

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	To re-open Kentish Road respite centre for individuals living with a learning disability at weekends, pending the disposal of the site to a voluntary or community organisation for the long term provision of care and support to vulnerable adults
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The previous service was closed in November 2017 with suitable alternative respite arrangements put in place to support its former users. The majority of individuals have taken up these alternatives, but a small number have chosen not to at this time. Although there is sufficient alternative provision of residential and other types of respite care, reopening the scheme at weekends will provide additional choice and options at the time of greatest demand for residential respite services. It is proposed that the respite centre will reopen at weekends only (Friday afternoon to Monday morning) in order to complement other respite services at times of greatest demand; to ensure that the required number of staff can be recruited and trained to re-open the service as quickly as possible; to support a smooth transition to the proposed longer term arrangements; and to help avoid any liabilities for the incoming charity or voluntary-sector provider. It is not known how many people will take up the offer of receiving respite care at the re-opened Kentish Road scheme and the ESIA will be updated once the decision has been made by Cabinet and more is known about potential customers. This is not expected to have any detrimental impact on individuals living with a learning disability or their carers, as existing services will not be reduced or amended, and the proposal will bring additional choice and options. The proposed scheme will be able to support up to four people a night. Information about the former users of Kentish Road is contained in the Cabinet papers published to inform the decision taken on 30 November 2017 to close the previous scheme. In the longer term, the proposed disposal of the site to a voluntary or community organisation in order to</p>	

support vulnerable adults including the provision of respite care is expected to have positive equality impacts, when assessed against the alternative of selling off the site for residential development purposes.

Summary of Impact and Issues

- More choice/options for residential respite at weekends for people living with a learning disability and their carers
- Complement new existing service at Weston Court and other respite options (residential and non-residential) including shared lives
- The short term council-provided service will be in place pending disposal of the site to a voluntary or community organisation, following a selection process
- The long term plans for supporting vulnerable adults will be taken into account during the selection process, and this ESIA will be updated accordingly
- The decision not to dispose of the site for residential development may have an adverse impact on the availability of affordable housing in Southampton, which may impact adversely on poverty, but any adverse impacts are expected to be significantly outweighed by the positive impact on social wellbeing that will be delivered by the new occupier of the site

Potential Positive Impacts

- Additional choice and options for respite care for people living with a learning disability and their carers in the shorter term
- A community wellbeing hub incorporating services for older, vulnerable and disabled adults, including the provision of residential respite care and other services, is anticipated to be provided on the site following its disposal to a voluntary or community organisation
- The longer term potential positive impacts will be reviewed and ESIA updated once detailed plans have been received as part of the selection process

Responsible Service Managers	Dean Samber (Adult Social Care) and Neville Payne (Capital Assets)
Date	9 April 2018
Approved by Senior Manager	Paul Juan, Service Director, Adults, Housing and Communities
Date	9 April 2018

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	No adverse impact	
Disability	No adverse impact	
Gender Reassignment	No adverse impact	

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No adverse impact	
Pregnancy and Maternity	No adverse impact	
Race	No adverse impact	
Religion or Belief	No adverse impact	
Sex	No adverse impact	
Sexual Orientation	No adverse impact	
Community Safety	No adverse impact	
Poverty	Decision to dispose of the site for long term use to support vulnerable adults may have a minor impact on the provision of new affordable housing in Southampton.	Separate plans to identify sites for affordable housing development are being actioned. Any adverse impact is likely to be small when weighed against the significant positive impact on social wellbeing associated with the proposals.
Health & Wellbeing	No adverse impact	
Other Significant Impacts	No adverse impact	