

Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.	
Service/team or section: Overview and Scrutiny, Assistant Chief Executive's Office	
Lead Officer: Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Start date: February 2013
<p>Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Review of Road Safety for Children and Young People</p> <p>Members of the Committee agreed to undertake a review on Road Safety following concerns regarding performance of the 'number of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions' during 2010/2011 and to look at road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council and partners within County Durham.</p> <p>Road Casualty reduction is identified within the Sustainable Community Strategy and a long term priority within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011-14. Casualty reduction is also a key objective within the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan 2012-2016. It should also be noted that road casualties impact upon public health and from April 2013, the Council will have responsibility for Public Health services within County Durham.</p> <p>The purpose of the review was to explore road safety initiatives provided by the Council and Partners to children and young people within County Durham.</p> <p>The review's objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To gain an understanding of priorities and the role of partners within the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership.	

- To gain an understanding of Road Safety performance indicators and barriers to improving performance
- To explore the range of Road Safety schemes that are available for young people and identify methods to improve awareness and take up of schemes.
- To receive evidence on the approach to delivering road safety programmes both by the Council and in partnership and assess their impact and value for money.
- To research experiences and examples of best practice from UK road safety programmes to include within the Review's findings.
- To undertake field study activity to gain an insight to road safety programmes delivered by the Council and the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership.

The review has gathered a wide range of evidence, conducted field study activity including review group members attending road safety events provided by the Council and partner agencies to see first hand what is available. The report contains findings on causation factors and the impact of road traffic collisions, the partnership approach to road safety within County Durham, specific road safety education activities to children and young people and information on best practice from across the country.

The review report concludes that casualty reduction is an important priority for the Council and its partners reflected in respective strategic documents and action plans. A great deal of work is being done in a partnership context that has made a difference. The performance data relates to a small number of children and young people that have been killed or seriously injured (KSI) and this itself can present difficulties in that small numbers can be misleading. Work to develop a strategy on unintentional injuries is welcome as is public health becoming a local authority responsibility. Further work on evaluating the impact on casualty reduction programmes is essential so that value for money and any further investment into programmes demonstrate that they work, they do make a difference and that they are the right thing to do.

The recommendations from the review are set out below

Recommendation (a)

That Cabinet request that the Councils Neighborhood Service Road Safety Unit facilitate an audit to ensure that children and young people in high prevalence areas are receiving appropriate road safety education by the Council and Partners and that they (children, young people and their families) are acting upon this information.

Appendix 2 of the report provides information on a range of road safety initiatives undertaken by the council and its partners to children and young people The review highlights 93% of children injured in collisions between 2007 – 2011 were either pedestrians,

car occupants or pedal cyclists. The evidence gathered also points to the fact that road use just before and after school opening closing times has the largest impact on child casualty figures. Furthermore that children appear to be most at risk of becoming injured in a collision in the urban centres in County Durham and especially in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Within this context, it is also important that children within higher prevalence areas take up educational road safety initiatives and where appropriate information is provided to families.

Recommendation (b)

That Cabinet note the potential danger of child car seats being incorrectly fitted and encourage the Road Casualty Reduction Forum to publicise the importance of well fitted seats with information targeted at parents to direct them towards organisations that can provide a check.

The review notes that an evaluation of car clinics undertaken by the “Good Egg” guide in England between September to December 2010 reported that from 2,300 seats checked, 48% were fitted incorrectly and 461 had major faults. Within this context it is suggested that the Road Casualty Reduction Forum publicise the importance of well fitted seats with information targeted at parents to direct them towards organisations that can provide a check.

Recommendation (c)

That Cabinet encourage the Road Casualty Reduction Forum to take account of findings to be published (January/February 2013) from the Government’s consultation on revised guidelines to local authorities on the setting of speed limits together with findings from the evaluation on 20 mph limits (zones), with a view to putting forward a proposal to Cabinet on the benefits or otherwise for such an investment. Furthermore that the Road Casualty Reduction Forum update their Speed Management Strategy. That this information is then shared with Cabinet.

Members of the Working Group highlighted that a number of local authorities had introduced 20 mph limits within their areas and the report includes a summary of information on an evaluation of a scheme undertaken by Portsmouth City Council. In July 2012, the Government published a consultation on revised guidelines to local authorities on the setting of speed limits. In summary the consultation reiterates existing policy, emphasising the options available to local authorities to introduce 20 mph limits in urban areas and to assess speed limits in rural areas based on safety criteria. Findings from the consultation are yet to be published.

The Road Casualty Reduction Forum’s Speed Management Strategy 2007-2011 aims to address both excess speed and inappropriate speed on the roads in County Durham and Darlington in order to reduce casualties and improve the quality of life for people who live in the area and those travelling within it.

The report suggests the Forum update the Strategy to take account of evaluations from 20 mph limits, zones and outcomes from the Government’s Consultation.

Recommendation (d)

That Cabinet request the Director of Public Health to prioritise the evaluation of programmes and activities that reduce casualty reduction (in line with NICE guidance) so that they provide value for money and are effective.

The report provides information on work to develop a strategy on unintentional injuries inline with NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) guidance and that public health will become a local authority responsibility from April 2013. NICE guidance suggests that road safety reviews should be undertaken every 3 years to evaluate the impact of initiatives on local policies (including health inequalities policy), practice and injuries. In addition, further work on evaluating the impact on casualty reduction programmes is essential so that value for money and any further investment into programmes demonstrate that they work, they do make a difference and that they are the right thing to do.

Recommendation (e)

Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations contained in the report as part of the approach through systematic review and provide a progress update on recommendations in six months time.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –

General Public

Employees undertaking Road Safety Activity

Is a copy of the subject attached? Yes

If not, where could it be viewed?

Initial screening

<p>Prompts to help you: Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?</p>											
<p>Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings? Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure</p>											
Gender	N	Disability	N	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
<p>How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities? Reminder of our legal duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment ○ Promoting equality of opportunity ○ Promoting good relations between people from different groups ○ Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and taking account of someone's disability, even where that involves treating them more favourably than other people ○ Involving people, particularly disabled people, in public life and decision making 											
<p>What evidence do you have to support your findings?</p> <p>Information provided within the report relates to children and young people and recommendations from the review focus on initiatives to contribute to reducing the number of children killed or seriously injured within road traffic collisions within County Durham.</p> <p>Evidence within the review highlighted that whilst the numbers of children killed or seriously injured within road traffic collisions was low but none the less this is an important area that needs to continue to improve on its performance. The review also highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that children appear to be most at risk of becoming injured in a collision in the urban centres in County Durham and especially in areas with higher levels of deprivation • that findings from child car seat checks undertaken with County Durham and a national campaign by the Good Egg Guide reported high levels of cars with incorrectly fitted seats. 											

An equality impact assessment may be required to be undertaken by service carrying out implementation of recommendations and the Committee will review receive a progress update on recommendations within its work programme.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – No

Date: January 2013

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

	Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?	Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.	What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)
Gender			
Age			
Disability			
Race/Ethnicity			
Religion or belief			
Sexual orientation			

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

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Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Systematic Review of all recommendations September 2013	Overview and Scrutiny Manager	September 2013	Overview and Scrutiny Service Improvement Plan
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: September 2013		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer - sign off: Feisal Jassat			Date: 16 th January 2013
Service equality representative - sign off: Kay Winter			Date: 16 th January 2013

Please email your completed Impact Assessment to the Equality team - equalities@durham.gov.uk.