

## Equality Impact Assessment Form (Page 1 of 2)

**Title of EIA/ DDM:** Statutory Advocacy  
**Department:** Children's & Families  
**Service Area:** Strategy & Commissioning  
**Author (assigned to Covalent):** Rasool Gore

**Name of Author:** Rasool Gore  
**Director:** Colin Monckton  
**Strategic Budget EIA**

**Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:**

Advocacy is the mechanism by which a range of vulnerable groups are supported to have their voices heard and have equal access to provision or opportunities. The Council is legally bound to have the following types of statutory advocacy; Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (Mental Health Act 2005); Independent Mental Health Advocates (Mental Health Act 2007); Paid Representatives (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS), NHS Complaints Advocacy and Advocacy under the Care Act 2015.

A new model of statutory advocacy has had to be developed in order for the City Council and its partners to meet the additional pressures under the Mental Health Act (2005/7), Care Act 2014 and case law.

The new model expands upon the current statutory advocacy model and greater financial investment has had to be found in order to meet the additional pressures. Given the increasing cost of statutory advocacy and the general financial pressures it was recognised that the non-statutory element of the current contract was no longer financially feasible. Going forward under the new model all non-statutory advocacy will be met through the NHS City Clinical Commissioning Group.

The current investment into advocacy services is £336,538 per annum this will be increased to £401,367 per annum. Efficiencies have also been made by going into partnership with County Council and the NHS CCG's to ensure that the investment is directed to citizens and management and administrative cost are kept to a minimum. Despite this level of increase it has not been possible for the Council to continue financially supporting non statutory advocacy at its current level.

However as part of the new model there will be some investment set aside for the contractor to pick up those citizens that do not fit into statutory advocacy or the non- statutory advocacy funded by the CCG's but are assessed as needing some level of support. This should provide some insight into the impact of the reduction of non-statutory advocacy which will advise the commissioning of any future advocacy going forward.

The impact of reducing the investment into non-statutory advocacy on the Deaf Community has been mitigated; (to an extent) as the Big Lottery has funded an advocacy specifically aimed at this group.

**Information used to analyse the effects on equality:**

Extensive consultation has been undertaken to inform the development of the new model. The consultation particularly focused on current users, their carers, SPLAT Board, potential users and frontline staff. Data from the current contract was also utilised.

|                                      | <b>Could particularly benefit</b><br>X | <b>May adversely impact</b><br>X | <b>How different groups could be affected</b><br>(Summary of impacts) | <b>Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact</b><br>(or why action isn't possible) |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| People from different ethnic groups. | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>         | Older people, people with   | The Care Act 2014 and case law   |

|  |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Men  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Women  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Trans  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Disabled people or carers.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pregnancy/ Maternity   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Older  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Younger  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| vulnerable adults<br><br><b><i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i></b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

learning disabilities and people with a mental health condition currently using the non-statutory advocacy service. These groups could be left without sufficient support in getting their voices heard. This could lead to a potential deterioration of their condition/s.

places a greater responsibility on the Council to provide statutory advocacy to a wider group of people. This will pick up some people that are currently being picked up by non-statutory advocacy.

Some non-statutory advocacy will still be delivered via the investment through the CCG's.

There is some investment under the new model to offer support those that do not fit into statutory advocacy or the funded non-statutory advocacy.

The Big Lottery is also funding a national advocacy targeted at the Deaf Community and therefore some current users of non-statutory advocacy will access this new service.

There will be a continuing dialogue with the SPLAT Board who represent the views of people and their carer's with learning disabilities and autism. This should ensure that any major adverse impacts are picked up quickly with the contractor.

**Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:**

- No major change needed  •Adjust the policy/proposal  •Adverse impact but continue
- Stop and remove the policy/proposal

**Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:** The service specification will ensure that the:

- successful contractor is signed up to the Council's Equality and Diversity policy

- that the service is delivered in an anti-discriminatory manner
- equality targets (where relevant) will be included and
- arrangements for contract review and performance in relation to equality will be evaluated as part of review and ongoing contract management.

**Approved by (manager signature):**

The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel & email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.

**Date sent to equality team for publishing:**

Send document or link to:  
[equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)