

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Please ensure that you refer to the 'Equality Impact Assessment Guidance' when completing this form. If you would like further assistance please contact the Equality & Diversity Team.

Details

Name of initiative to be assessed: Relocation of Alec Jones Day Centre activities to Porth Plaza

Name of responsible officer: Paul Mee

Group/Directorate: Children and Community Services

Service Area: Community Services and Day Services

Date: 31st December 2018

a) What are you assessing for impact?

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal	Information/ Position statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) Please name and describe below:

The Council owns Alec Jones Day Centre at Porth which is an open access centre for the use of adults aged 50 and over. It is open from Monday to Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and provides a subsidised meal service and social activities for its users. Currently, the numbers attending for lunch-time provision is an average of 27 customers per day.

The daytime activities include the following:

- Wales Council for the Deaf meeting
- Singing for the brain
- CISWO
- Arosfa Senior Citizens meeting
- Age Concern Nail cutting service
- Welsh Language Group

The Local Authority does not have a statutory duty to provide a Day Centre service with subsidised meals and activities for people over the age of 50.

The proposal under consideration is to merge the Day Centre with other Council services that are delivered at Porth Plaza and to invest in changing the internal lay-out and refurbishing the Porth Plaza building to accommodate the needs of service-users. In addition to maintaining services for current users this would allow opportunities to develop further partnerships for the benefit of residents and to attract more people to the venue.

The Council currently delivers and/or facilitates a range of services at Porth Plaza including:

- a library service

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- One4All advice service
- the provision of jobsearch and employment advice in partnership with a range of partners
- community meetings
- education and training courses
- youth activities

The facilities available for community use include:

- Public access PCs
 - free Wi-Fi
 - community meeting rooms
 - education/training room
 - IT suite
 - consultation rooms for use by external providers for delivery of advice and information on a range of health and well-being, welfare and other issues.
- There is also a creche on-site.

Under the current proposal the activities undertaken at Alec Jones Centre would transfer to Porth Plaza where there is scope for further activities and initiatives of benefit to current Day Centre users (and other residents) to be developed. This would then enable the Alec Jones Day Centre site to be redeveloped as part of the wider Town Centre Regeneration Strategy while strengthening the development of Porth Plaza Community Hub.

- c) Is the delivery of this initiative affected by legislation or other drivers such as codes of practice?
If so, please identify what and how**

Legislation:

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places an emphasis on the principle of sustainable development. This proposal makes a direct contribution to the seven national well-being goals, in particular a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities. Making better, more cost effective use of our community assets and reinvesting resources in new or remodelled, fit for purpose buildings will enable services to be sustainable in the longer term.

Other drivers

The development of community hubs are identified as strategic priorities in the following plans and projects:

Cwm Taf Well-being Plan 2018- 2023

The Public Service Board's aim to promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets can be achieved through the development of community hubs. The proposed relocation of Day Centre activities to Porth

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Plaza can help to reduce loneliness and social isolation by creating a town centre venue where a wide range of activities and events can be facilitated and a programme developed in partnership with all of its users.

The Cwm Taf Regional Plan 2018-2023

This five year plan sets out how the Cwm Taf Social Services and Well-being Partnership Board will respond to the findings of the Population Needs Assessment completed in 2017.

Evidence gathered from talking to people for the Population Assessment demonstrated that the following are important to the wellbeing of people with care and support needs:

- Making connections with others
- Access to Information and advice
- Organisations working better together
- Stopping problems before they start or get worse

The needs of vulnerable people and families can sometimes escalate into statutory services because there are limited opportunities available for people to seek help earlier. Good practice research has identified that strong community based initiatives are effective in providing low level support options and these are usually available from a community hub or open access facility.

It is intended that the proposal to create a hub at Porth Plaza will provide wellbeing opportunities for those who are most vulnerable in the community as well as providing a wider range of activities for current users of the day centre. The Porth Plaza building consists of 1973sq metres gross internal area (compared to Alec Jones Day Centre's 393 sq metres gross internal area) and this allows room for expansion and growth as the hub develops so that it can meet the community's needs over the longer term.

Our Valleys, Our Future

This plan's priorities for ensuring better public services includes an action to use existing, and create new, community hubs as well as a range of actions that will improve the health and well-being of communities.

Town Centre Regeneration

Enabling vibrant and enticing town centres, with a strong offer which recognises that they are at the heart of our communities, is a clear commitment within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's 2016-2020 Corporate Plan ('The way Ahead').

To deliver this commitment and to tackle the many challenges currently faced by our town centres the solution requires a sophisticated and sustainable approach to regeneration. The relocation of Alec Jones Day Centre forms an integral part of the proposed Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy which sets out an integrated, co-ordinated and holistic approach to town centre regeneration that takes into account the distinctive role Porth has at the heart of the community and its important location for services, employment, housing and transport functions.

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d) **Does the initiative directly affect service users, employees or the wider community?**

Yes
No

Continue assessment

No need to continue screening or carry out an EqIA

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Screening/Relevance Test: Is an equality impact assessment required?

Screening is used to decide whether the initiative you are responsible for has a high or medium impact on any of the protected groups and will require a full EqIA.

Please provide details of the possible impact your proposal may have on the following groups, this may not necessarily be negative, but may impact on a group with a particular characteristic in a specific way.

You should also identify whether this constitutes a high, medium or low impact.

Please refer to Equality Impact Assessment Guidelines for further information.

Protected Characteristic	Impact
Age	<p>High. There are potentially negative and positive impacts on older people.</p> <p>As the proposal is to close Alec Jones Day Centre and to transfer its services to Porth Plaza, it has a major impact on adults over the age of 50 who currently use this service. In general Day Centre users were supportive of the proposed relocation of their current activities to Porth Plaza, but some service users who completed the survey expressed a wish to continue with the provision of both activities and hot meals at Porth Plaza.</p> <p>Beyond this user group the proposal has a potentially positive impact on people over the age of 50 in the community who would benefit from the development of a community hub with easy access to a wide range of services within Porth.</p> <p>See mitigations in the full Equality Impact Assessment below for how the provision of hot meals will be addressed.</p>
Disability	<p>High. There are potentially negative and positive impacts on people with disabilities. Accessibility has been identified as an issue for a small number of Day Centre users as the current car park that is adjacent to Porth Plaza is always in high demand and spaces are at a premium. It is also further for at least one user to walk from the bus stop.</p> <p>However on the positive side relocation of activities to the Porth Plaza Community Hub will enable disabled customers to access a wider range of information and advice at one venue and there will be opportunities to develop more activities and provision to support them through partnerships with third sector and other organisations.</p> <p>See mitigations in the full Equality Impact</p>

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	Assessment below for how concerns relating to parking can be addressed.
Gender Reassignment	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Race	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Religion or Belief	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Sex	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Sexual Orientation	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Other Characteristics	
Welsh Language	Low positive - access to a training room will facilitate the delivery of Welsh language classes or other community learning classes in the medium of Welsh if there is a demand for these locally. The current Welsh language group held at Alec Jones Day Centre will be able to transfer to Porth Plaza and potentially this provision could be further developed at the new venue.
Carers	Medium positive - the potential to develop more provision on the Porth Plaza site could result in more activities being developed for people with a range of ill-health issues such as dementia, and engagement with third sector organisations who have space to deliver information and advice from Porth Plaza community hub would facilitate easy access to information on a range of issues that affect carers and their families.
Armed Forces Community	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.

If after completing the EqlA screening/relevance test, you determine that this service/function/policy/project is not relevant for an EqlA you must provide adequate explanation below. (Please use additional pages if necessary).

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Are you happy that you have sufficient evidence to justify your decision?

Yes

No

Signed: W. Edwards
4/1/19

Position: Head fo Community Services

Date:

N.B. If the initial screening process has identified actual or potential high or medium negative impact on a particular group or groups then you MUST carry out a full EqIA.

Approved by Head of Service or Director

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Full Equality Impact Assessment

You should use the information gathered at the screening stage to assist you in identifying possible negative/adverse impact and clearly identify which groups are affected.

In terms of any disproportionate/negative/adverse impact that the proposal may have on a protected group, what steps (if any) could be taken to reduce that impact for each group identified. Attach a separate action plan if necessary.

Age

Concerns were raised by Day Centre users about potential changes to the lunch-time meals provision specifically the possible loss of access to hot meals and potential impact on the cost of meals provided. Questions were raised regarding the ability to deliver this provision at Porth Plaza.

It is unlikely that the meal provision can be facilitated within Porth Plaza community hub so that other alternatives will need to be explored.

Actions to address the issues:

Officers will continue to engage with Day Centre users and local café proprietors to assess the best way in which access to meals can be sustained for this customer group within Porth town centre. there is potential to explore an arrangement with local food business operator(s) whereby service users could be signposted to access a hot meal.

A solution will be agreed prior to the potential closure of the Day Centre.

Disability

A concern was raised in relation to the access to parking spaces for Day

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Centre users if the provision is relocated to Porth Plaza as the car park adjacent to the building is very busy and parking places are limited.

Actions to address the issue:

The Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy has identified the need for additional parking spaces in the town centre and if these are created it could alleviate pressure on the Porth Plaza car park in future.

Officers will explore the potential of allocating additional disabled parking bays at Porth Plaza car park to meet the potential increase in demand if the Day Centre activities are transferred to Porth Plaza community hub.

If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible, please explain why they are not possible.

Evidence Sources

(i) Give details of any data or research that has led to your reasoning above, in particular, the sources used for establishing the demographics of service users.

Service usage data held with Adult Services was used to ascertain service level and activity data for the Day Centre.

Service usage data held by the Library Service was used to ascertain the level of room usage and activities delivered currently at Porth Plaza.

(ii) Give details of how you have engaged with service users on the proposals and steps taken to avoid any disproportionate impact on a protected group and how you have used any feedback to influence your decision.

A 6 week consultation was undertaken between 29th October and 10th December 2018. This included two drop-in sessions on 16th November and 22nd November. Full details of the consultation are provided in the Consultation Report produced by the Consultation team.

Key feedback from the consultation events were as follows:

- overall acceptance of the rationale for moving the Day Centre activities from the Day Centre to Porth Plaza
- concern about the effect the proposal would have on the provision of subsidised hot meals for Day Centre users
- need for the nail-cutting service to be retained
- some concern about parking issues at Porth Plaza and the town in general

Are you satisfied that the engagement process complies with the requirements of the

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Statutory Equality Duties?

Yes

No

Decision Log - detail how Elected Members and Senior Managers have been involved in the decision process (give dates of key meetings and decisions made).

Rhondda Cynon Taf Cabinet Report 16th October 2018

Review

Date of Next Review:

If review is not required, explain why:

Completed by:

Signature:

Job Title:

Date:

This assessment must be approved by an appropriate Head of Service or Director

Approved by:

Signature:

Job Title:

Approval date:

Please return a copy to:

Equality & Diversity Team
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale
CF40 2XX

Email: equality@rctcbc.gov.uk

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