

Equality Impact Assessment Form (Page 1 of 2)

Title of EIA/ DDM: Nottingham Begging Strategy 2018
Department: Community Protection
Service Area: Business Development
Author (assigned to Covalent): Lewis Bryan, Community Protection

Name of Author: Lewis Bryan
Director: Andrew Errington

Brief description of strategy being assessed:

The criminal act of begging in Nottingham is a growing concern for residents, businesses and visitors; with perceptions of street begging as a problem increasing over the previous year as indicated in the Nottingham Respect Survey 2016.

To address this growing issue, the Council has developed the Nottingham Begging Strategy which sets out a clear framework for local partners to work closer together and reduce levels of begging in Nottingham. The overarching vision of the Begging Strategy is: 'To improve the quality of the city centre environment and experience for residents, visitors, and businesses through the effective management of begging'.

The strategy focusses on three core values:

- Shelter – *'Everyone is offered a roof over their heads'*;
- Support – *'Increase the signposting to alcohol, drugs and mental health services through visible active outreach, to encourage a lifestyle change, with the specific treatment they require'*; and
- Enforce – *'To prevent begging, increase Nottinghamshire Police-led coercive entry into substance misuse treatment and encourage closer working with the UK Border Agency on repatriation'*.

The strategy was developed and its provisions agreed by the following local agencies in November 2017: Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Framework, British Transport Police, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Nottingham's Business Improvement District, East Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, Nottingham City Homes, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company and Nottinghamshire Police.

The Nottingham Begging Strategy links to the following local strategies: Nottingham's Homelessness Prevention Strategy to 2018, Nottingham's Drugs Strategy 2017, Health and Wellbeing Strategy to 2020, Cold Weather Provision Plan 2017/18 and supports many local campaigns related to this issue, e.g., homelessness and rough sleeping.

Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

Data on those that begged in Nottingham was obtained by the Council during June 2017 and was compiled in a report by the Community Protection, Tasking and Intelligence Team in July 2017. The data provides a snapshot profile of those that begged during that month:

- **Ethnicity/Nationality** – No data was recorded breaking down the ethnicity of each offender. In terms of nationality 90% were from the UK, 8% Poland and 2% Latvia;
- **Gender** – Out of those witnessed begging 90% were males and 10% females;
- **Disability** – No data was recorded on disability;
- **Pregnancy** – No data was recorded on whether individuals were pregnant;
- **Religious Beliefs** – No data was recorded breaking down religious beliefs;

- **LGBT** – No data was recorded on sexuality; and
- **Age (Younger/older)** - Most individuals witnessed begging were aged between 26 and 45; with three younger than 25 and twelve older than 46. No individual under the age of 18 was witnessed begging.

	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/Nationality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>OVERARCHING</p> <p>The key beneficiaries of this strategy are those that currently beg on the streets of Nottingham.</p> <p>The Council's current engagement data shows that those who beg are more likely to be male, largely between the ages of 26 and 45 and mainly UK nationals.</p> <p>Despite these predominant characteristics, the key theme for those committing this criminal offence, are that they are either leading a complex lifestyle or could be deemed vulnerable.</p> <p>This strategy addresses this overarching theme by increasing collaboration between local agencies on this issue and increasing the opportunities for those that beg to leave their current lifestyle and enter or return into a lifestyle of self-sufficiency.</p> <p>AGE</p> <p>The strategy will have a positive impact for people of all age groups. Older individuals that beg are more likely to suffer long-term health conditions. Younger age groups that beg could be more susceptible to exploitation or forms of abuse.</p>	
Men	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vulnerable People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>AGE</p> <p>Increased outreach for those that beg will increase attempted health referrals and improve outcomes for older individuals.</p> <p>Increased outreach for any younger person that begs will ensure that any exploitation or harm is referred into appropriate local safeguarding channels either through the new Active Street Outreach Team or the new Nottinghamshire Police Integrated</p>	

			<p>DISABILITY/VULNERABLE The strategy will have a positive impact on those who beg who are disabled, e.g., mental health, substance misuse, long standing health conditions, learning difficulties or any further impairment.</p> <p>ETHNICITY/NATIONALITY Neutral impact. There is no barrier to services for any ethnicity type. However the nationality of an individual who begs could prevent access to some support services, e.g., no recourse to public funds or those with no local connection.</p>	<p>Offender Management (IOM)Team</p> <p>DISABILITY/VULNERABLE The strategy will increase the number of attempted referrals made for those that beg with a disability into local support services, e.g., Nottingham Wellbeing Hub. The new outreach team's current service provider has an extensive knowledge of local support services to advise those that beg to enter appropriate local support services for housing, health and substance misuse issues.</p> <p>The offer of training to the Magistrates' Association should enable more informed sentencing outcomes for those that beg to reduce reoffending rates amongst this group.</p> <p>ETHNICITY/NATIONALITY The Council has committed to providing support for reconnection for those without a local connection to Nottingham to access support services in their host local authority or country of origin through the Nottingham Supported Reconnection Service.</p> <p>The Council is also considering a new 'Sit Up' Service during extreme weather conditions for those without a local connection to Nottingham.</p> <p>This new outreach team service provider looks to retain a Central/Eastern European interpreter(s) to support frontline engagement with those that beg who don't speak English.</p> <p>The Council will continue to monitor any impacts on this protected characteristic, during the implementation of the strategy and make any amendments to service delivery as required.</p>
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			<p>TRANSGENDER/GENDER REASSIGNMENT No individuals identified as begging have indicated they are undergoing gender reassignment; therefore it is difficult to assess the impact of this strategy on this protected characteristic.</p> <p>PREGNANCY/MATERNITY No individuals that have begged have been identified as pregnant. However where identified moving forward, the strategy will have a positive impact on those that are pregnant through increased engagement activity.</p> <p>LGBT COMMUNITY No impact identified</p> <p>GENDER The strategy will have a positive impact for both men and women, in particular women who could be deemed to be more at risk from exploitation and intimidation.</p>	<p>TRANSGENDER/GENDER REASSIGNMENT The Council will continue to monitor any impacts on this protected characteristic, during the implementation of the strategy and make any amendments to service delivery as required.</p> <p>PREGNANCY/MATERNITY Where a woman who is begging is identified as pregnant there are existing priority access arrangements in place for those women seeking support, e.g., Women's Complex Needs Service.</p> <p>The Council will continue to monitor any impacts on this protected characteristic, during the implementation of the strategy and make any amendments to service delivery as required.</p> <p>LGBT COMMUNITY The Council will continue to monitor any impacts on this protected characteristic, during the implementation of the strategy and make any amendments to service delivery as required.</p> <p>GENDER Where feasible consideration will be given to the use of mixed gender begging outreach team staff.</p> <p>Differential support pathways exist for women deemed vulnerable. Where there are concerns of domestic violence or</p>
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			<p>RELIGIOUS Whilst the religious background of those that beg is not known, there is the potential for some individuals to benefit from faith based support.</p> <p>OVERARCHING Residents, businesses and visitors to Nottingham</p> <p>The broader beneficiaries of this strategy will be Nottingham’s residents, businesses and visitors; as the strategy should lead to the numbers of those begging in Nottingham to decrease.</p> <p>It is believed that feelings of safety, freedom to use public spaces, street cleanliness, community cohesion, business retention/revenue could all be directly or indirectly improved by the actions contained within this strategy.</p>	<p>exploitation increased outreach will ensure a more timely referral to services such as the Women’s Complex Needs Service. Also there is an opportunity to further raise awareness of the WAIS Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Helpline.</p> <p>RELIGIOUS The Council supports addiction support services such as Al-Hurraya, a self-help group for Muslims, to address substance misuse issues, using the twelve step recovery programme tailored to the Islamic faith. The responsibility for this referral will be met by the outreach service and the new Nottinghamshire Police IOM Team.</p> <p>OVERARCHING Evidence of any benefits directly attributed to a reduction in begging in Nottingham will be communicated to the public. The Council will review progress after one year following the publication of the strategy.</p> <p>The following performance indicators have been identified as valid measures of progress against the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public perceptions of begging; • Number of reported incidences of begging to the Police; • The number of those arrested for begging and drugs tested; • Number of beggars arrested and entering treatment; and • Number of beggars who are homeless entering accommodation. <p>The Council will consider any further measures to support the effectiveness of the strategy.</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:

Actions contained within the Begging Strategy are actively monitored by the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership Board on a quarterly basis through the Nottingham Begging Action Plan. The Nottingham Begging Action Plan is also shared with members of the Nottingham Community Trigger Begging Meeting. This meeting took place in August 2017 and was held to address the significant concerns raised by Nottingham's residents on the issue of begging.

Approved by (manager signature):

Andrew Errington, Director for Community Protection
101 ext 3182752

Date sent to equality team for publishing:

Send document or link to:
equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
20.12.17

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.