

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

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	Re-Procurement of the Joint Equipment Store
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Joint Equipment Store (JES) provides equipment to people in the community that supports them to maintain their independence.</p> <p>The current contract is held by Millbrook Healthcare and ends in June 2020. The service covers both children and adults and is jointly commissioned by Southampton City Council and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with the Council acting as lead commissioner. As required under EU procurement rules, the Council intends to test the market through a retendering process. The intention is to re-procure the service in partnership with Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group who were also partners with Southampton in the original tender.</p> <p>In Southampton the funding is part of the Better Care pooled fund and in 2018/19 there were 13,532 people who received equipment.</p> <p>The current service model is that the provision of equipment (including storage, maintenance and recycling) is undertaken by a third party commissioned by the Council and CCG. Health and social care practitioners working with Southampton residents in the community have access to an online catalogue that allows them to order equipment against a range of delivery time frames depending on the level of urgency. The catalogue is agreed by the commissioners. The time frames vary between within 3 hours up to a week. The provider is expected to:-</p>	

- Ensure that the online systems are in place to allow practitioners timely access
- Ensure the appropriate stock is available
- Ensure that equipment is properly maintained including decontamination
- Ensure that equipment is delivered and fitted within agreed timescales
- Ensure that equipment is picked up following use within agreed timescales so that it can be recycled

Several options were considered however the preferred option is to re-procure the service based on the current model with a requirement on the provider to work with the Council and CCG to identify and explore opportunities for further alignment and integration throughout the life of the future contract.

Summary of Impact and Issues

Provision of an effective and efficient JES is key to supporting people to be as independent as they can be in the community. The current service model receives positive feedback from both front line health and social care staff prescribing equipment and service users. Hence the decision to re-procure the service based on the current model and service specification.

However, as with any re-procurement, there is always the potential risk of upheaval associated with a change in provider particularly if they are not familiar with the local area. In seeking to mitigate this risk:-

- We have incorporated a “handover” transition period in the re-procurement of 5 months to allow time for the future provider to establish systems and processes and build relationships with local health and care services
- Mobilisation and transition arrangements will be a key evaluation question in the tender
- We are ensuring good communication with service users and health and care services throughout the process
- We would ensure that appropriate information is shared between the outgoing provider and the incoming provider

Potential Positive Impacts

Having an effective Joint Equipment Store is fundamental in achieving a number of key strategic priorities including:-

- Reduction in the number of admissions into care and nursing homes,
- Reduction in hospital admissions
- Reduction in the numbers of delayed discharges from hospital
- Reduction in the reliance on homecare

The current service model has consistently demonstrated a high level of satisfaction from service users and health and social care staff that prescribe equipment.

However the re-procurement gives us the opportunity:-

- To test the market to ensure that we are commissioning value for money provision.
- To engage health and social care staff and key stakeholders in developing the future service specification to further improve on quality
- To consider opportunities for integrating equipment provision and pathways with other related provision e.g. “Handy Person” Service, housing adaptations, falls prevention activity and telecare service delivery and to signal to the market that we are looking for partners that will work with commissioners to explore this over the lifetime of the contract to provide person centred, seamless and preventative service delivery.

Responsible Service Manager	Jamie Schofield
Date	25/06/2019
Approved by Senior Manager	Donna Chapman
Date	25/06/2019

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	There is an opportunity to ensure that the potential for preventative use of equipment in children’s services is built into future provision to reduce harm.	The procurement process and subsequent expectations within the service specification and contract will reflect best practice.
Disability	As above there is the opportunity to reflect on the current equipment catalogue to review the potential for preventative equipment that can support greater future independence.	The procurement process and subsequent expectations within the service specification and contract will reflect best practice.
Gender Reassignment	No specific impact	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No specific impact	
Pregnancy and Maternity	No specific impact	
Race	There is a potential impact in terms of access to services due to language or cultural issues.	The tendering process will require potential providers to demonstrate how they would make

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		<p>their services accessible to people from other cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>The service specification and contract will require the provider to demonstrate that they engage fully with service users.</p>
Religion or Belief	No specific impact	
Sex	No specific impact	
Sexual Orientation	No specific impact	
Community Safety	No specific impact	
Poverty	Statutory equipment is provided to all regardless of financial circumstance.	
Health & Wellbeing	The provider needs to work with partners across the health and social care system to ensure that services are joined up and operating at an optimum.	<p>The tendering process will require potential providers to demonstrate how they would engage and work with the wider health and social care system.</p> <p>It will be explicit within any future service specification and contract that we are seeking to integrate and align service delivery across a number of services throughout the life of the future JES contract.</p>
Other Significant Impacts	No specific impact	