

Equality Impact Assessment Screening

Children and Young People Plan (2008 2011)

The Generic Equality Impact Assessment Guidance must be referred to used when completing this form.

Service Area/Team:

Torfaen Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011, a strategy for discharging the functions of the authority in relation to children and relevant young people - defined as those up to and including age 19 receiving service as under section 23C to 23D of the Children Act 1989 (care leavers) or youth support services within the meaning of Section 123 of the Learning Skills Act 2000

Date of assessment: 1st July 2008

1. Aims/purpose of relevance of policy, function or proposal – (This can often be explained in one or two sentences, but if a more detailed account is necessary please do not feel restricted by this)

The Children and Young People's Plan is a 3-year strategic plan developed and owned by the Children and Young People's Partnership. The purpose of the CYPP is to:

- provide strategic vision and state the agreed priorities that will direct the work of all partners;
- describe how requirements of national and local strategies, policies and priorities will be tackled locally and the main elements that will deliver service improvement under each of the seven core aims;
- set out agreed joint targets to enable progress in improving outcomes to be measured over the planning timescale;
- identify the contribution made by individual partners towards meeting joint objectives, ensuring that they are consistent and mutually supportive; and
- provide a basis for the joint commissioning of services and sharing of available funding, including core budgets of statutory partners and resource or financial contributions from the voluntary sector.

2. Examination of available information (this might include knowledge gained from equality training, previous local or national research or surveys. It may also be evident from particular complaints made to the Council)

It is essential that equality is built into all policies and services covered by the Children and Young People's Plan. *Iaith Pawb* sets out the Assembly Government's commitment to Wales becoming a truly bilingual country. By this we mean a country where people can live their lives through English, Welsh or both languages. Language choice is an important component in the provision of quality services. For specific groups, in particular, children and young people with learning difficulties or mental health problems, research has shown that it is particularly important that services are delivered in their mother tongue.

In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993, the Assembly Government is committed to the importance of planning and delivering services in the service user's language of choice and is working with service delivery organisations to help achieve this aim. It is set out in the Children and Young people's Plan their intentions in respect of Welsh medium service provision and how they will work together to improve provision. Partners will also take account of the need for appropriate provision of services in languages other than Welsh and English to children and young people.

The Assembly Government is committed to promoting gender and race equality and to tackling discrimination. In working together, partners must have due regard to their responsibilities to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination under equality legislation.

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out how the relevant partners will discharge their responsibilities under the following equality legislation:

- The Sex Discrimination Act 1975.
- The Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, including its policy on the promotion of racial awareness and its strategy for preventing and addressing racism.
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, including from December 2006 requirements for disability equality schemes.

The Human Rights Act 1998.

Work with the Minority Ethnic Youth Forum highlights the fact that young people from minority ethnic backgrounds do not feel part of the mainstream; and cultural issues seem to be a factor in this lack of engagement. It is critical that this is addressed at the outset of strategy, policy making and service delivery.

3. Screening process for relevance to Diversity, Equality or Community issues – Is the policy, function or proposal likely to have a positive or negative impact? – Whilst the policy may not affect all equality groups it may have an affect on a particular group or a number of group. (think in the broadest sense – does this policy have the capacity to adversely or positively affect people because of their gender, disability status, race, age, religion, language issues or sexual orientation)

<p>(i) Will the policy, function or proposal have significant positive or negative consequences for a particular group, community or person the organisation serves or employs? Explain:</p> <p>Positive consequences as specific communities/groups have been identified and more effort will be made to reach these people and offer them the opportunities they have the right to afforded. It is intended that data-monitoring systems will be developed over-time to check if there is any inequality in outcomes or treatment of different children and young people.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<p>(ii) Will any part of the policy, function or proposal discriminate unlawfully, directly or indirectly, against people from any groups? Explain:</p> <p>With the additional focus on the hard to reach communities/groups as mentioned above unlawful discrimination will be avoided, both directly and indirectly.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>(iii) Is the policy, function or proposal likely to affect equality of opportunity for any group or individual? Explain:</p> <p>More equality of opportunity will be afforded with the increased focus and data-monitoring systems will be developed over-time to check if there is any inequality in outcomes or treatment of different children and young people.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<p>(iv) Is the policy, function or proposal likely to damage relations between any particular groups or between the organisation and those groups? Explain:</p> <p>Relations should become stronger not damaged.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>(v) Are there any other community concerns or risks to communities arising from the policy or proposals? Explain:</p> <p>The guidance and regulations replace the requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The (Social Services) Children's Services Plan. • The Single Education Plan. • The Children's Partnership Plan. • The Young People's Partnership Strategy and Annual Plan for Youth Support Services. • The Children First Management Action Plan 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>(vi) Is the policy, function or proposal likely to promote positive attitudes towards others and encourage their participation in public life? Explain:</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

More equality of opportunity will be afforded for the harder to reach communities/groups	
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From the answers supplied. You must decide if the policy, functions or proposal impacts upon diversity, community or equality issues. Choose from a High, Medium or Low priority. If High or Medium, complete the relevant form (Full Equality Impact Assessment). If the policy, function or proposal is of a Low priority, the process is complete.

Summary of Screening Process Decision: High

Full Impact Assessment Required Yes – complete relevant form No
 Not yet - More data needs to be gathered around difference in outcome and treatment. This assessment will be reviewed annually with a view to completing a full impact assessment in time.

Signed: DB Position: Partnership Support Officer (Manager undertaking Screening)	Date: 26 th June 2008
Signed: Position: (Service Area Lead Officer)	Date: