

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Template – Service Change

Department	Environment and Community Service ECS
Service	School Crossing Patrol Service
People involved	Gemma Davidson, Clare O'Connor

Key dates for the assessment

Date for start of EIA: 01.03.11

Start and end date of consultation: 01.03.11 – 30.08.11.

Completion date for finalised EIA: 14.06.12

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

The Council currently provides a school crossing service for schools across the Borough. This is a non-statutory service. There are currently 36 SCP sites serving 44 schools borough wide. This is made up of 39 primary schools (7 private) and 5 secondary schools, and represents 46% of all the primary schools in the borough

It is proposed that schools contribute to the cost of this service which is provided for pupils at their schools or that other means of funding the service as detailed in the report are progressed to enable an SCP service to be provided and that as a result the Council no longer funds this service. If schools chose not to contribute this may result in no school crossing service serving their school.

2. What is the rationale behind these changes?

There is not a statutory duty for the Council to provide a SCP service. The law states that it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children arrive safely at school, not the responsibility of the local authority. In the face of difficult decisions resulting from the funding review the council has therefore proposed to stop funding the service. However the Council would continue to manage an SCP service on behalf of contributing schools or if other means of funding the service are established

3. Which organisations will have the opportunity to feedback on the EIA?

Schools and parents and staff. The following steps have been taken:

On 7th February 2011 Bob Langridge, Assistant Director – Environment and Community Services attended the Primary School Head Teachers' annual meeting to inform them that the Environment and Community Services Department was reviewing the future arrangements

for the SCP service and that schools benefitting from the service would be asked their views regarding contributing towards the funding of the SCP sites.

In March 2011 the Director of Environment and Community Services (ECS) sent letters to the list of schools using the service asking for a response regarding contributing towards the SCP service. A further letter was sent in May 2011 and then those schools still yet to respond were contacted by phone in June/July 2011. In April 2011, ECS wrote to all the staff that provide the SCP service informing them that the review was taking place.

The council's plans have also received local press coverage and 4 petitions have been received to date. A response is still awaited from 8 schools.

In addition the service has also responded to 100 e-mails, 13 letters and numerous telephone enquiries regarding the proposal, mainly from parents and schools whose children use the SCP service

4. What data do you have on your service and potential impact of your service change in relation to the following? Data includes use of service, customer satisfaction, feedback on service, results of consultation

	List data you have	Any gaps in information? Please say how these can be addressed.
Race	Pupil data Staff profile Consultation data	
Gender	Pupil data Staff profile Consultation data	
Disability	Pupil data Consultation data Staff profile Not collected	
Age	The service is for young people, predominantly of primary school age	

	Consultation data Staff profile	
Faith	Consultation data	Not collected
Sexual Orientation	Consultation data	Not collected

5. What does available information show in relation to the impact of the service change? What is the impact on different groups? Please give detail	
Race	<p>Service users</p> <p>Of the primary schools currently receiving the service 18 have above the borough average for BME pupils (56.5%). This represents 46 % of the schools receiving the service. These are Broadwater (82.4%), Christ Church C of E (79.1%), Eardley (76.2%), Falconbrook (79.4%), Fircroft (66%), Franciscan (78.6%), Furzedown (58.4%), Gatton Primary School (95.7%), Heathmere(65.9%), Highview (80.1%), Hillbrook (72%), Roehampton C of E (67.2%), Ronald Ross (68.6%), Sacred Heart Battersea (69.3%), Smallwood (64.9%), Southmead (67.6%), St Anne C of E (69.8%), St Mary's Catholic (76.2%).</p> <p>Of the 5 secondary schools currently receiving the service 2 have above the borough average for BME pupils (64.%). These are Chestnut Grove (64.5%) and Ernest Bevin (87.2%).</p> <p>Of all these schools 5 have indicated that they will contribute, 5 are yet to respond and 10 have said they will not contribute.</p> <p>The feedback on the proposed decision has been checked and no reference to the impact on BME pupils has been made.</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>31% BME. This is above the borough average and slightly above the BME profile for</p>

	all Wandsworth staff (29.2%)
Gender	<p>Service users</p> <p>The primary schools currently receiving this service do not significantly differ in their girl:boy ratio to the overall school profile.</p> <p>Of the secondary schools receiving the service Ernest Bevin is a boys school.</p> <p>The feedback on the proposed decision has been checked and no reference to the impact on male of female pupils has been made.</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Female = 69%. This is above the borough average, but below the staff profile of Wandsworth of 72%.</p>
Disability	<p>Of the primary schools currently receiving the service 8 have above the borough average for pupils with a SEN statement (2.1%). This represents 23% of the schools receiving the service These are Fircroft (3%), Hillbrook (2.6%), Penwortham (3.5%), Sacred Heart Battersea (2.8%), Smallwood (11.3%), St Josephs (2.3%), St Mary;s Catholic Primary (2.7%) and Swaffield (2.3%). Of these schools 2 have indicated that they will contribute, 3 are yet to respond and 3 have said they will not contribute.</p> <p>Of the 5 secondary schools currently receiving the service 4 have above the borough average for pupils with SEN statements (2.5%). These are Battersea Park (2.6%), Chestnut Grove (2.9%), Graveney (2.9%), St Cecilia's (2.9%). Of these schools none have indicated that they will contribute, 1 is yet to respond and 3 have said they will not contribute.</p> <p>Oak Lodge school currently receives the service. Oak Lodge School has indicated that it will not contribute to the funding of the site near its location. It is noted that the majority of pupils of Oak Lodge access the school via buses, taxis etc</p> <p>The feedback on the proposed decision has been checked and no reference to the impact on disabled pupils has been made.</p>

Faith	<p>Service users – 11 faith based primary schools access the service. This represents 28 % of the schools receiving the service</p> <p>Of the 5 secondary schools currently receiving the service 1 is a faith based school. This school will not contribute to the site near its location.</p> <p>The feedback on the proposed decision has been checked and no reference to the impact on pupils of different faiths has been made.</p> <p>Staff– data not collected</p>
Age	<p>Service users</p> <p>The service is predominantly used by young people aged 11 and below. The proposals could therefore affect this age group. It is also noted that older people do use the school crossing service and therefore could be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that 46% of the borough's schools use the SCP with the remaining 54% not using the service. The service has checked feedback received after sites have been decommissioned and has not found any feedback to suggest that there have been an increase in accidents as a result.</p> <p>The feedback received on the proposals has highlighted safety concerns in relation to the withdrawal of this service. The feedback has referred to young people and older people who use the crossings..</p> <p>176 child accident casualties were recorded in Wandsworth as a result of road traffic accidents over the 3 year period up to February 2012. Of these 100 involved pedestrians and 26, pedal cycles, of which 3 accidents were within 50 metres of two SCP sites resulting in 2 slight casualties and 1 serious. One of these sites was unstaffed at the time.</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>Service users – not applicable</p> <p>Staff – data not collected</p>

6. What does your review of the information show?	Evidence for your answer
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a)No impact continue with change	
b) Adjust change in light of impact	
c)Continue with change despite impact	The withdrawal of this non statutory service could impact on young people if their schools chose not to contribute to the SCP or alternative means of providing the service cannot be established. A number of mitigating actions have been developed to limit any potential impact.
d) stop change	

7. Have you identified any actions that will improve the proposed service change or mitigate any negative impact? Yes.

If yes please list.

Schools to contribute – It is the Council’s view that the SCP service can be retained if schools benefiting from the SCP service fund the SCP sites that the Council believes their pupils utilise. Those schools that do so will be able to benefit from the existing level of service provided by the ECS in managing the SCP service.

Use volunteers - Schools indicating that they are not willing to contribute towards the funding of the SCP sites have the option of using volunteers to provide a SCP service at a lesser annual cost to schools. On this basis the Council would work with the Schools to find such volunteers willing to carry out these duties then the Council would be responsible for managing and organising these patrols. Review School Travel Plans (STP) with schools and support them to address any physical changes required - School travel plans are developed with the schools to address concerns identified regarding their pupils travel to and from school. Any concerns identified following the disestablishment of SCP sites could be addressed as part of the STP process. Put in place education programmes in schools re road safety - The Council already carries out pedestrian training in primary schools and could where necessary increase the number carried out each year. The Council would also send road safety literature to schools where the service is disestablished to promote safer crossing techniques and provide information on appropriate places to cross the road.

Targeted shows if required – Specific pedestrian shows could be developed and delivered to schools where the SCP was disestablished.

Ensure there is a workable time table in place to allow sufficient time for the schools/parents to determine alternative means of funding the SCP service should they wish to retain this service; to deal with the staffing implications involved and for the DECS to assist any alternative funding opportunities sought by those who may wish to retain an SCP service

8. What future monitoring and evaluation tools will be appropriate and effective?

Race	n/a
Gender	n/a
Disability	n/a
Faith	n/a
Age	n/a
Sexual Orientation	n/a

9. Which of the following does the service/policy relate to? (you can select more than one)

1. Eliminating discrimination (N)
2. Promoting equal opportunities (N)
3. Promoting good relations (N)

10. How would you rank the service/policy in relation to relevance to equality? (select one level only)

Low

Why did you allocate this ranking? Whilst the service supports the safety of young people and the school crossing officers are seen a part of the community, the service itself does not eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it or foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Action Plan.

Action	Who will be responsible?
Schools to contribute – It is the Council's view that the SCP service can be retained if schools benefiting from the SCP service fund of the SCP sites that the Council believes their pupils utilise. Those schools that do so will be able to benefit from the existing level of service provided by the ECS in managing the SCP service.	Schools, ECS
Use volunteers - Schools indicating that they are not willing to fund the SCP sites have the option of using volunteers to provide a SCP service at a lesser annual cost to schools. On this basis the Council would work with the Schools to find such volunteers willing to carry out these duties then the Council would be responsible for managing and organising these patrols	Schools, ECS

Review School Travel Plans (STP) with schools and support them to address any physical changes required - School travel plans are developed with the schools to address concerns identified regarding their pupils travel to and from school. Any concerns identified following the disestablishment of SCP sites could be addressed as part of the STP process.	Schools, ECS
Put in place education programmes in schools regarding road safety - The Council already carries out pedestrian training in primary schools and could where necessary increase the number carried out each year. The Council would also send road safety literature to schools where the service is disestablished to promote safer crossing techniques and provide information on appropriate places to cross the road.	ECS
Targeted shows if required – Specific pedestrian shows could be developed and delivered to schools where the SCP was disestablished	ECS
Implement a workable time table in place to allow sufficient time for the schools/parents to determine alternative means of funding the SCP service should they wish to retain this service	ECS

Feedback on the findings of the EIA

What did external organisations say about your findings when you shared this EIA with them?
<p>ECS responded to in excess of 100 e-mails, 13 letters and numerous telephone enquiries regarding the proposal, mainly from parents and residents who use the SCP service. The general consensus being that the SCP service should be retained and funded by the Council not individual schools. In addition the Council received 3 petitions in July 2011 and one in August 2011. Of those received in July 2011 one relates to the SCP service for Fircroft School and the other two, one of which was presented by Cllr Dawson (signed by 277 supporters), relate to the whole SCP Service. In all three cases the petitioners request that the Council retain responsibility for the SCP service and fund it. The petition received in August 2011, with 299 names “objects to the Council axing the Lollipop People Service”. There has also been web site and e-petition activity regarding the proposal and local MP’s have been involved in providing representations on behalf of their constituents to the Council.</p> <p>Concerns have also been raised that the SCP service is used by the whole community not just school children and although the law now allows SCPs to stop traffic to help anyone (child or adult) cross the road, SCP sites are established using the Council’s adopted National Criteria based on the number of <u>children</u> walking to and from school at the site in question. The fact that the whole community may benefit is a positive but not the purpose of providing a SCP. The key issue is that the SCPs are provided to assist children on their journeys to and from school and hence operate during these hours. Without the school the SCP would not be provided.</p>
What changes did you make as a result of this feedback?

This feedback has been reflected in the EIA

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