

Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 3: January 2013

Title of proposal <i>(include forward plan reference if available)</i>	Procurement of Trusted Assessor Service Contract
Directorate and Service Area	Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing - Commissioning and Integration
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Sukie Virk Collaboration Project Manager
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Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	None
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	None
Date EIA completed	1st September 2020
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	14 th September 2020
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Neil Cox
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)

Agreement is sought to proceed with the procurement of a block contract for the provision of a Trusted Assessor service. The current contract for the provision of a Trusted Assessor service in Sandwell expires at the end of March 2021. The service will be tendered on a two-year contract with an option to extend for a further one year, subject to satisfactory performance.

The contract will be funded through the Better Care Fund (BCF).

2. Evidence used/considered

The requirement to introduce trusted assessors is a condition of Better Care Funding. The Better Care Fund Policy for 2017-19 has a strong focus on better management of patient flow and Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC), mandating Health and Well-Being (HWB) areas to implement the High Impact Change Model (HICM). The model identifies eight key system changes that have the greatest potential to deliver tangible impacts on patient flow and DToC.

Of the 8 eight key system changes, Change 6 is identified as a Trusted Assessor model (*using Trusted Assessors to carry out a holistic assessment of need avoids duplication and speeds up response times so that people can be discharged in a safe and timely way*). Put simply, the model puts forward the idea of one profession or service trusting the assessment of another profession or service and acting upon it. Successful outcomes of the Trusted Assessor model should include the expediting of existing processes to facilitate the reduction in DToC's and the promotion of safe and timely discharges. While there is no one recognised model for Trusted Assessors, it should be subject to the agreement of local partners, with the model varying from others depending on local circumstance.

The recently published Department of Health and Social Care Hospital Discharge Policy and Operating Model (21st August 2020) states “using trusted assessment to carry out a holistic strengths-based assessment avoids duplication and speeds up response times so that people can be discharged in a safe and timely way. During COVID, it has worked well and should be sustained among professional groups and between care settings”.

Trusted Assessor schemes are a national initiative designed to reduce delays

when people are ready for discharge from hospital. Providers adopt assessments carried out by suitably qualified 'Trusted Assessors' working under formal, written agreements. Assessments and care planning can be undertaken by Trusted Assessor schemes in a way that meets both people's needs and legal requirements on providers. By using trusted assessors, we can reduce the numbers and waiting times of people awaiting discharge from hospital and help them to move from hospital back home or to another setting speedily, effectively and safely.

The service supports the smooth transition for patients from hospital into a care home setting. The primary aims and objectives of the service:

- reduction in avoidable discharge delays through more timely assessment
- ensuring there is a single, agreed assessment process to reduce duplication
- reducing assessment burden for care practitioners and providers.
- improvement in hospital discharge arrangements from
- improving patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow (moving away from a focus solely on winter pressures to a year-round approach to supporting timely hospital discharge)
- facilitating discharge where issues have arisen which could compromise the quality or timeliness of discharge from hospital

The benefits for Sandwell Council of this service are:

- Reduction in DToC attributed to the Council
- A co-ordinated response with health partners in relation to timely and effective hospital discharges.
- Mitigating the potential imposition of fines by Acute Trusts for DToC.

The benefits for service users and carers:

- Timely hospital discharge

The Trusted Assessor service has proved to be an invaluable service especially during the Covid -19 pandemic. The service alleviates the pressure on care home managers having to undertake assessments and they can focus on providing essential care. The feedback received of the service is positive.

3. Consultation

Commissioners have consulted with stakeholders across Sandwell Better Care Fund and internal intermediate care teams for their view on the provision of the service and there is consensus that the loss of the service will jeopardise the favourable DToC position and result in delays in transfer being coded against the Council.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

Agreement to procure the contract aligns with the focus of both the Council and Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group to support the reduction of DToC and will support the continued flow of patients from hospital back to their communities.

The service will benefit vulnerable people as a result of a more timely and responsive service.

The service has worked well in facilitating more timely hospital discharges, and procuring a new contract when the existing one ends, on 31st March 2020 will enable that to continue.

Not undertaking a procurement exercise will create a gap in provision, leading to delays in discharges.

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	✓			<p>The procurement of the service will benefit the age criteria because of a more timely and responsive service as the proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient</p>

				experience, clinical safety and patient flow.
Disability	✓			<p>The procurement of the service will benefit the disability criteria because of a more timely and responsive service for people who are disabled, as the proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. In addition, enabling patients to return home quickly with a package of care, and therefore mitigating against deconditioning whilst in hospital and exacerbation of pre-existing disabilities.</p> <p>The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p>
Gender reassignment			✓	<p>The proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make</p>

				<p>these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership			✓	<p>The proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	<p>The proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential</p>

			<p>provider of the patient’s physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient’s known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>
Race		✓	<p>The proposed contract will support patient’s timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient’s physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient’s known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>

<p>Religion or belief</p>			<p>✓</p> <p>The proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>
<p>Sex</p>			<p>✓</p> <p>The proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient</p>

				<p>experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>
Sexual orientation			✓	<p>The proposed contract will support patient's timely, effective discharge from an NHS inpatient setting, to the most appropriate available nursing or residential care home able to meet their needs. The purpose of the Trusted Assessor service is to prevent any unnecessary delayed transfers of care to care homes. The Trusted Assessment informs the potential provider of the patient's physical, social and emotional needs. The provider is then able to confirm if they are suitably equipped and have current capacity to meet the patient's known and anticipated health and social needs, without requiring members of their staff to visit the hospital to make these assessments themselves.</p> <p>The proposed contract will facilitate discharges to improve patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow.</p> <p>There is no change relating to this characteristic.</p>
Other				N/A

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No X

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?

n/a

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

n/a

7. Monitoring arrangements

The monitoring of the performance of the contract will be undertaken by officers of the Council. Data related to those referred to the service will be monitored monthly.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

Actions to mitigate any operational risks have been considered in the risk management plan for the process.

9. Publish the EIA

This EIA will be presented to Cabinet with a report for decision.

Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

Practical advice, guidance and support

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA, using the electronic EIA toolkit or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Improvement and Efficiency. The officers within in Improvement and Efficiency will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

Please contact:

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