

Equality Impact Assessment Form (Page 1 of 2)

Title of EIA/DDM: Information, Advice and Support for children and young people with SEND and their families

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Department: Education

Service Area: Disability & Inclusion

Director: Pat & Sarah Fielding

Strategic Budget EIA Y/N (please underline)

Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:

This EIA pertains to proposed arrangements for re-commissioning services providing Information, Advice and Support to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families. The proposed service will commence from 1st April 2018.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND and their families under the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

Nottingham City Council currently provide a range of Information, Advice and Support (IAS) services. Some of the services are provided jointly with Nottinghamshire County Council, and one is provided jointly with NHS Nottingham City CCG. The services are valued by the citizens they support, and have different purposes, but some of the functions of the services overlap. This creates confusion for citizens, who don't necessarily benefit from support from several different organisations.

The proposed new service will provide clearer pathways for children and families with SEND in relation to accessing information, advice and support, enable children and families with SEND to have more say in services that will support them, and ensure children and families with SEND are able to access information in a timely manner, improving their opportunities for self-care.

This EIA should be read in conjunction with the following reports –

- Information, Advice and Support Services for children and young people with SEND and their families – report to Commissioning & Procurement Sub-committee June 2017
- Information, Advice and Support Services Update – report to Commissioning Executive Group June 2017

Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

Analysis

A review of how we provide information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND and their families is currently underway. Analysis of current services has taken place, including performance and demographic information from the following services:

- Ask Us Information, advice and support service
- Nottingham Citycare Partnership Key Works service
- Ask Iris information service

Further details of the service reviews can be found in the Analysis Product – IASS Strategic Commissioning Review, 2017, and in the folder [..\..\Analysis\Service reviews 2017](#)

<http://jsna.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insight/Strategic-Framework/Nottingham-JSNA/Children-and-young-people/Children-and-Young-People-Special-Educational-Need.aspx>

Consultations

- With parents and families via physical surveys face-to-face and online via Survey Monkey.
- With children/young people with SEND via an engagement tool/game developed by City Council engagement officers in partnership with Rainbow Parent Carer Forum. The game was used to engage 51 young people aged 11-19, from special schools across Nottingham City and from Rainbow Parent Carer Forum, with a range of needs.
- With providers, key stakeholders from Education, Health and Social Care settings and parent carer reps via an Options Generation event. Attendees took part in group discussions to identify and shape possible service models. Details of the Options Generation event can be found here - [..\Options Generation\Options Generation event - Joint IAS SCR - FINAL REDACTED.ppt](#)

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X	How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)	Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)
People from different ethnic groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><u>People from different ethnic groups</u> The ethnic breakdown of the 1,025 children on Nottingham City Disabled Children Register in February 2015 was broadly similar to the census, with 38% belonging to a BME group. It's recognised that families from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities are less likely to access services and support than in the general population. In particular many BME parent/carers do not receive any support, advice or carer's assessments.</p>	<p>The IAS review has considered demographic information from current services, including ethnicity breakdown. From service data appears that the services are supporting families from BME communities in approximate proportion to the population of Nottingham City. It's noted that for the Key Workers service a high proportion of service users did not have their ethnicity recorded, so there may be some variation in this which is not being recorded.</p> <p>The requirement to provide adequate information and support to families from different ethnic groups will be included in the contract for the new IAS service. This will include providing information in other languages where appropriate but also considering culturally appropriate support such as providing support staff of a specific gender that the citizen can speak to where this is preferred.</p>
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled people or carers.	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>		
Younger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, <u>looked after children</u> , cohesion/ good relations, <u>vulnerable children/ adults</u>).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i>				

			<p><u>Gender</u> The prevalence of SEN is higher in males - 68% of Nottingham City pupils with SEN are male, and 74% of Nottingham City children with a statement/EHCP are male. Conversely the parent who is the main carer is more likely to be female; 60% of all carers in England are females. Therefore male children and female adults are more likely to require information and support around SEN and related issues.</p> <p><u>Disability</u> Children and young people with SEN experience significant barriers to learning but do not necessarily have a disability. Equally, children and young people with disabling conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN – it's estimated that approximately three-quarters of 'disabled' children are also identified as SEN. The parents/carers of the child or young person may also have additional needs of their own. It's acknowledged that families of children/young people with SEND struggle to know where to go for information. The purpose of the IAS service is to address this issue. Some of the funding for the current services provided through the SEND reforms funding, and not guaranteed after April 2018. Additionally some of the funding is provided by NHS Nottingham City CCG and has not been guaranteed after April 2018. If this funding is not available the new service will operate with reduced functions, and will not be able to provide the same degree of support around applications for Education, Health and Care Plans, as is currently available.</p>	<p>The requirement to provide information, advice and support which is appropriate and accessible to citizens irrespective of gender will be included in the contract for the new IAS service.</p> <p>The requirement to provide information, advice and support relating to a broad range of abilities and needs, to citizens who themselves have a broad spectrum of abilities and levels of comprehension will be included in the contract for the new IAS service. This will include providing information in clear, understandable, citizen-friendly terms, easy read formats, face-to-face support where there is a need, and access to sign language translation where required.</p> <p>The service will also be required to link to the Nottinghamshire Carers Hub to ensure parent/carers have access to Carers Assessments and appropriate support.</p> <p>If funding to support Education, Health and Care Plan applications is not available, the pathway will need to be re-modelled.</p>
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Age

It's a statutory requirement that IAS services must provide information to both parent/carers and to the children and young people themselves. Less than 5% of contacts to current information services come directly from the young person. However it's not known whether young people are not accessing services because they are unsuitable /unappealing or because for most children/young people their preference is for the parent carer to access information on the young person's behalf. This is consistent with other IAS services nationally.

LGBTQ communities

LGBTQ parents/carers can have concerns that services to support the family may not be LGBTQ friendly, or that they may be under pressure to disclose the nature of relationships within the family unit to various support services. This can result in such families not seeking support.

Looked after children

Nottingham's Children in Care cohort has higher numbers of children with special needs identified than nationally for children in care. We could reasonably expect that where children in care access IAS services, they are more likely to access the service independently without adult support. If the IASS is unsuitable /unappealing to young people this could have a disproportionate impact on children in care with SEND.

From consultations, it's apparent that young people don't look for information in the same way as their parents, typically having far greater use of electronic information and social media. The requirement to provide information, advice and support to children and young people separately and formats suitable and appealing to them (such as electronic communications, social media and phone messaging) as well as 'easy read' formats to address both needs, will be included in the contract for the new IAS service.

The requirement for the new service to clearly identify as LGBTQ friendly, and that support is provided without judgement, will be included in the service contract.

The requirement to provide information, advice and support to children and young people separately and formats suitable and appealing to them (such as electronic communications, social media and phone messaging) as well as 'easy read' formats to address both needs, will be included in the contract for the new IAS service. It's recognised that it is of greater importance for children in care that the information provided is clear to children and young people of varied ages and abilities, and provided in a format that suits their communication needs and preferences.

			<p><u>Vulnerable children - Young offenders</u> Children in the youth justice system are vulnerable by virtue of their young age and developmental immaturity. Many are also disadvantaged socially, educationally, and also because they experience a range of impairments and emotional difficulties. It is well established that high numbers of children who come to the attention of youth justice services have complex support needs, low levels of educational attainment, and far more unmet health needs than other children of their age. If the IASS is unsuitable /unappealing to young people this could have a disproportionate impact on children with behaviour that challenges/ at risk of coming into contact with the youth justice system.</p>	<p>The requirement to provide information, advice and support to children and young people separately and formats suitable and appealing to them (such as electronic communications, social media and phone messaging) as well as 'easy read' formats to address both needs, will be included in the contract for the new IAS service. Again It's recognised that it is great importance that the information is clear to children and young people of varied ages and abilities, and their families, to enable them to seek appropriate support before contact with the youth justice system.</p>
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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 contract for the proposed new service will include the requirement to report equalities information as part of the quarterly monitoring returns. This information will be submitted to the Contracts team. The information will be reviewed as part of the 'Review' phase of the commissioning process after the service has been in place for one year, and then on an annual basis by the Contracts team as part of standard contract monitoring processes. This EIA will be refreshed in the event of any further changes to services.

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:
19/05/2017
Send document or link to:
equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Community Relations Team for scrutiny, have you:

1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's
<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/article/25573/Equality-Impact-Assessment>
2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed.
3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents.
4. Written in clear user friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms).
5. Included appropriate data.
6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly when this is going to happen.
7. Clearly cross referenced your impacts with SMART actions.