

Appendix 2 a

Equality Impact Assessment EqIA Template



You must consider the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) when completing this template.

The EDI team can provide help and advice on undertaking an EqIA and also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EqIA documents.

EDI team contact email: edi_team@sandwell.gov.uk

Quality Control	
Title of proposal	Implementation of a Boroughwide Public Space Protection Order in relation to Alcohol
Directorate and Service Area	Borough Economy – Community Safety
Officer completing EqIA	Tessa Mitchell – Business Manager Community Safety
Contact Details	tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk
Other officers involved in completing this EqIA	Andrew Clarke ASB Team Manager Sandwell's EDI Team Public Health
Date EqIA completed	13 th December 2023
Date EqIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EqIA	
Date EqIA considered by Cabinet	February 2024
Where the EqIA is Published (please include a link to the EqIA and send a copy of the final EqIA to the EDI team)	

Section 1.

The purpose of the project, proposal or decision required

In October 2017 the existing Designated Public Place Order relating to Alcohol consumption in public spaces transitioned under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to become a Public Space Protection Order.

PSPOs last for up to 3 years and then need to be reviewed. This order was renewed in March 2021 and is now up for consideration again.

The order 'enables authorised officers / constables, where satisfied that nuisance or disorder associated with alcohol is occurring, to require people not to consume alcohol in the area and to surrender any alcohol in their possession. It is an offence to fail to comply with these requirements without reasonable excuse'.

This Boroughwide proposal supports the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy objective in relation to reducing crime and ASB. The order has been useful in engaging individuals and providing opportunities for education and support. It also provides the Local Authority with enforcement powers which can be used as a last resort with individuals. Alcohol remains a contributor to ASB and over the past 3 years, 8 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for alcohol related behaviour. A public consultation has also taken place which has significantly supported the proposal and a Cabinet report recommending these proposals are accepted is scheduled for February 2024. The proposals will also be taken to Scrutiny in January 2024.

Section 2.

Evidence used and considered. Include analysis of any missing data

Sandwell Borough Information

POPULATION



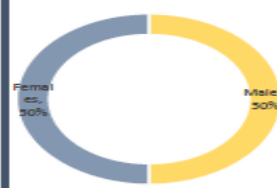
POPULATION

329,049

The latest available ONS Mid-Year estimates provide a figure of 329,042 for Sandwell.

Since 2014, the population has grown by 12,753 residents, equating to an increase of 4%.

The latest population projection gives an estimate of an increase to 347,891 by 2030; an increase of 18,849 (+6%).



GENDER

There is even split between males and females

MEDIAN AGE

37

The median age of 37 in Sandwell is lower than that across England and Wales (40).

There are variances between the wards. For example, 46% of the population in Newton are over the age of 45 compared to 27% in Soho and Victoria. The age profile of the wards will have a bearing on the prevalence of substance misuse.



BAME

34%

The 2011 census data shows that 34% of the population in Sandwell are from a BAME background, however the rate is now likely to be higher.

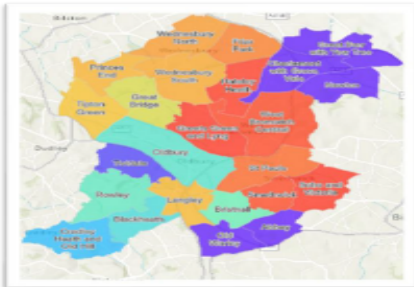
DEPRIVATION

34%

The average deprivation score for Sandwell makes it the 12th most deprived local authority in England.

Deprivation varies greatly between the wards.

There is a significant link between deprivation and substance misuse.

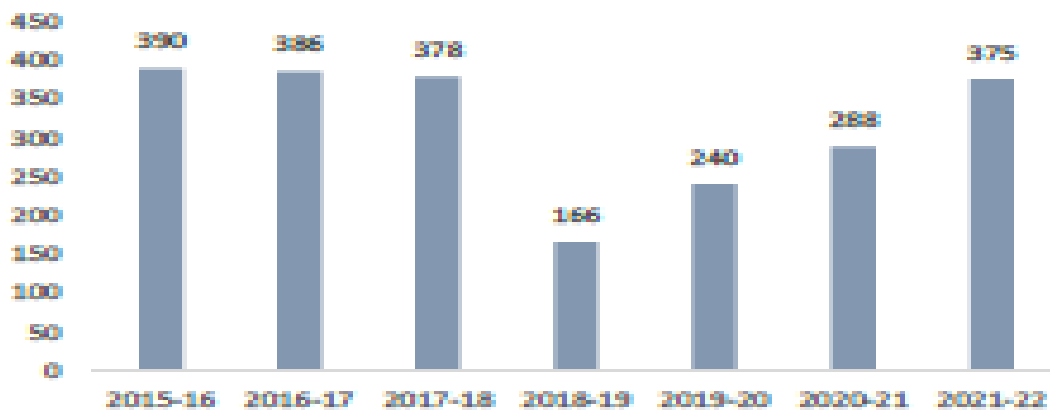


While Sandwell has considerable data regarding the population, data in relation to those who have been engaged with or issued with penalties as a result of the existing PSPO is limited. There is some data relating to those accessing alcohol treatment services.

The Sandwell Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment was completed in summer 2022 and provides some information regarding the extent of alcohol misuse across Sandwell and who is currently accessing services:

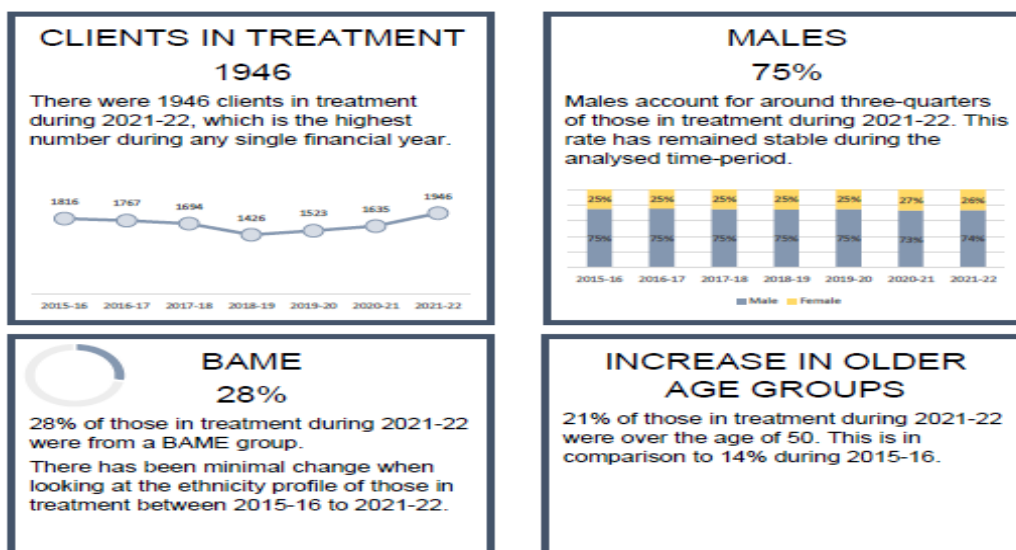
- Sandwell had the highest alcohol-specific and alcohol-related mortality rates in 2020 when compared to the Nearest Neighbours with 173 deaths recorded, a 39% increase on 2019.
- An estimated 20% of those with an alcohol need are engaging in services and those presenting to services are usually in very poor health. Nos presenting outlined below by year:

ALCOHOL ONLY



- 1946 individuals engaged with alcohol treatment services in 2021-22, of which 75% were male, 28% from a BAME background. 21% were over 50, up from 14% in the previous year.

IN-TREATMENT



- Alcohol-related offences are up 91% when comparing 2021-22 to previous years.

While acknowledging limitations in the data this does provide an overview of those engaged with alcohol services and the need for engagement, education and prevention.

Also that 8 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued over the past 3 years shows that having such powers to address such behaviour is necessary when engagement and education does not work.

3. Consultation

There are specific requirements in relation to consultations related to PSPOs, published by the LGA in 2018. In line with this guidance, a public consultation was conducted on Sandwell's Consultation Hub between 16th September and 16th November 2023. This was publicised via the local press, The Sandwell Herald and on SMBCs website and social media. Other specific consultees were:

West Midlands Police	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
West Midlands Fire Service	West Midlands Ambulance Service
SMBC Public Health	Cranstoun
DECCA	Transport For West Midlands
The Kennel Club	The Ramblers

230 people responded to the consultation with 97% supporting the Alcohol PSPO proposal.

This PSPO demonstrates the council's commitment to listening to its residents, partners and communities and to take action to address issues that are important to them.

Additional engagement with residents and businesses was also undertaken throughout the Safer 6 campaign. The proposal is also supported by Sandwell's multi-agency Borough Tasking partnership and aligns with the objectives of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Boards objective of reducing crime and ASB.

Section 4.

Summary assessment of the analysis at section 4a and the likely impact on each of the protected characteristics (if any)

There is no evidence or suggestion that this PSPO would impact more negatively on any specific protected characteristic. The aim of the proposal is to engage, educate and reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour and its impact on all residents in the Borough.

There is limited information on these characteristics currently that can feed into this assessment. There is some information available from those engaged in alcohol services and while indicative cannot present a full analysis. Many alcohol users are not engaged with services, often street drinkers. However the proposed PSPO would support any individuals engaged in such anti-social behaviours and provide support and advice as needed. The outcome is to enhance community safety across the Borough. The alcohol PSPO has been in existence for several years with no reported concerns or adverse impacts.

Section 4a - What are the potential/actual impacts of the proposal on the protected characteristics?

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Age	Ne	<p>There is no evidence that the PSPO would impact more negatively on any age group over and above another.</p> <p>The data from those engaged in alcohol services shows 21% were over 50 and Sandwell has a slightly higher than average number of young people where alcohol is identified as a concern. The PSPO with its focus on education and engagement should positively impact on these age groups with accompanying staff awareness and training.</p>		
Disability	Ne	<p>There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be</p>		

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
		impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Gender Reassignment	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Marriage and civil partnership	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Pregnancy and maternity	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals. The Alcohol has a health focus which could positively benefit those who are pregnant.		

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Race	Ne	<p>There is no information to indicate this protected characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.</p> <p>The data available in relation to those engaged with alcohol treatment services shows 28% are from a BAME background.</p>		
Religion or belief	Ne	<p>There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals</p>		
Sex	Ne	<p>There is no information to indicate this group would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals. Information from those engaged in alcohol services indicates that 75% are male. The opportunities for engagement and education would have a positive impact on this group.</p>		

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Sexual Orientation	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Could other socio-economic groups be affected?				
Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed Forces Community Other		Sandwell is the 12 th most deprived area in England. The PSPO would not treat any of these groups differently and will provide opportunities for engagement and education with the aim of improving community safety for all.		

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then please move to Sections 6.

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

6. Section 6: Decision or actions proposed

That these proposals are accepted by Cabinet and that the PSPO is approved for a further 3 years from 1st March 2023.

Moving forward:

- Better data relating to those engaged with / receiving enforcement requirements is captured and shared through Borough Tasking to understand impact moving forward

7. Monitoring arrangements

The use and impact of PSPOs are reviewed at Town and Borough Tasking meetings and feed into the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board

Section 8 Action planning (if required)

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

If you have any suggestions for improving this process, please contact EDI_Team@Sandwell.gov.uk