

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Tool

Equality Impact Assessments help the Council to comply with its public sector duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to equality implications. EIAs also help services to be customer focussed, leading to improved service delivery and customer satisfaction.

The Council understands that whilst its equalities duty applies to all services, it is going to be more relevant to some decisions than others. We need to ensure that the detail of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are proportionate to the impact of decisions on the equality duty, and that in some cases a full EIA is not necessary.

This tool assists services in determining whether plans and decisions will require a full EIA. It should be used on all new policies, projects, functions, staff restructuring, major development or planning applications, or when revising them.

Full guidance on the Council's duties and EIAs and the full EIA template is available at [Equality Impact Assessments](#).

Proposal/Project/Policy Title	The provision of Travel Assistance for the following areas: • Home to School Transport for children and young people SEND and/or Disabilities • Travel for post 16 students with SEND and/or Disabilities • Travel for the support of Children's Social Care•Children's and Families Removals
Service Area	Children's Care and Support (Commissioning)
Officer completing the EIA Screening Tool	Nikki McGowran, Commissioning Manager
Head of Service	Heather Storey, Head of Commissioning Children's
Date	05/04/2024
Brief Summary of the Proposal/Project/Policy Include main aims, proposed outcomes, recommendations/decisions sought.	Currently re-tendering the SEN Transport contract that is due to expire on the 31st of August 2024. The duration of this contract is four years. Due to the increase demand within Children's Social Care for taxi requests for children being escorted to contact for example or families requiring transport for when moving the current framework of providers do not have the capacity to take on all the additional work. Therefore, as part of re-tendering the SEN framework which continues to work sufficiently (however, there has been an overspend from the original projected spend again due to the increased number in children requiring the services) we are including separate lots within the Framework to provide for this. The reason being as some of the Providers on the current Framework would bid

for this, so it makes sense to combine it under one agreement. The Council has a legal duty to ensure travel assistance for “eligible children” as they consider necessary to facilitate their attendance at school (s508B Education Act 1996 (EA 1996)). The term “eligible children” is defined at Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996. Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities may be considered as “eligible”. The Council has a further statutory duty to provide social care support under the Care Act 2014 to vulnerable adults who qualify for support under the national eligibility criteria, both for those who cannot fund their care but also for those who can. Therefore, this framework is for the provision of private hire vehicle transport services (with and without Passenger Assistants) for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and vulnerable adults. It will assist LBBD in meeting its statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient, good quality, and safe travel for the children in its care. This framework represents value for money and will be sourced in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015), and the Council’s Contract Rules, to ensure best value for both the children and the Council. It is also important to note that Section 149 of the Equality Act requires public authorities to remove or minimise disadvantages affecting any particular equality group. This means that giving due regard to Equality will require the procurement process, tender specification and award of the tender to take into account the needs of children.

Protected characteristic	Impact	Description
Age	Positive impact (L)	<p>This framework is for the provision of private hire vehicle transport services (with and without Passenger Assistants) for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and vulnerable adults. It will assist LBBD in meeting its statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient, good quality, and safe travel for the children in its care from 0-25.</p> <p>Through continued standards established in the service specifications, targets set and contract monitoring, Providers will be required to demonstrate how they are ensuring a reliable and safe service.</p>
Disability	Positive impact (L)	The current framework already has considered the needs of children and

		<p>young people who have complex needs. For example, Service Users using the service are likely to be vulnerable and may suffer from a severe learning disability, have behaviour which can be challenging, have sensory or hearing difficulties, an autistic spectrum disorder or another physical disability.</p> <p>This will be achieved through standards established in the service specifications, targets set and contract monitoring. The contract will be monitored by the Commissioner for the service. Due to the requirements of service delivery this contract will require daily liaison with the provider to ensure that transport routes are fit for purpose, and the provider is delivering to the requisite standards to ensure these vulnerable, young people are kept safe.</p>
Gender re-assignment	Positive impact (L)	<p>All children and young people will be treated the same. This will continue to be monitored as per the current arrangements of the framework.</p> <p>Capturing gender, identity and sexual orientation will be achieved through standards established in the service specifications, targets set and contract monitoring; Providers will be required to demonstrate how they are meeting these needs.</p> <p>Providers will also be required to submit details of incidents and their response to keep young people safe including bullying, issues related to their sexuality or sexual identity and other protected factors.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	Not applicable (N/A)	Not applicable.
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive impact (L)	The current framework already has considered the needs of young people or adults. This will be achieved through standards established in the service

		specifications, targets set and contract monitoring
Race	Positive impact (L)	All children, young people and families across the diverse population of LBBB will be supported as appropriate, regardless of their race. Providers will also be expected to understand cultural needs. This will be achieved through continued standards established in the service specifications, targets set and contract monitoring
Religion	Positive impact (L)	LBBB has a diverse population, children, young people and families which will be supported/transported as appropriate, regardless of their religion. Providers will continue to understand this.
Sex	Positive impact (L)	Providers will continue to be expected to understand this. Capturing gender, identity and sexual orientation will be achieved through standards established in the service specifications, targets set and contract monitoring; Providers will be required to demonstrate how they are meeting these needs. Providers will also be required to submit details of incidents and their response to keep young people safe including bullying, issues related to their sexuality or sexual identify and other protected factors.
Sexual orientation	Positive impact (L)	Providers will continue to be expected to understand this. Capturing gender, identity and sexual orientation will be achieved through standards established in the service specifications, targets set and contract monitoring; Providers will be required to demonstrate how they are meeting these needs. Providers will also be required to submit details of incidents and their response to keep young people safe including bullying, issues related to

		their sexuality or sexual identify and other protected factors.
Socio-Economic Disadvantage¹	Positive impact (L)	<p>The Council has a legal duty to ensure travel assistance for “eligible children” as they consider necessary to facilitate their attendance at school (s508B Education Act 1996 (EA 1996)).</p> <p>The term “eligible children” is defined at Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996. Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities may be considered as “eligible”.</p> <p>The Council has a further statutory duty to provide social care support under the Care Act 2014 to vulnerable adults who qualify for support under the national eligibility criteria, both for those who cannot fund their care but also for those who can.</p> <p>Therefore, the Children and young people are often from families who experience socio-economic disadvantage².</p> <p>This is already included in the current framework and Providers have an understanding of this.</p>
How visible is this service/policy/project/proposal to the general public?		Medium visibility to the general public (M)
What is the potential risk to the Council’s reputation? Consider the following impacts – legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc		High risk to reputation (H)

If your answers are mostly H and/or M = **Full EIA to be completed**

If after completing the EIA screening process you determine that a full EIA is not relevant for this service/function/policy/project you must provide explanation and evidence below.

¹ Socio-Economic Disadvantage is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has chosen to include Socio-Economic Disadvantage as best practice.

²(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c4b2d40f0b6321db3836b/33571_2901304_CMO_Chapter_11.pdf,p5)

This screening tool has identified that a full EIA is not required at this time, the retendering of the current framework is a positive impact against all protected characteristics listed above; however, the impact on protected characteristics will continue to be reviewed and monitored over the course of the four years.

Please submit the form to CE-strategy@lbbd.gov.uk and include the above explanation as part of the equalities comments on any subsequent related report.