

Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Front Sheet:

Directorate and Service Area:

Social & Community Services, Adult Social Care

What is being assessed:

A reduction of up to 100% in the amount of money allocated to assessing and supporting prisoners requiring social care.

Responsible owner / senior officer:

Seona Douglas, Deputy Director Adult Social Care

Date of assessment:

October 2015

Summary of judgement:

The council is considering an option to reduce the amount of funding allocated to assessing and supporting the eligible needs of prisoners requiring social care. Since April 2015, adult prisoners and people residing in approved premises (including bail accommodation) have been entitled to have a needs assessment and, if meeting eligibility criteria, have access to services from the council in the area in which they reside.

The number of requests received for assessment and support from prisoners has been much lower than anticipated since the council became responsible for meeting their needs under the Care Act 2014. It is felt that this level of demand can be managed within the existing resource of adult social care locality teams and without adversely affecting their workload.

It is unlikely that this option would have an impact on people with protected characteristics, rural communities or areas of deprivation, as the council will continue to meet the eligible needs of prisoners, as it already does.

If demand for assessment and support increases significantly, the decision to remove additional funding for supporting prisoners will be reviewed and additional resource identified where necessary.

Detail of Assessment:

Purpose of assessment:

This assessment considers the impacts of an option to reduce the amount of money allocated to assessing and supporting prisoners who require social care

This assessment is being carried out to ensure that the council considers the impact of this proposed change on different clients, especially those who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) imposes a duty on the Council to give due regard to three needs in exercising its functions. This proposal is such a function. The three needs are:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic, and those who do not.

Complying with section 149 may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but only to the extent that that does not amount to conduct which is otherwise unlawful under the new Act.

The need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages which are connected to a relevant protected characteristic and which are suffered by persons who share that characteristic,
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and which are different from the needs other people, and
- encourage those who share a relevant characteristic to take part in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such people is disproportionately low.
- take steps to meet the needs of disabled people which are different from the needs of people who are not disabled and include steps to take account of a person’s disabilities.

The need to foster good relations between different groups involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

These protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity

- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership

Social Value

Under the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 the Council also has an obligation to consider how the procurement of services contracts with a life value of more than £173,934¹ might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area affected by the proposed contract, and how it might act to secure this improvement. However, it is best practice to consider social value for all types of contracts, service delivery decisions and new/updated policies. In this context, 'policy' is a general term that could include a strategy, project or contract.

Context / Background:

Since April 2015, adult prisoners and people residing in approved premises (including bail accommodation) have been entitled to have a needs assessment and, if meeting eligibility criteria, have access to services from the council in the area in which they reside. This was a new duty for councils under the Care Act 2014 which puts prisoners on an equal footing with the adult population within a locality, except in those instances where the legislation does not apply to them.

Modelling was undertaken prior to April 2015 that estimated the number of prisoners who might request an assessment and be eligible for care and support. A budget was allocated for this duty to be fulfilled, but the demand has not been as high as originally anticipated. Therefore, the council proposes that the assessment and support of prisoners with eligible care needs can be met within existing resource and dealt with as part of the regular social care workload.

Proposals:

The council is considering an option to reduce the amount of money allocated for assessing and supporting the needs of prisoners who require social care. This proposal would generate £207,000 in savings from 2016/17.

As demand for care and support from prisoners is not as high as originally estimated, it is felt that the assessment and support of prisoners with eligible care needs can be met within existing resource in adult social care locality teams and dealt with as part of the regular social care workload.

Evidence / Intelligence:

¹¹ [EC Procurement Threshold for Services](#)

Before the new duty to support prisoners with eligible care needs came into force, the council estimated that it would receive 26 requests in 2015/16 for assessments, reviews and/or services from prisoners with care and support needs. The council allocated funding to support these assessments and services on the basis that all 26 prisoners could be eligible for care and support from the council.

In April and May 2015 the council assessed the needs of 5 prisoners and none were eligible for care and support from the council. Since May there have been very few additional requests for assessment and services, and the council is currently (Oct 2015) supporting only 1 prisoner.

Alternatives considered / rejected:

Maintaining a budget for assessing and supporting prisoners is not a viable alternative in light of the low demand. If the additional funding allocated to supporting prisoners is not reduced, further cuts would need to be made elsewhere in Adult Social Care, impacting on other frontline services supporting people in need.

Impact Assessment:

Identify any potential impacts of the policy or proposed service change on the population as a whole, or on particular groups. It might be helpful to think about the largest impacts or the key parts of the policy or proposed service change first, identifying any risks and actions, before thinking in more detail about particular groups, staff, other Council services, providers etc.

It is worth remembering that 'impact' can mean many things, and can be positive as well as negative. It could for example relate to access to services, the health and wellbeing of individuals or communities, the sustainability of supplier business models, or the training needs of staff.

We assess the impact of decisions on any relevant community, but with particular emphasis on:

- Groups that share the nine protected characteristics
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
 - religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
 - sex
 - sexual orientation
 - marriage and civil partnership
- Rural communities
- Areas of deprivation

We also assess the impact on:

- Staff
- Other council services
- Other providers of council services
- Any other element which is relevant to the policy or proposed service change
- How it might improve the economic, social, and environmental of the area affected by the contract **if** the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies

For every community or group that you identify a potential impact you should discuss this in detail, using evidence (from data, consultation etc.) where possible to support your judgements. You should then highlight specific risks and any mitigating actions you will take to either lessen the impact, or to address any gaps in understanding you have identified.

If you have not identified an impact on particular groups, staff, other Council services, providers etc. you should indicate this to demonstrate you have considered it.

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

Individuals who share a protected characteristic, rural communities and areas of deprivation

It is unlikely that the option to remove funding allocated to assessing and supporting the care and support needs of prisoners will have a specific or disproportionate impact on particular groups with protected characteristics, in rural areas or areas of deprivation. The council will continue to meet the eligible needs of adults who are ordinarily resident in Oxfordshire (as set out in statute) including prisoners who reside in the county in approved premises. The offer of a needs assessment and support to meet the eligible needs of prisoners will not be withdrawn as a result of this proposed option.

Impact on Staff:

The council proposes that requests for assessment and support from prisoners are managed within existing resource in adult social care locality teams. Since April 2015 there have been very few referrals for social care provision for prisoners and just a few pieces of equipment issued. The impact of the expected additional referrals from prisoners on staff in adult social care is likely to be very low and therefore, manageable.

Risks	Mitigations
The demand for assessment and service provision from prisoners increases and	The number of requests for assessment and services from prisoners will continue

locality teams are unable to deal with the increase in workload

to be monitored. If the volume increases, the decision to remove funding allocated to meeting this statutory duty will be reviewed.

Impact on other Council services:

There is unlikely to be any impact on other council services as a result of this option, as assessment and support of prisoners' eligible needs will continue to be delivered.

Impact on providers:

There will no impact on providers as a result of this option.

Social Value

If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

How might the proposal improve the economic well-being of the relevant area?

N/A

How might the proposal improve the environmental well-being of the relevant area?

N/A

Action plan:

Action	By When	Person responsible
Decision on whether the funding will be reduced as part of the broader budget proposals	February 2016	Council Members
Review and update the SCIA	March 2016	Service Manager

Monitoring and review:

Person responsible for assessment: Service manager

Version	Date	Notes (e.g. Initial draft, amended following consultation)
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Version 1	October 2015	Initial draft