

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact Assessment

Stage 1

Section 1: Policy, Function or Service Development Details

This section requires the basic details of the policy, function or service to be reviewed, amended or introduced.

Section 2: Assessing Impact

This section asks the author to consider potential differential impacts the policy, function or service could have on each of protected groups. There is a separate section for each characteristic, and each should be considered individually.

Authors should refer to relevant evidence to inform the assessment, and to understand the likely demographics of the patient population who will be impacted by the policy, function or service. For example, findings from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). It may be that no evidence is available locally. In this case, relevant national, regional or county-wide data should be referred to.

Authors must consider what action they will take to mitigate any negative outcomes identified and what actions they will take to ensure positive impacts are realized.

A link is provided to the legal definition for each of the protected characteristic groups.

Section 3: Equality Act 2010

This section asks the ICB's equality, diversity and inclusion lead to consider compliance to the Equality Act (2010) having completed the impact assessment of each of the protected characteristics covered by the Act in section 2. Consideration should be given to whether the evidence included in the impact assessment demonstrates that the organisation has upheld its legal duty to eliminate discrimination and promote equalities and good community relations by having given due regard to equality, including all nine of the protected characteristics covered by the Act.

Section 4: Conclusions & Recommendations

Now the impact has been assessed, the reviewing panel is asked to consider whether, based on the findings, they agree with the findings and any mitigating actions.

Section 5: Planning Ahead

This section outlines the requirements for any next steps. This should be completed by the ICB's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead and the author of this impact assessment to ensure that requirements are reasonable and deliverable within project/programme timeframes.

Section 1: Policy, Function or Service Development Details (to be completed by the author)

Directorate: Strategy

Officer responsible for assessment:

Date of assessment: On-going

Is this a (please confirm): Updated assessment

Defining what is being assessed:

What is the title of the policy, function or service this impact assessment applies to?

Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy

Please briefly describe the purpose and objectives of this policy, function or service

The Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) is required to write an integrated care strategy which sets out how commissioners in the ICB and local authorities will work with partners to deliver joined up and person-centred care across the Kent and Medway population. An interim strategy was developed and published in December 2022. Extensive engagement with both system partners and the public was completed during 2023, concluding by September, and the interim strategy has now been refreshed based on this feedback.

The Integrated Care Strategy, through joint, integrated ways of working, looks to reflect evidence-based, system wide priorities which address and improve health and wellbeing as well as reduce disparities. The strategy will meet the needs of the local population of all ages and will relate to all physical and mental health as well as social care needs and address the wider determinants of health.

Who is intended to benefit and in what way?

The strategy looks to improve the health and wellbeing of the entire Kent and Medway population. It considers a 'life course' approach by incorporating conception through to end-of-life care, considering different life phases and settings. There is a particular focus prevention and the need to promote and restore health and wellbeing as well as reduce disparities.

What is the intended outcome of this policy, function or service?

The strategy will be used to extend current work to further the needed transformative change to tackle challenges including reducing health disparities across health and social care, improving quality and performance, preventing mental and physical ill health, and promoting patient choice and flexibility in how care and support are delivered. The strategy will be used to agree the steps required to deliver system level, evidence-based priorities in the short, medium and long term.

Who are the main stakeholders in this piece of work?

Providers across adult and children's social care, primary care, local authorities, community health services, secondary care, public health services, voluntary and independent sector and other partners that influence the wider determinants of health have been involved in the development and will be key to its implementation.

What factors may contribute to the outcomes of this policy, function or service?

Ensuring the voice of the service user is used in the development of services.

An extensive engagement programme was run to seek the views of people who live and work in Kent and Medway to inform the strategy refresh. This included an online survey, interactive platform with digital ideas boards, travelling roadshows to, for example, family fun days, shopping centres and leisure centres using the public health bus. Community organisations also led focus groups with people who need to be heard so we can address health inequalities. For example LGBTQ+ communities, people with low income, parents and carers of children with disabilities and additional support needs, people from ethnic minority groups.

Funding and enhanced partnership working arrangements that will enable new ways of working/commissioning more support and services.

Workforce challenges may impact timescales and deliverability of some of the proposals outlined in the strategy.

Who is responsible for implementing this change to policy, function or service? (Please provide contact details).

The Health and Care Act 2022 amends the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and requires integrated care partnerships to write an integrated care strategy to set out how the assessed needs (from the joint strategic needs assessments) can be met through the exercise of the functions of the integrated care board, partner local authorities or NHS England (NHSE).

What factors may detract from the outcomes of this policy, function or service?

Some of the 'factors that contribute' above could also be factors that detract e.g., funding, workforce shortages, need for enhanced partnership working. These factors continue to be considered as the ICP becomes established and the Integrated Care System matures.

Section 2: Assessing Impact (to be completed by the author)

When completing this section please give consideration to the fact that a differential impact may be positive or negative.

Could there be a differential impact due to racial/ethnic groups? Yes

The strategy will have a positive impact as it looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local populations to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care. The document outlines how Kent and Medway will proactively look to involve people who have lived experience, particularly those from underrepresented groups. The project governance includes endorsement from the Kent and Medway Inequalities, Prevention and Population Health Committee (IPPH) to ensure that the strategy sets a vision for how current programmes of work and future initiatives will help improve access, patient experience and patient outcomes for all racial/ethnic groups. Health prevention and living well are key areas within the strategy, for example community led approaches to support healthy weight, healthy diet choices, good sexual health and minimize alcohol and substance misuse and tobacco use. This work will include patient focused support services that understand and seek to address barriers that stop cohorts of patients engaging with health and wellbeing services.

In addition, the strategy champions an inclusive workforce with all organisations creating a culture that promotes diversity, respect, shared learning, development, and opportunity.

Could there be a differential impact due to disability? Yes

It is recognized that people with disabilities are more likely to require health and care services and so are more likely to be impacted by this strategy. It is felt that the strategy will have a positive impact as it looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local populations to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care. The strategy incorporates all aspects of health-related services, recognizing that not all services are health and/or social care. For example, the strategy includes a joined-up approach to the planning, commissioning, and delivery of housing arrangements to allow independent living for those who require additional support and housing arrangements. The strategy details how personalised care will allow for increased patient choice and flexibility and aims to allow greater independence for those living with a disability. Joined up working will allow people to access support that allows people with disabilities to work, again supporting the aim to allow people greater independence.

In addition, there is a commitment to providing support for carers including young carers, acknowledging the huge benefits they provide to the people they look after as well as wider society but also recognizing the physical and emotional impact on them.

Could there be a differential impact due to gender? Yes

The strategy will have a positive impact as it looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local population to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care. For example, the strategy includes a commitment to address women's health issues.

Could there be a differential impact due to sexual orientation?

There will be a positive impact as the strategy looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local population to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care.

Could there be a differential impact due to religion or belief? Yes

There will be a positive impact as the strategy looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local population to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care.

Could there be a differential impact due to people's age? Yes

What evidence exists for this?

The strategy will encompass the needs of the whole population, of all ages. The strategy will consider the needs and outcomes of babies, children, young adults and their families by working collaboratively with partners including children's services. There is a commitment to giving children and young people the best start in life with a particular focus on prevention including improving awareness, education, and support to decrease the levels of smoking during pregnancy. Giving children the best start, ensuring that the conditions and

support are in place for all children and young people to be healthy, resilient and ambitious for their future, forms a key part of the overall strategy. This will be achieved through supporting families and adopting a whole family approach. The strategy identifies the need for a holistic and family approach that incorporates housing, communities, health, education, social care and the voluntary sector. A key area will be around key transitional points to ensure continuity of care as well as improve patient outcomes and patient experience. The strategy highlights the importance of increasing fitness, reducing childhood obesity, improving focus in schools and increasing the uptake of childhood vaccinations.

The strategy includes how Kent and Medway will help people manage their own health and wellbeing including how to live well and age well, encompassing health initiatives that promote positive health benefits. Technology will be a key tool in enabling people to achieve this goal and in continuity of care for older people who are at a higher risk of multiple co-morbidities and deteriorating health. Extending social prescribing, allowing people to connect with their community also forms a core part of the strategy.

Could there be a differential impact due to [marital/civil partnership status](#)? Yes

The strategy will have a positive impact as it looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local population to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care.

Could there be a differential impact due to a person being [trans-gendered or transsexual](#)? Yes

The strategy will have a positive impact as it looks to reduce health inequalities across all services by considering the needs of the local population to enable greater provision of care across both health and social care.

Could there be a differential impact due to a person being [pregnant or having just had a baby](#)? Yes

There is a recognition that prevention of poor health starts before birth with good foundations leading to better health outcomes overall. The strategy outlines how a joined-up network of support will be provided to support parents and parents to be, including awareness around smoking during pregnancy, breastfeeding and childhood obesity as well as support being available around housing and education in line with providing a holistic and family approach.

Are there any *other* groups that may be impacted by this proposed policy, function or service (e.g. speakers of other languages; people with caring responsibilities or dependants; those with an offending past; or people living in rural areas, homeless or war veterans) but are not recognised as protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010? Yes

The strategy furthers work and the required transformative change that is needed to tackle health inequalities across Kent and Medway. In addition to tackling and reducing health inequalities, the strategy looks to improve quality and performance, prevent physical and mental ill health and improve independence by promoting personalised care, choice and

flexibility. This applies to the entire Kent and Medway population with partners aiming to deliver collaborative, joined up, person centered care throughout people's lives. The strategy has a wide scope with focus on:

- quality improvement
- joint working
- personalised care
- disparities in health and social care
- population health and prevention
- health protection
- babies, children, young people, their families and health ageing
- workforce
- research and innovation
- health related services
- data and information sharing

The scope encompasses, and will impact all groups of people including speakers of other languages, carers etc.

The FREDA principles (fairness, respect, equality, dignity and autonomy) are a way in which to understand Human Rights. What evidence exists to demonstrate that this initiative is in-keeping with these principles?

The strategy is underpinned by the Core20PLUS5 model which aims to support the reduction of health inequalities at system level (as well as national). There are 5 focus clinical areas that require accelerated improvement: maternity, severe mental illness, chronic respiratory disease, early cancer diagnosis and hypertension case finding. These clinical areas align with the Kent and Medway approach to health population management that aims to ensure that population groups who experience poorer than average health access, experience and/or outcomes are able to access an inclusive and holistic care.

There is a specific focus on health protection to ensure that vulnerable groups are being identified and their needs are addressed. These groups include refugees, asylum seekers, homeless people, Roma, Sinti, Travelers, and other groups.

A report on the consultation and engagement work that was undertaken with system partners and the public to understand their priorities will be published alongside the refreshed strategy.

Section 3: The Equality Act 2010 (to be completed by the ICB equality, diversity and inclusion Lead)

Under The Equality Act 2010, the ICB is required to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty. Does this impact assessment demonstrate that this policy, function or service meets this duty as per the questions below? A 'no' response or lack of evidence will result in the assessment not being signed off.

The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation - Yes

The content included in Section 2 of this report and the accompanying actions identified in Section 4 demonstrate that NHS Kent and Medway has given due regard to the local

communities that it serves in a way that meets obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. The strategy seeks to improve services and highlight and reduce inequalities.

Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not - Yes

The content included in Section 2 of this report and the accompanying actions identified in Section 4 demonstrate that NHS Kent and Medway has given due regard to the local communities that it serves in a way that meets obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. The strategy seeks to improve services and highlight and reduce inequalities.

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not - Yes

The content included in Section 2 of this report and the accompanying actions identified in Section 5 demonstrate that NHS Kent and Medway has given due regard to the local communities that it serves in a way that meets obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. The strategy seeks to improve services and highlight and reduce inequalities.

Note: Remember to reference the evidence (i.e. documents and data sources) used

Section 4: Action Plan

The below action plan should be started at the point of completing the Impact Assessment (as impacts are identified), however, it is an ongoing action plan that should support the project throughout its lifespan and therefore, needs to be updated on a regular basis.

Potential Impact identified

Which Protected Characteristic group will be impacted upon?

All

Action required to mitigate against impact

Ensure that detailed equality analysis and mitigation is in place for specific service changes or projects that happen as a result of the strategy

Deadline

On-going

Who is responsible for this action (Provider/ICB- please include job title where possible)?

Service commissioner – this may be any partner in the Integrated Care System for example NHS Kent and Medway, Kent County Council or Medway Council.

Update on actions (to be provided throughout project)

Rag rating

Green

Section 5 Conclusions (to be completed by the author)

Could the differential impacts identified in questions 1-15 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact?

The strategy seeks to improve services and highlight and reduce inequalities.

Can the adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or another reason?

The strategy seeks to improve services and highlight and reduce inequalities.

Is there an opportunity to alter your proposal to meet the ICB duties?

No

Is there evidence of a disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups of protected characteristic?

Yes

Are there concerns that there may be an impact that cannot be easily mitigated or alleviated through the alterations?

No

Note: For any 'Yes' answers, please amend your equality impact assessment and resubmit it for further review. For any 'No' answers, the ICB must now make a decision as to whether it considers this proposal to be viable.

Section 6: Sign Off (to be completed by author and ICB Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead)

Date of next review

Areas to consider at next review (e.g. new census information, new legislation due)

Is there *another* group (e.g. new communities) that is relevant and ought to be considered next time?

Signed (Author) R Hewett

Signed (ICB E,D&I Lead) LS Brailey