



Provide basic details

Name of proposal/activity/policy to be assessed

Directorate: Adult Care & Health Services

Service: Drug and Alcohol Service (Rough Sleepers)

Name and job title of person doing the assessment

Name: Sally Andersen

Job Title: Senior Commissioner Drugs and Alcohol

Date of assessment: 24.06.2021

Scope your proposal

What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?

Rough Sleeper drug and alcohol outreach service

Rough sleepers/those at risk in Reading cannot currently access bespoke, immediate support that addresses co-occurring mental ill-health/substance dependence in a trauma/psychologically informed way. Thus, preventing them from returning to rough sleeping/enabling sustainment of accommodation. The proposal includes a specialist outreach clinical team who can provide intensive support to address unmet drug and alcohol, mental health and trauma needs.

Who will benefit from this proposal and how?

Rough Sleepers and those who have been moved in to emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?

This service will aim to achieve outcomes for rough sleepers

To improve:

- (i) access to treatment
- (ii) sustained engagement
- (iii) successful completion of drug and alcohol treatment
- (iv) stable accommodation

- (v) co-occurring drug and alcohol dependence and mental ill health needs
- (vi) GP registration
- (vii) general health care engagement
- (viii) access to inpatient detox/residential rehab (where appropriate)

Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?

Rough sleepers

There isn't a targeted and bespoke community-based in-reach/outreach solution for rough sleepers and those at risk of returning to rough sleeping, who are experiencing co-occurring mental ill-health and substance dependence in Reading. Evidence shows this cohort do not access mainstream drug services within the current model. The proposal includes a clinical outreach team who will work flexibly, delivering increased accessibility outside of core working hours.

Assess whether an EqlA is Relevant

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; promoting equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some (racial, disability, gender, sexuality, age and religious belief) groups may be affected differently than others? (Think about your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.)

No

Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Think about your complaints, consultation, and feedback.

No

If the answer is **Yes** to any of the above you need to do an Equality Impact Assessment.

If No you **MUST** complete this statement

An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant because:

Rough sleepers are some of the most marginalised and excluded individuals in society and the aim of the service is to improve health and treatment services for these people and enable them to achieve sustained recovery and play an active role in their community.

Signed (completing officer Sally Andersen

Date 24.06.21

Signed (Lead Officer)

Date

Assess the Impact of the Proposal

Your assessment must include:

- **Consultation**
- **Collection and Assessment of Data**
- **Judgement about whether the impact is negative or positive**

Think about who does and doesn't use the service? Is the take up representative of the community? What do different minority groups think? (You might think your policy, project or service is accessible and addressing the needs of these groups, but asking them might give you a totally different view). Does it really meet their varied needs? Are some groups less likely to get a good service?

How do your proposals relate to other services - will your proposals have knock on effects on other services elsewhere? Are there proposals being made for other services that relate to yours and could lead to a cumulative impact?

Example: A local authority takes separate decisions to limit the eligibility criteria for community care services; increase charges for respite services; scale back its accessible housing programme; and cut concessionary travel.

Each separate decision may have a significant effect on the lives of disabled residents, and the cumulative impact of these decisions may be considerable.

This combined impact would not be apparent if decisions are considered in isolation.

Consultation

How have you consulted with or do you plan to consult with relevant groups and experts. If you haven't already completed a Consultation form do it now. The checklist helps you make sure you follow good consultation practice.

[My Home > Info Pods > Community Involvement Pod - Inside Reading Borough Council](#)

| Relevant groups/experts | How were/will the views of these groups be obtained | Date when contacted |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Rough Sleepers | Reading Homeless Needs Audit The aims of the Audit was to listen to and take account of single homeless people's views on their health. | Jan - Mar 2017 |
| Homeless Providers in Reading | Via 121 consultation | Jan- Mar 2021 |
| Drug and Alcohol Provider in Reading | Via 121 consultation | Jan - Mar 2021 |
| CCG partners | Via 121 consultation | August 2020 |
| Health Outreach Liaison Team (HOLT) | Via 121 consultation | Jan - Mar 2021 |

Collect and Assess your Data

Using information from Census, residents survey data, service monitoring data, satisfaction or complaints, feedback, consultation, research, your knowledge and the knowledge of people in your team, staff groups etc. describe how the proposal could impact on each group. Include both positive and negative impacts.

(Please delete relevant ticks)

Describe how this proposal could impact on Racial groups

The new service will be required to deliver a service to rough sleepers regardless of their racial status.

We are however aware that current mainstream services tend to see a majority of White British individuals. The service will be required to actively look to engage with all BAME groups.

Data collection will be a requirement for the provider to ensure we are meeting the needs of all.

Is there a negative impact? No

Describe how this proposal could impact on Gender/transgender (cover pregnancy and maternity, marriage)

The new service will be required to ensure the safeguarding of female rough sleepers.

There is no impact on gender/ transgender identified.

Is there a negative impact? No

Describe how this proposal could impact on Disability

The new service is to be delivered on an outreach basis so there is no impact on disabilities. Current use of building for clinical work offers disability access.

The provider of the service is expected to offer language translators and a range of literature on the new service.

Is there a negative impact? No

Describe how this proposal could impact on Sexual orientation (cover civil partnership)

No impact identified, the service is required to offer a service regardless of sexual orientation.

Is there a negative impact? No

Describe how this proposal could impact on Age

The service is available to anyone aged 18+. In the event that a young person is identified on the street, the relevant safeguarding measures will be followed to ensure the young person is referred to the relevant services.

According to the latest rough sleeping data head counts, there are 0 young people identified as rough sleeping in Reading.

Is there a negative impact? No

Describe how this proposal could impact on Religious belief?

There is no known impact on religious belief. The service is to offer a service in a range of languages.

The service will not discriminate, harass or victimise for any characteristic.

Is there a negative impact? No

Make a Decision

If the impact is negative then you must consider whether you can legally justify it. If not you must set out how you will reduce or eliminate the impact. If you are not sure what the impact will be you **MUST** assume that there could be a negative impact. You may have to do further consultation or test out your proposal and monitor the impact before full implementation.

Tick which applies (Please delete relevant ticks)

1. **No negative impact identified** **Go to sign off**

2. **Negative impact identified but there is a justifiable reason**

You must give due regard or weight but this does not necessarily mean that the equality duty overrides other clearly conflicting statutory duties that you must comply with.

Reason

3. **Negative impact identified or uncertain**

What action will you take to eliminate or reduce the impact? Set out your actions and timescale?

How will you monitor for adverse impact in the future?

The service is required to monitor needs and tailor services quarterly to avoid any negative impact on anyone with a protected characteristic

Access to the service must be promoted and tailored for differing needs and personalised for each individual.

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| Signed (completing officer) | Sally Andersen | Date | 24.06.2021 |
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| Signed (Lead Officer) | | Date | |
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