

Equality and Children's Rights Integrated Screening Form

The public sector equality duty requires that we demonstrate that we are making decisions in a fair, transparent and accountable way. The Council must show that it has considered the needs and rights of people with protected characteristics. In addition, where decisions affect young people, we must consider the 'Rights of the Child', under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The duty requires that the Council assesses the 'equality impact' of proposals thoroughly before any decisions are taken. This should be proportionate to the decision that is being made. In addition, we must also ensure we are not impacting negatively on Human Rights or socio-economic status under the Fairer Scotland Duty.*

This form should assist in assessing whether a more detailed Equality and Children's Rights impact assessment is required.

A. Proposal		
Title	Reduction In book budget in public libraries	
Budget reference number and heading if appropriate (or N/A).*	SP/COM/24/11	
Amount (£) of saving if appropriate (or N/A)	£15,000	
Service	Information and Culture	
Lead Officer	Lesley Forsyth	
Others Involved		
Date Completed	26.1.24	
1. What are the main aims of the proposal?		
To meet budget savings for the service.		
2. What data, research or other evidence was used for this screening?		
Officers' knowledge of the service and data available from the Central Management System.		
3. Screening questions		
	Yes	No
Does the proposal affect service users, employees or the wider community and specifically to services that are known to being important to particular protected groups?	x	
Does the proposal have any relevance for Human and/or Children's Rights? (please see guidance)		x
Is it a major proposal, significantly affecting how services are delivered or how other organisations operate?		x

Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities or has significant potential for reducing inequalities or improving outcomes?					X
4. What is the impact of the (budget) proposal on equality groups?					
Protected Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Comments	
Age (young**/older people)			X	There will be fewer non-fiction books available across the service and customers may have to wait to access a specific title. Our work is not targeted at any specific group so there will be a neutral impact across the protected groups. No reductions to books relating to specific protected characteristics will be made. Savings will be made from a reduction in generic titles	
Disability (Physical & learning)			X	As above	
Gender Re-assignment			X	As above	
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	As above	
Race & ethnic origin			X	As above	
Religion or belief			X	As above	
Sex			X	As above	
Sexual Orientation			X	As above	
Care Experienced			X	As above	
Other (Poverty, homelessness, rural, carers, part-time workers, etc)			X	As above	
Fairer Scotland Duty			X	As above	
Human Rights			X	As above	
5. The Fairer Scotland Duty – (reducing the socio-economic impact of our policies, strategies and budget decisions) Does the proposal have any negative (or potential) positive impacts that need to be explored in more detail? (please provide brief summary).					

No
6. Island Proofing – Are there any special considerations for the Island Communities within North Ayrshire
Yes, the proposal will affect the number of books available across the service but on the islands, consideration is already given to this in more generous internal allocations for Arran and Millport taking account of less access to resources.
7. Have any cross-cutting impacts been identified from other Council Services or Partner Agencies (multiple discrimination or accumulated effects of multiple proposals)?
No
8. If a negative impact has been identified how will you modify it?
An overall reduction in the book budget will see an equal reduction across the branches and local communities. Data gathered from the Central Records System shows a significant reduction in borrowing of non-fiction, hence we will focus the reduction on this genre. Most research today is done online with readily available access to more information that hard copies could give.
9. Has there been any consultation on the (budget) proposal with any protected characteristic groups or other services or partner organisations?
No
10. What are the monitoring and review arrangements?
Complaints relating to availability of titles will be monitored
11. What are the recommendations and further action resulting from this Equality Screening? (please explain)
Full Equality Assessment (or) -
No
Full Equality Assessment and Children's Rights Impact required.
No

B. Outcome of the Proposal	
Screening Only (Please Explain)	The reduction will impact on the number of physical books purchased however, the use of online services and e books has increased significantly and will be unaffected by this change
Full Assessment Required	No

Authorisation

Policy Lead/Manager: Lesley Forsyth

Date: 26.1.24

Head of Service: Rhonda Leith

Date: 30/01/2024

*If relating to a Budget proposal, the Full ECRIA should be attached to Committee Report and published on the Council's external website Equality pages

****If a potential impact is identified for people under the age of 18, the CRIA screening questions in Appendix 1 should be answered**

Appendix 1 – Children’s Rights Impact Screening Form

1. What aspects of the Policy/measure will affect children and young people?

(The articles of the UNCRC and the wellbeing indicators under the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 apply to all people under the age of 18, including non-citizen and undocumented children and young people). More information can be found –
(Appendix 1 of the full form)
([Children & Young People’s Commissioner Scotland](#))

- The reduction will come from the Adult non fiction budget line and so will not affect children and young people

2. What Likely Impact (direct or indirect) will the policy have on children and young people – considering any positive, negative or neutral impacts.

(**Direct** impact, where changes directly impact the young person, e.g., education, child protection etc or **Indirect** Impact, where although not directly aimed at young people, will still have an impact, e.g., welfare reforms, parental leave, housing supply etc).

- None

3. Are there particular groups of young people who are more likely to be affected than others?

(‘Children’ can refer to individuals, groups or children in general, and can also be related to the range of characteristics under the Equality Act – disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It also includes those that are eligible for special protection, including pre-school children, children in hospitals, rural areas, looked after children, victims of abuse, young people who offend, child asylum seekers, children living in poverty)

- No