

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Equality Impact Assessment Tool

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement as set out in the Equality Act (2010) and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties)(Scotland) regulations 2012 and may be used as evidence for cases referred for further investigation for compliance issues. Please refer to the EQIA Guidance Document while completing this form. Please note that prior to starting an EQIA all Lead Reviewers are required to attend a Lead Reviewer training session or arrange to meet with a member of the Equality and Human Rights Team to discuss the process. Please contact CITAdminTeam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk for further details or call 0141 2014560.

Name of Policy/Service Review/Service Development/Service Redesign/New Service:

Freedom of Information Policy

Is this a: Current Service Service Development Service Redesign New Service New Policy Policy Review X

Description of the service & rationale for selection for EQIA: (Please state if this is part of a Board-wide service or is locally driven).

What does the service or policy do/aim to achieve? Please give as much information as you can, remembering that this document will be published in the public domain and should promote transparency.

This policy sets out the arrangements that NHSGGC has made to ensure compliance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Why was this service or policy selected for EQIA? Where does it link to organisational priorities? (If no link, please provide evidence of proportionality, relevance, potential legal risk etc.)

As above. It is vital that NHSGGC complies with freedom of information legislation or face legal and reputational consequences. The legislation requires that we respond to requests from anyone without questioning their motivation. It also requires us in responding to a request to comply so far as is practical with the provision of information in the format requested.

Compliance with the legislation via this policy also supports the Board's key value of **openness, honesty and responsibility**.

Who is the lead reviewer and when did they attend Lead reviewer Training? (Please note the lead reviewer must be someone in a position to authorise any actions identified as a result of the EQIA)

Name: Iain Paterson	Date of Lead Reviewer Training:
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Please list the staff involved in carrying out this EQIA

(Where non-NHS staff are involved e.g. third sector reps or patients, please record their organisation or reason for inclusion):

Iain Paterson

		<i>Example</i>	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
1.	What equalities information is routinely collected from people currently using the service or affected by the policy? If this is a new service proposal what data do you have on proposed service user groups. Please note any barriers to collecting this data in your submitted evidence and an explanation for any protected characteristic data omitted.	<i>A sexual health service collects service user data covering all 9 protected characteristics to enable them to monitor patterns of use.</i>	N/A. Freedom of Information requests must be 'applicant blind'. Only the name of the applicant is recorded. No protected characteristic data are collected.	
		<i>Example</i>	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
2.	Please provide details of how data captured has been/will be used to inform policy content or service design. Your evidence should show	<i>A physical activity programme for people with long term conditions reviewed service user data and found very low uptake by BME (Black and Minority Ethnic)</i>	N/A. As above.	

	<p>which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>people. Engagement activity found promotional material for the interventions was not representative. As a result an adapted range of materials were introduced with ongoing monitoring of uptake. (Due regard promoting equality of opportunity)</i></p>		
	<p><i>Example</i></p>	<p>Service Evidence Provided</p>	<p>Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>How have you applied learning from research evidence about the experience of equality groups to the service or Policy?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Looked after and accommodated care services reviewed a range of research evidence to help promote a more inclusive care environment. Research suggested that young LGBT+ people had a disproportionately difficult time through exposure to bullying and harassment. As a result staff were trained in LGBT+ issues and were more confident in asking</i></p>	<p>N/A. Given the legislation largely determines the way in which we must provide business information to the general public, all FOI policies across the NHS and the public sector per se in Scotland are largely prescriptive and stable.</p>	

	<p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>related questions to young people. (Due regard to removing discrimination, harassment and victimisation and fostering good relations).</i></p>		
	<p><i>Example</i></p>	<p>Service Evidence Provided</p>	<p>Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Can you give details of how you have engaged with equality groups with regard to the service review or policy development? What did this engagement tell you about user experience and how was this information used?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations</p>	<p><i>A money advice service spoke to lone parents (predominantly women) to better understand barriers to accessing the service. Feedback included concerns about waiting times at the drop in service, made more difficult due to child care issues. As a result the service introduced a home visit and telephone service which significantly increased uptake.</i></p> <p><i>(Due regard to promoting equality of opportunity)</i></p> <p><i>* The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires organisations to take actions to reduce</i></p>	<p>N/A. As above.</p>	

	<p>between protected characteristics</p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>poverty for children in households at risk of low incomes.</i></p>		
		<p><i>Example</i></p>	<p>Service Evidence Provided</p>	<p>Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required</p>
5.	<p>Is your service physically accessible to everyone? If this is a policy that impacts on movement of service users through areas are there potential barriers that need to be addressed?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>An access audit of an outpatient physiotherapy department found that users were required to negotiate 2 sets of heavy manual pull doors to access the service. A request was placed to have the doors retained by magnets that could deactivate in the event of a fire. (Due regard to remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation).</i></p>	<p>N/A.</p>	

	4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>			
	<i>Example</i>	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required	
6.	<p>How will the service change or policy development ensure it does not discriminate in the way it communicates with service users and staff?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2017 aims to raise awareness of British Sign Language and improve</p>	<p><i>Following a service review, an information video to explain new procedures was hosted on the organisation's YouTube site. This was accompanied by a BSL signer to explain service changes to Deaf service users.</i></p> <p><i>Written materials were offered in other languages and formats.</i></p> <p><i>(Due regard to remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation and promote equality of opportunity).</i></p>	<p>The Policy is accessible on the NHSGGC website which complies with the Accessible Information Policy (Clear To All): Microsoft Word - Accessible Information Policy 2021 final (1) (1) (nhsqgc.org.uk)</p> <p>The Policy itself commits NHSGGC to comply so far as is practical with the provision of information in the format requested by the applicant.</p> <p>It also states "Where we have duties to requesters under the Equality Act 2010, we may not charge for any costs incurred to do this work."</p>	

	<p>access to services for those using the language. Specific attention should be paid in your evidence to show how the service review or policy has taken note of this.</p>		
7	Protected Characteristic	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
(a)	<p>Age</p> <p>Could the service design or policy content have a disproportionate impact on people due to differences in age? (Consider any age cut-offs that exist in the service design or policy content. You will need to objectively justify in the evidence section any segregation on the grounds of age promoted by the policy or included in the service design).</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	

(b)	<p>Disability</p> <p>Could the service design or policy content have a disproportionate impact on people due to the protected characteristic of disability?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	
	Protected Characteristic	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
(c)	<p>Gender Reassignment</p> <p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on people with the protected characteristic of Gender Reassignment?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	

	<p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
	Protected Characteristic	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
(d)	<p>Marriage and Civil Partnership</p> <p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on the people with the protected characteristics of Marriage and Civil Partnership?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	
(e)	Pregnancy and Maternity	No	

	<p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on the people with the protected characteristics of Pregnancy and Maternity?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
	Protected Characteristic	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
(f)	<p>Race</p> <p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on people with the protected characteristics of Race?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	

	4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>		
(g)	<p>Religion and Belief</p> <p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on the people with the protected characteristic of Religion and Belief?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	
	Protected Characteristic	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required
(h)	<p>Sex</p> <p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on the people with the protected characteristic of Sex?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and</p>	No	

	<p>victimisation</p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
(i)	<p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p>Could the service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on the people with the protected characteristic of Sexual Orientation?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No	
	Protected Characteristic	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required

<p>(j)</p>	<p>Socio – Economic Status & Social Class</p> <p>Could the proposed service change or policy have a disproportionate impact on people because of their social class or experience of poverty and what mitigating action have you taken/planned?</p> <p>The Fairer Scotland Duty (2018) places a duty on public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions. If relevant, you should evidence here what steps have been taken to assess and mitigate risk of exacerbating inequality on the ground of socio-economic status. Additional information available here: Fairer Scotland Duty: guidance for public bodies - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</p> <p>Seven useful questions to consider when seeking to demonstrate ‘due regard’ in relation to the Duty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What evidence has been considered in preparing for the decision, and are there any gaps in the evidence? 2. What are the voices of people and communities telling us, and how has this been determined (particularly those with lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage)? 3. What does the evidence suggest about the actual or likely impacts of different options or measures on inequalities of outcome that are associated with socio-economic disadvantage? 4. Are some communities of interest or communities of place more affected by disadvantage in this case than others? 5. What does our Duty assessment tell us about socio-economic disadvantage experienced disproportionately according to sex, race, disability 	<p>No</p>	
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	<p>and other protected characteristics that we may need to factor into our decisions?</p> <p>6. How has the evidence been weighed up in reaching our final decision?</p> <p>7. What plans are in place to monitor or evaluate the impact of the proposals on inequalities of outcome that are associated with socio-economic disadvantage? ‘Making Fair Financial Decisions’ (EHRC, 2019)²¹ provides useful information about the ‘Brown Principles’ which can be used to determine whether due regard has been given. When engaging with communities the National Standards for Community Engagement²² should be followed. Those engaged with should also be advised subsequently on how their contributions were factored into the final decision.</p>		
(k)	<p>Other marginalised groups</p> <p>How have you considered the specific impact on other groups including homeless people, prisoners and ex-offenders, ex-service personnel, people with addictions, people involved in prostitution, asylum seekers & refugees and travellers?</p>	<p>N/A. Freedom of Information requests must be ‘applicant blind’ therefore it is not possible to establish the status of an applicant unless it is volunteered. Even then, the legislation requires that we respond to requests from anyone without questioning their motivation.</p>	
8.	<p>Does the service change or policy development include an element of cost savings? How have you managed this in a way that will not disproportionately impact on protected characteristic groups?</p> <p>Your evidence should show which of the 3 parts of the General Duty have been considered (tick relevant boxes).</p> <p>1) Remove discrimination, harassment and victimisation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2) Promote equality of opportunity <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A.</p>	

	3) Foster good relations between protected characteristics. <input type="checkbox"/> 4) Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Service Evidence Provided	Possible negative impact and Additional Mitigating Action Required	
9.	What investment in learning has been made to prevent discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between protected characteristic groups? As a minimum include recorded completion rates of statutory and mandatory learning programmes (or local equivalent) covering equality, diversity and human rights.	The Policy will be reviewed as required to consider any changes to the guidance issued by the Scottish Government or Scottish Information Commissioner.	

10. In addition to understanding and responding to legal responsibilities set out in Equality Act (2010), services must pay due regard to ensure a person's human rights are protected in all aspects of health and social care provision. This may be more obvious in some areas than others. For instance, mental health inpatient care or older people's residential care may be considered higher risk in terms of potential human rights breach due to potential removal of liberty, seclusion or application of restraint. However risk may also involve fundamental gaps like not providing access to communication support, not involving patients/service users in decisions relating to their care, making decisions that infringe the rights of carers to participate in society or not respecting someone's right to dignity or privacy.

The Human Rights Act sets out rights in a series of articles – right to Life, right to freedom from torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, freedom from slavery and forced labour, right to liberty and security, right to a fair trial, no punishment without law, right to respect for private and family life, right to freedom of thought, belief and religion, right to freedom of expression, right to freedom of assembly and association, right to marry, right to protection from discrimination.

Please explain in the field below if any risks in relation to the service design or policy were identified which could impact on the human rights of patients, service users or staff.

N/A

Please explain in the field below any human rights based approaches undertaken to better understand rights and responsibilities resulting from the service or policy development and what measures have been taken as a result e.g. applying the PANEL Principles to maximise Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and Equality, Empowerment and Legality or FAIR* .

N/A

*

- **Facts:** What is the experience of the individuals involved and what are the important facts to understand?
- **Analyse rights:** Develop an analysis of the human rights at stake
- **Identify responsibilities:** Identify what needs to be done and who is responsible for doing it
- **Review actions:** Make recommendations for action and later recall and evaluate what has happened as a result.

Having completed the EQIA template, please tick which option you (Lead Reviewer) perceive best reflects the findings of the assessment. This can be cross-checked via the Quality Assurance process:

- Option 1: No major change (where no impact or potential for improvement is found, no action is required)
- Option 2: Adjust (where a potential or actual negative impact or potential for a more positive impact is found, make changes to mitigate risks or make improvements)
- Option 3: Continue (where a potential or actual negative impact or potential for a more positive impact is found but a decision not to make a change can be objectively justified, continue without making changes)
- Option 4: Stop and remove (where a serious risk of negative impact is found, the plans, policies etc. being assessed should be halted until these issues can be addressed)

11. If you believe your service is doing something that 'stands out' as an example of good practice - for instance you are routinely collecting patient data on sexual orientation, faith etc. - please use the box below to describe the activity and the benefits this has brought to the service. This information will help others consider opportunities for developments in their own services.

Actions – from the additional mitigating action requirements boxes completed above, please summarise the actions this service will be taking forward.

Date for completion	Who is responsible?(initials)
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Ongoing 6 Monthly Review please write your 6 monthly EQIA review date:

N/A. Given the legislation largely determines the way in which we must provide business information to the general public, all FOI policies across the NHS and the public sector per se in Scotland are largely prescriptive and stable. The Policy will be reviewed every two years unless changes to national legislation and or guidance warrant earlier review.

Lead Reviewer:
EQIA Sign Off:

Name: Iain Paterson
Job Title: Corporate Services Manager



Signature:
Date: 21 April 2022

Quality Assurance Sign Off:

Name: Alistair Low
Job Title: Planning Manager, EHRT
Signature

Date: 30 Nov 2022

**NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL
MEETING THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE COMMUNITIES
6 MONTHLY REVIEW SHEET**

Name of Policy/Current Service/Service Development/Service Redesign:

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Please detail activity undertaken with regard to actions highlighted in the original EQIA for this Service/Policy

		Completed	
		Date	Initials
Action:			
Status:			
Action:			
Status:			
Action:			
Status:			
Action:			
Status:			

Please detail any outstanding activity with regard to required actions highlighted in the original EQIA process for this Service/Policy and reason for non-completion

		To be Completed by	
		Date	Initials
Action:			
Reason:			
Action:			
Reason:			

Please detail any new actions required since completing the original EQIA and reasons:

		To be completed by	
		Date	Initials
Action:			
Reason:			
Action:			
Reason:			

Please detail any discontinued actions that were originally planned and reasons:

Action:	
Reason:	
Action:	
Reason:	

Please write your next 6-month review date

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Name of completing officer:

Date submitted:

If you would like to have your 6 month report reviewed by a Quality Assuror please e-mail to: alastair.low@ggc.scot.nhs.uk