

Equality Impact Assessment Template

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

Version 4: January 2019

Title of proposal <i>(include forward plan reference if available)</i>	Authority or procure Accommodation based support services for victims of domestic abuse
Directorate and Service Area	Adult Social Care and Borough Economy
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Craig Stevens - Commissioner
Contact Details	Craig_Stevens@Sandwell.gov.uk
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Operations Manager Complex Commissioning Justin Haywood
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	
Date EIA completed	8 June 2022
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required (Please provide as much information as possible)

That approval be given to the Director of Adult Social Care to enter a procurement exercise to procure new accommodation-based support services for victims of domestic violence and abuse, for a contract and services commencing 1 February 2023 and for a maximum period of 5 years with a budget of £470k per annum and £2.35m across the contract term.

That approval be given to the Director of Borough Economy to award the contract given that the budget and ongoing contract monitoring responsibility will sit with Borough Economy.

That the Cabinet authorise an exemption to rule 8.7 of the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018/19 to allow a contract to be awarded to a successful tenderer in the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received.

2. Evidence used/considered

A local needs assessment for Sandwell was carried out externally by Linxs Consultancy on behalf of the Council which consisted of data analysis, review of clients accommodated, consultation with stakeholders who refer into service, 1-1 interviews with victims and consultation with the public

For the accommodation-based support services the findings showed:

- the existing safe accommodation system in Sandwell is highly effective.
- The range of accommodation types and levels of support provided mean that survivors are routinely accepted regardless of level of risk or complexity of presenting needs.
- Sufficient units are currently being commissioned to meet demand.
- The first available void policy has been successful, with Sandwell residents now more likely to receive safe accommodation within the Borough

Their findings have identified a number of recommendations for additional activity to be built into the accommodation specification further enhance any newly commissioned provision

3. Consultation

Meetings and discussions with the current service provider and stakeholders who are part of the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment & Strategy Development T&F Group

The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment included consultation with internal/external stakeholders, the provider, service users and members of the public

The current contract for Accommodation based support is monitored closely through regular meetings, monitoring of outcomes delivered and satisfaction surveys with service users.

4. Assess likely impact

The current contract for Accommodation based support for victims of domestic abuse expires on 31 January 2023 with no option to extend

A procurement exercise is needed to have a continued provision for accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse from 1 February 2023.

The Domestic Abuse needs assessment has reviewed the current provision and has found the existing service to be very effective and recommends it be recommissioned.

The needs assessment has also recommended additional activity be built into this contract to further enhance the provision and the support service users accommodated receive.

Due to the new service being an enhanced provision of what we have currently the impact will be positive

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
	✓	✓	✓	
Age	✓			There are currently 2 posts funded seperatly for a Family Support Worker and Empowerment and Engagement Coordinator who specifically work with children and families which will be incorporated in the new specification to enhance the provision
Disability	✓			There is currently a dedicated post and 4 units of accommodation funded seperatly for victims with additional complex needs which will be incorporated in the new specification to enhance the provision

Gender reassignment			✓	There is no impact
Marriage and civil partnership			✓	There is no impact
Pregnancy and maternity	✓			There are currently 2 posts funded seperatly for a Family Support Worker and Empowerment and Engagement Coordinator who specifically work with children and families which will be incorporated in the new specification to enhance the provision
Race			✓	There is no impact
Religion or belief			✓	There is no impact

Sex			✓	The provision offers options for male and female victims already and will continue to do so
Sexual orientation			✓	There is no impact
Other				

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

Monthly mobilisation meetings with the successful provider in November, December and January
Monitoring of the new contract through outcome workbooks, contract meetings and satisfaction surveys

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below