed actions, timetable for making the changes and the person(s) responsible for making the changes on the resultant action plan

The proposed change is to investigate the best model for funding advice services. It is intended that greater outcomes will be achieved for customers by ensuring that any new funding model prioritises the ability to deliver high quality frontline services to customers who require them. In addition the outcomes to be achieved from these services will be more closely aligned to the outcomes of the Council's Financial Inclusion Strategy.

3. Please provide details of whom you will consult on the proposed changes and if you do not plan to consult, please provide the rationale behind that decision.

Please note that you are required to involve disabled people in decisions that impact on them

Consultation will be undertaken with both providers and users of advice services, including people who are disabled.

4. Can the adverse impacts you identified during the initial screening be justified without making any adjustments to the existing or new policy, strategy, procedure, project or service?

Please set out the basis on which you justify making no adjustments

There are no envisaged adverse impacts.

5. You are legally required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts.

Please provide details of how you will monitor/evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place

Detailed monitoring is currently undertaken of existing advice services, and this will continue under any new arrangements agreed by CEB. This includes collecting data on protected characteristics of service users. As such any changes will be able to be easily identified. Data is collected on a 6 monthly basis from funded organisations, with an annual monitoring visit undertaken in person by the Revenues & Benefits Programme Manager.

Lead officer responsible for signing off the EqIA: Paul Wilding

Role: Revenues & Benefits Programme Manager

Date: 3 November 2016