

Cumulative Impact Assessment - Race, Ethnicity and Religion

This cumulative impact assessment needs to be read in conjunction with the IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FOR 2011/12 BUDGET PROPOSALS which provides more detail of individual proposals and the actions that will be taken to mitigate their effects.

Item	Portfolio	Cumulative total in Yr 3 (£'000)	Comment
Review of contracted Day Care services	ASCH9	% of 400	People from BME Communities may be less likely to access these services. However all people with Fair Access to Care assessments will receive a personal budget and be able to find alternative BME sensitive solution to meet their needs. People with particular religious beliefs prefer to be gender specific in their access requirements.
Review the level of funding for voluntary organisations where service is non statutory.	ASCH 14	% of 776	Overall reduction in Mental Health services would limit access to services for people from BME communities and those who face multiple discrimination are more likely to access voluntary sector specialist Mental Health services and accessing mainstream activities is not always an option due to stigma.
Cease provision of Later Years Service and support to Later Years Partnership	ASCH 16	% of 239	This budget helps fund the Third Age Centre, including the Suhana Asian Elders Drop in Centre. The Suhana Centre provides services to people from Asian communities and from specific religious beliefs.
Reorganisation of services to children, young people and families from across the Directorate	CSL10	703	Limited impact due to all services being refocused. Less vulnerable children, young people and families might experience a reduction in generic services such as information, advice and guidance, youth support.
Review scope and delivery of Private Sector Housing Service based on statutory responsibilities	HOU 6	% of 54	Although evidence shows that people from BME communities are more likely to live in unsafe private housing, these people will be able to continue to access statutory services. Landlords from BME Communities access the landlord liaison services but stopping these services is not considered to have a disproportionate effect on people from BME communities.
Review of the remaining communities service and consolidation with other neighbourhood services combined with a significant scaling back of service.	LSCS 11	% of 98	Reduced capacity to deal with hate crime, harassment and community tension incidents.
Reduction in the amount of grant provision available.	LS&CS 13	% of 450	Impact is dependent on the final recommendations – appraisal of grant applications is currently underway and impact assessments will need to be completed on the recommendations to Cabinet in the New Year.

Cumulative Impact of Proposals on Black and Minority Ethnic Communities:

Background

- The Equality Act came into force on 1 October 2010. The Act consolidates, harmonises and expands upon existing discrimination law. It provides a new cross-cutting and unifying legislative framework that applies to discrimination, harassment and victimisation on grounds of disability, gender and race, and six other characteristics: age, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. This is to:
 - protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all;
 - update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation;
 - deliver a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

Demographics

2. The BME community represented 7.6% of the overall population of Southampton according to the 2001 Census. The most recent estimates (2007) indicate that the BME community has increased and now represents 11.9% of the population of Southampton. This is 27,600 people. There are a small number of proposals that would directly impact on BME communities in Southampton. Many of the proposals that will impact on the BME community, if approved, would also have a negative impact on a range of people from other communities across Southampton. These proposals would impact on young and old alike from BME communities impacting on areas as diverse as health, education and culture.

Areas of significance

Voluntary Sector Funding

3. Evidence contained within an Integrated Impact Assessment identifies that people from BME communities are more likely to access voluntary sector provision. There is local evidence to demonstrate problems with people accessing statutory services. Therefore, the cumulative impact of reducing funding for the voluntary and community sector could be more significant for BME communities.

Other Factors to Consider:

4. The cumulative impact of these proposals needs to be considered alongside other factors that may impact on BME communities in Southampton. These include:
 - National changes to public services and welfare benefits
 - Southampton City Council budget saving proposals relating to older people, disabled people and young people
 - Final recommendations on budget savings proposals that reduce services/grants to voluntary organisations that are delivered to communities within wards where there is a high BME population. In the 2001 Census the wards with the highest BME populations were Bevois (30.3%) and Bargate (11.9%).
 - Detailed implementation plans for the budget proposals in CSL and ASCH when a more detailed analysis of the impact of reductions is known.

Next step:

A joint discussion between the relevant Heads of Service or their nominated representatives on the potential impact and any mitigating action

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