

Equality Impact Assessment

Stage 1 Details of the proposal

Name of service

Education, Early Start and Prevention (Early Years, Sufficiency and Prevention)

Directorate

Children's Services

Name of officer responsible for EIA

Head of Early Years, Sufficiency and Prevention

Name of senior sponsor

Description / purpose of proposal

Extension of Early Years Entitlements to Young Children, firstly from the age of 2 years and secondly from the age of 9 months in the Borough.

Development of 'wraparound' child-care, allowing working parents to drop off their children at a setting from 08.00 to 18.00 on a weekday.

Date EIA started

1st November 2023

Assessment Review date

31st October 2024

Stage 2 - About the proposal

What is being proposed?

The extension of early years, child-care entitlements, including the development of 'wraparound' provision in Barnsley has been submitted for Cabinet's consideration.

Why is the proposal required?

The proposal has been developed following the Government's announcement on this matter as part of the Spring Budget (2023)

What will this proposal mean for customers?

Extending Government funded early years entitlements to working families with children aged younger than 2 years will mean a greater proportion of very young children will obtain a good start in life and reach a good level of development enabling them to be school-ready.

The proposals will also enable working parents and carers to maintain their participation in the local employment market and increase their contractual hours.

Stage 3 - Preliminary screening process

Use the Preliminary screening questions to decide whether a full EIA is required

Yes - EIA required (go to next section)

No – EIA not required (provide rationale below including name of E&I Officer consulted with)

Stage 4 - Scoping exercise - What do we know?

Data: Generic demographics

What generic data do you know?

Data concerning needs and demand in the Borough is mainly derived from the Annual Review of the Sufficiency of Child Care Provision.

Data: Service data / feedback

What equalities knowledge do you already know about the service/location/policy/contract?

This is mainly derived from the Annual Review of the Sufficiency of Child Care provision in the Borough and provided by registered child care settings.

Data: Previous / similar EIA's

Has there already been an EIA on all or part of this before, or something related? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

The latest, published annual review of child-care provision in the Borough (2022) was considered by Cabinet earlier this year and incorporated an EIA.

Data: Formal consultation

What information has been gathered from formal consultation?

Consultation with early years or child-care providers, forms part of the annual sufficiency review and includes considerations such as meeting specific needs, particularly though not exclusively special or complex needs, such as a disability or impairment.

Stage 5 - Potential impact on different groups

Considering the evidence above, state the likely impact the proposal will have on people with different protected characteristics

(state if negative impact is substantial and highlight with **red text**)

Negative (and potentially positive) impacts identified will need to form part of your action plan.

Protected characteristic	Negative '-'	Positive '+'	No impact	Don't know	Details
Sex					None anticipated
Age					None anticipated
Disabled <i>Learning disability, Physical disability, Sensory Impairment, Deaf People ,invisible illness, Mental Health etc</i>					Targeted support and intervention will continue to be provided to young children in need of additional help.
Race					None anticipated
Religion & Belief					As above
Sexual orientation					As above
Gender Reassignment					As above
Marriage / civil partnership		N/A			

Pregnancy / maternity		N/A			
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Other groups you may want to consider					
	Negative	Positive	No impact	Don't know	Details
Ex services					None anticipated
Lower socio-economic					These measures will benefit young children of working parents only. The Council will continue to lobby the Government in ensuring funding continues to be available to help the early learning of young children from workless households and to provide pathways into employment for parents in receipt of benefits
Other ...					-

Stage 6 - BMBC Minimum access standards

If the proposal relates to the delivery of a new service, please refer to the Customer minimum access standards self-assessment (found at)

If not, move to Stage 7.

Please use the action plan to be taken to ensure the new service complies with reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

Not yet live

The proposal will meet the minimum access standards.

The proposal will not meet the minimum access standards. –provide rationale below.

Stage 7 – Action plan

To improve your knowledge about the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: community engagement with affected groups, analysis of performance data, service equality monitoring, stakeholder focus group etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Analysis and follow up action from the annual sufficiency assessment of child- care provision.	Head of Early Start, Sufficiency and Prevention	October 2024

Data derived from Department for Education statistical releases on the profile and characteristics of children ant the Early Years Foundation Stage	Head of Early Start, Sufficiency and Prevention	October 2024
Child Poverty and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments	Head of Early Start, Sufficiency and Prevention	October 2024

To improve or mitigate the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: altering the policy to protect affected group, limiting scope of proposed change, reviewing actual impact in future, phasing-in changes over period of time, monitor service provider performance indicators, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Pulse surveys and further mini-consultations with providers and settings concerning take-up of the extended entitlements as part of ensuring all eligible families take up this offer	Head of Education and Partnerships	March 2023

To meet the minimum access standards . . .(if relevant)

Actions could include: running focus group with disability forum, amend tender specification, amend business plan to request extra ‘accessibility’ funding, produce separate MAS action plan, etc.

Action we will take:	Completion date
Not yet live	

Stage 8 – Assessment findings

Please summarise how different protected groups are likely to be affected

Summary of equality impact	The additional funding which the Government will provide forms the basis for the extension of a universal entitlement to free child-care for all families with younger children aged 2 and also 9 months of age later in the roll-out of this Programme.
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Summary of next steps

The extension of early years entitlements and the development of 'Wraparound' care for these younger groups of children, enabling working parents and carers to drop off their children at a setting between 08.00am and 6.00pm is to be implemented during the applicable period

Signature (officer responsible for EIA) Date

**** EIA now complete ****

Stage 9 – Assessment Review

(This is the post implementation review of the EIA based on date in Stage 1 if applicable)

What information did you obtain and what does that tell us about equality of outcomes for different groups?