

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SERVICE CHANGE

Department	Children's Services, Policy and Development Division, Play and Extended Services
Service	Children and young peoples diversionary activities service
People involved	Head of Service and Service Managers, Commissioned organisation, schools, Multi-agency teams, service users (children, young people).

1. What are the aims of the service and what changes are being proposed?

The Play and Extended Services Section currently holds a contract with Catch22 to provide a service for children and young people aged 5-13, who are at risk of social exclusion and identified as being in need of early intervention to prevent a problem or issue becoming acute or intractable. The following outcomes are required by the contract: -

- (a) development of self-care skills, resilience and self-esteem
- (b) development of social presentation and citizenship skills,
- (c) improvement, progression and consolidation of their emotional and behavioural development,
- (d) increased understanding of how they can help foster good family and social relationships,
- (e) better use of mainstream universal services and an understanding of how to access them
- (f) positive engagement with their school

The contract is due to end in March 2012. It is proposed to extend the current contract to enable a procurement exercise to put in place new contracts from 2013. However due to financial pressures the financial envelope available to deliver the service will be reduced by £40,000 from April 1 2012.

The work undertaken by the Alton Activity Centre is however very similar to the work done by Catch 22 in that it provides diversionary group work and positive role models, one to one support and pathways into other services. It is timely and pragmatic therefore to roll these services together and from April 1 2012, the service provider will also deliver a service to include those currently using the Alton Activity Centre. Catch 22 will also make some use of the Alton Activity Centre site. This service is currently managed and delivered by the Council's Play and Extended Services section. An EIA in relation to the Alton Activity Centre has also been undertaken.

The budget and work of the Alton Activity Centre, £77,000, will be seen as an integral part of service delivery and will result in a net increase in the resources available to the provider

The outcomes of activities provided through the contract described above will remain unchanged. However, delivery models may change e.g. there may be more group work and fewer one-to-one sessions to ensure the same number of children are worked with. However this will be agreed through a 'negotiated procedure' during which the Council will negotiate with the provider to develop the best possible delivery methods to ensure maximum value for money.

2. What is the rationale behind these changes?

The current contract is due to end in March 2012 so it is necessary to roll forward the contract for 2012/13 to allow time for re-tendering. Given the financial pressures on the council and the clear similarities between the contractor and the Activity Centre service, a rationalisation of the two services is pragmatic and will ensure a more integrated and effective service.

3. What information do you have on the service and the potential impact of your service change in relation to the following?

List information you have. Do not put what the information shows you

The service was used by 1179 children and young people last year. Information on gender, ethnicity and age of service users is included below.

Race

Total number of service users: 1179

Annual percentage of service users in each ethnicity category:

Any Other White: 3%

White British: 37%

Any other Ethnic Group: 3%

Information not obtained: 10%

White and Black Caribbean: 10%

White and Black African: 1%

Any other mixed background: 2%

Black Caribbean: 21%

Black African: 6%

Any other Asian: 1%

Any Indian: 1%

Chinese: 0%

Black other: 6%

White and Asian: 0%

Gender	Total BAME:
	Total number of service users: 1179
Disability	Annual percentage of service users by gender
	Males: 63%
	Female: 27%
Age	Not disclosed
	Total number of service users: 1179

Percentage of service users by age:

5 years: 2%
6 years: 6%
7 years: 9%
8 years: 12%
9 years: 18%
10 years: 19%
11 years: 15%
12 years: 11%
13 years: 6%
14 years: 2%

Faith	Not currently collected
Sexual Orientation	Not currently collected

4. Thinking about each group below please list the impact that the service change will have

	<u>Positive</u> impacts of service change	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts of service change
Race	<p>Directly delivering an activity Centre service and managing the premises under license may give the provider scope to meet needs with greater flexibility.</p> <p>As a service with similar</p>	<p>No adverse impact during 2012-13. As a service with similar aims will be commissioned from 2013, a change in provider is likely to have little impact. It is possible that a provider new to Wandsworth however, may have less well established relationships with local communities or community support groups, but this is likely to be easily overcome with time.</p>

outcomes will be commissioned, a change in provider is likely to have little impact.

Gender

The number of girls accessing the service is disproportionately low, possibly because girls are more likely to display passively resistant behaviours than boys and are therefore less likely to be identified as in need of support. The funding and service changes during 2012-13 are unlikely to alter the current gender take up. A new contract could specify work focussed on girls, or awareness-raising with schools if stakeholders felt there was a need.

Disability

Not disclosed

Age

The age profile of users is unlikely to be affected by the funding service changes in 2012-13.

There is a peak in referrals to the current service during the last few years in primary school. A new contract could emphasise more the importance of early intervention and the need to prioritise support to those at KS1, if stakeholders felt this would be beneficial. Work will be undertaken with school staff, particularly Special Educational Need Co-ordinators (SENCO) to raise awareness of this issue.

Faith

No data collected

Sexual
orientation

No data collected

5. Is a full EIA required? No

Comments - Please give the rationale here for not undertaking a full EIA

The budget reduction will be more than offset by the increase in budget arising from the integration of service provision for those currently using the Alton Activity Centre. There will be a net increase overall and opportunity to make use of the Alton Activity Centre site.

6. Through the initial EIA have you identified any actions that needed to be implemented to improve access to the service or monitoring of the service? (please list)

To monitor the profile of users during 2012-13 to enable any negative variations to be addressed and action plans developed

To facilitate discussion around equality of access throughout the negotiating –procedure with potential providers but also with those making referrals to the provider

To add into the new contracts a requirement to collect data on disability and faith.

Signed

Date: 2nd November 2011

Approved by:

Mary Evans, Deputy Director of Children's Services

Clare Clare O'Connor, Policy Co-ordinator - Equality, Policy Analyst, Administration

