

Equality Impact Assessment

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	106 – Prevention and Inclusion – Impact assessment of budget savings and reductions on externally commissioned contracts for services.
Brief Service Profile	This EIA relates to proposals to make £400,000 of savings and service reductions from the 21 budget codes (£2.2m) making up this budget.
Summary of Impact and Issues	This funding secures a range of valuable services from specialist and general providers that meet the needs of a range of specific groups, including vulnerable groups. Whilst there is room for discretion in removing this level of funding from contracted service it is likely to have an overall negative impact upon people currently benefitting from these services. All current contracts have been evaluated in relation to their contribution to Council priorities and best value.
Potential Positive Impacts	Whilst it is not anticipated that the savings described will a major positive impact, it does result in a better alignment of contracted and council services delivered through Children's Centres.
Responsible Service Manager	Tim Davis Service Manager – Commissioning, Policy and Performance
Date	10 August 2012

Approved by Senior Manager	Alison Alexander Senior Manager – Strategic Commissioning, Education and Inclusion
Signature	
Date	10 August 2012

Potential Negative Impacts

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
Age	The proposals impact upon children and young people either directly or indirectly through affecting services to their parents. The specific impact will depend upon the final decision about which contracted services are reduced or stopped.	Commissioners have jointly gone through a process of evaluating all existing contracted services in terms of strategic contribution to council priorities and value for money. Using this will help to minimise the impact of any given level of saving.
Disability	Some of the funded organisations work with children and young people with disabilities, their parents or with children and young people with carer responsibilities for disabled parents / carers.	There is scope within the savings target to take less from services that have a greater focus upon families affected by disability. The Council's SEND Pathfinder funded activities may also have benefits that would offset some of the effects of service cuts.
Gender Reassignment	It is not thought that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon service users considering or undergoing gender reassignment.	Not applicable.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	It is not thought that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon marriage and/or civil partnership.	Not applicable.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Some of the funded organisations work directly with pregnant women and women with young children.	There is scope within the savings to take less of the savings from services that have a greater focus upon pregnant women and women with young children. For example a more detailed assessment of savings options on this basis could be carried out.

Race	It is not anticipated that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon race issues specifically, though there is limited data on the ethnicity of all service users of contracted services.	There is scope to address this where if a likely poor impact is anticipated. For example a more detailed evaluation of the impact upon specific minority ethnic communities could be carried out to address specific concerns.
Religion or Belief	It is not thought that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon race issues specifically, as none relate to services that are targeted in this way.	Not applicable.
Sex	It is not thought that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon gender issues specifically, though there is limited data on the gender of all service users of contracted services.	Whilst there might be some services mainly focussed upon users from one gender this is likely to balance overall. If specific concerns are identified a more detailed assessment of the gender balance of take-up for specific services could be carried out. No impact is anticipated.
Sexual Orientation	It is not anticipated that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon service users from a sexual orientation perspective, though there is limited data on the sexual orientation all service users of contracted services.	Not applicable
Community Safety	It is not thought that the proposals would have a disproportionate affect upon community safety issues specifically, though there are very vulnerable service user groups supported by some service providers that are potentially under threat.	Whilst some commissioned services are likely to contribute to community safety there is scope to take less from services that have a greater focus upon this sort of outcome. A more detailed assessment of the contribution of final savings proposals can be commissioned to address this. Some of any negative impacts might be offset by

		improvements in provision for families under the Families Matter programme.
Poverty	The proposals are likely to generally impact upon children, young people and families living in poverty. This is thought likely because families on low incomes have less economic freedom to make alternative provision for the loss of than families with greater access to disposable income. The specific impact would vary according to which services are reduced or stopped.	There is scope to take less from services that have a greater impact upon children and young people in families living in poverty. A more detailed assessment of the contribution of final savings proposals upon those living in poverty can be commissioned to achieve this.
Other Significant Impacts	There is scope for these savings to have a disproportionate impact upon those families, children and young people who are most dependent upon public services (for whatever reason) for their general wellbeing. Whilst these may be generally covered in the above assessments dependency upon public services can have many causes.	There would be scope to explore and evaluate any more specific impacts of concern, and if necessary address these in the final selection of savings proposals from the services commissioned. For example there is some concern that some commissioned services triggers additional funding into the city, and that reductions in funding by the council could be mirrored by other funders, increasing the impact upon all users of that service.