

Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	Community Vaccination Champions Programme
Directorate and Service Area	Public Health
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Katie Deeley- Communities and Partnerships Manager
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Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Heather Chinner- Strategic policy officer Anna Blennerhasset- Consultant in public health
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	N/A
Date EIA completed	03.02.2022
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 cabinet approval be given to the Community Vaccination Champions Programme.

This will include that a further grant of £112,000 is paid to Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) to be approved for the following:

- £100,000 vaccination support grants fund for distribution to voluntary and community organisations
- £12,000 for programme co-ordination

That the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the chief finance officer, be authorised to award a grant of £112,000 to Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations for the vaccination support programme.

2. Evidence used/considered

The Community Vaccination Champions Programme started in January 2021 and has proved to be highly effective in increasing the number of residents who have been vaccinated. Our approach has been to work closely with health colleagues and trusted faith and community leaders to provide reassurance and information to residents. Over 200 Vaccine Champions are involved in the programme and SCVO have awarded grants to voluntary sector organisations delivering 33 vaccination uptake projects. Examples of projects and organisations awarded funding can be found [on SCVO's website](#)

SCVO have a proven track record of delivering this programme by proactively engaging with local community groups across Sandwell and particularly those groups who represent and work with people more likely to be vaccine hesitant.

The Community Vaccination Champions Programme has received national recognition, winning the [LGC public health award](#). Due to the success of the programme, the council has been awarded a further £185,000 funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to continue this work into 2022/23.

3. Consultation

This funding has been awarded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and there is a delivery plan being approved.

Consultation with the chief finance officer was conducted and a financial appraisal for the original tranche of community champions funding was approved on the 18th May 2021 (appendix a)

Cabinet Member – Living Healthy Lives will be briefed on the intention to expand the community vaccination champions programme.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The community vaccination champions programme has already had a significant impact on the vaccination uptake rates across Sandwell. However, there are key groups we need to target and engage with where uptake is lower.

We will target locations in Sandwell where data tells us uptake rates are low and ensure that there is clear communication and an accessible vaccination offer. This will impact on vaccination uptake rates and ultimately protect our residents against COVID-19.

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	✓			The programme will have a positive impact on people of all ages in Sandwell. This will be achieved by increasing vaccination uptake rates.
Disability	✓			Community vaccination champions engaged will be from a range of backgrounds and organisations such as Sandwell visually impaired, Jigsaw (supporting people with learning disabilities) and Sandwell deaf community association. These partner organisations and will continue to support local community vaccination opportunities.

Gender reassignment			√	People of gender reassignment will be able to access the programme, but they won't be targeted. Data has not identified this group as having lower vaccination uptake rates.
Marriage and civil partnership			√	This doesn't relate to the programme.
Pregnancy and maternity	√			We have and will be working with local community midwives as part of the programme to increase uptake in pregnancy as this has been highlighted as a group with lower uptake rates.
Race	√			The programme has and will target and engage with local groups from ethnic minority backgrounds.
Religion or belief	√			The programme has and will continue to engage with local faith groups to share COVID vaccination messages and communications.

Sex	√			The programme will target some male residents as some of the data on uptake suggests a slight disparity between men and women.
Sexual orientation			√	LGBTQ communities will be able to access the programme, but they won't be targeted. Data has not identified this group as having lower vaccination uptake rates
Other				

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?

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

7. Monitoring arrangements

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

9. Publish the EIA

