

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

SC23191 Coroners Removals and Transfer service

Responsible Officer

Rob Wilson - GT GC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Belinda Hooker - GT GC

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Growth Environment and Transport

Responsible Service

Coroner's Service

Responsible Head of Service

Belinda Hooker - GT GC

Responsible Director

Stephanie Holt-Castle - GT GC

Aims and Objectives

Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for supporting the Senior Coroners for Kent and Medway to provide the coroner service to Kent and Medway residents.

The Coroner has a duty to investigate a death where there are reasons to suspect that:

- The deceased died a violent or unnatural death;
- The cause of death is unknown;
- The deceased died while in custody or otherwise in state detention.

When a death is reported to the Coroner, he or she

- Establishes whether an investigation is required;
- If yes, investigates to establish the identity of the person who has died; how when and where they died and any information to register the death; and
- Uses information discovered during the investigation to assist in the prevention of other deaths where possible.

The Coroner has physical control of the body (as evidence) from the time he/she/they have been informed of the death, until the time that all the necessary enquiries have been concluded, at which point the body can be released to the family. The Coroner's control of the body is absolute (jurisdiction) and supersedes any claim on the body by the family, or for example any other organisations such as the police.

On behalf of the Kent Senior Coroners, KCC is responsible for putting contracts in place for the provision for removals and transfers of the coroner's deceased.

There are two aspects to this service - Coroner Body Removals and Coroners Body Transfers.

Coroners Body Removals. The Coroner may decide that a suitable practitioner is required, (normally a Pathologist), to examine the body and carry out a post mortem examination to help find the cause of death. In such cases the body needs to be transported from where it is lying to a designated mortuary pending further enquiries being made, or to hold a post mortem examination (PM). This movement of the body is usually referred to as a 'Coroner's removal'.

Coroners Body Transfers. In some cases it is necessary to transfer the deceased from a designated mortuary to another designated mortuary either within Kent and Medway or outside Kent to more specialised mortuaries for example to London (child deaths) or Brighton (infectious cases) or to a mortuary where a Pathologist is available. This movement is usually referred to as a 'Coroner's Transfer'.

The contracts for removals and transfers is for Central & South East Kent, Mid Kent & Medway, North West Kent, and North East Kent coroner areas are due for renewal .

Aims and Objectives

- Ensure statutory compliance by KCC and the Kent Senior Coroners
- Ensure best value in the use of public funds through a formal procurement process

Outcome

No major change - no potential for discrimination and all opportunities to promote equality are currently being taken in line with KCC policies and statutory requirement. Should any issues arise they will be dealt with in accordance with KCC policies and statutory requirements.

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed in 2024 and no issues have been identified by the service.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

No

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Coroner Service staff

Commissioning

Funeral Directors

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff
No
Residents/Communities/Citizens
Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
Religion and belief - The Coroner is able to consider a request for a non-invasive post mortem on religious and belief grounds but is under no obligation to agree to it. Many faiths require the burial or cremation to happen within a defined time frame. The timely removal will support this.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race

No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities

Not Applicable
