

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: 10th September 2015	Directorate: ASCH&H	Section: Joint Commissioning				
1. Activity to be assessed	Sensory Needs Strategy					
2. What is the activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change					
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing					
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Kim Helman					
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Kim Helman, Fiona Goodhand, Mira Haynes					
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	To set out priorities for sensory needs support in Bracknell Forest from 2016-2020 and to inform the development of the sensory needs action plan.					
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	Adults who are Blind, Visually Impaired, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind.					
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or no	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason.				
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities including conditions such as dementia.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">N</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Y	N	x		<p>Positive: People with sensory support needs, people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>The strategy will be developed in response to national and local policy as well as feedback received from people with sensory needs who took part in the consultation process.</p> <p>Hearing Approximately 9900 people in Bracknell Forest have some level of hearing loss.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 10million people in the UK aged 16+ have some form of hearing loss , this is almost 1:5 people aged over 16 . • From the total number of ten million, more than 800,000 people are severely or profoundly deaf. • The Royal Association for Deaf people
Y	N					
x						

				<p>estimates that there are approximately 156,000 people who use British Sign language across the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 10% of adults, or six million people, have constant mild tinnitus. Up to 1% of adults (60,000 people) have tinnitus that affects their quality of life. <p>Vision Approximately 1,950 people in Bracknell Forest have some level of visual impairment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost two million people in the UK live with low vision which is approximately 1:30. Of these, around 360,000 people are registered with their local authority as blind or partially sighted. The number of people in the UK with low vision is set to increase dramatically. It is predicted that by 2050 the number of people with low vision in the UK will double to nearly four million. <p>Dual Sensory Loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 356,000 people in the UK have impairments of both hearing and vision (5.72 per 1,000 of the general population). Approximately 132,000 people in the UK have more severe impairments of both hearing and vision (equivalent to 2.12 people per 1,000 of the general population). <p>Adults with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to be blind or partially sighted than the general population.</p> <p>Around half of older people in the UK have additional disabilities or long term health conditions as well as their hearing loss.</p>
<p>9. Racial equality</p>	<p>Y x</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>People from black and minority ethnic communities are at greater risk of some of the leading causes of sight loss.</p> <p>There are no accurate figures available for levels of hearing loss in black and minority ethnic groups. However, there is evidence to suggest</p>

				<p>that some minority ethnic groups may experience higher levels of hearing loss. This is especially true of recent immigrants from regions with greater levels of poverty, poor healthcare and low levels of immunisation against diseases such as rubella.</p> <p>With regards dual sensory loss: statistically significant differences in prevalence rates occur at just two age groups (50-59, 70-79). In both instances prevalence rates were higher among people from black and minority ethnic communities.</p>
10. Gender equality	Y x	N	Positive	<p>Nearly two-thirds of people living with sight loss are women.</p> <p>From the age of 40 onwards, a higher proportion of men than women develop hearing loss. This is probably because more men have been exposed to high levels of industrial noise.</p> <p>Among people over the age of 80, more women than men have hearing loss, which is due to women living longer than men on average, not because women are more likely to become deaf.</p> <p>Of the total number of people with both hearing and sight impairments, 54% are women, 46% are men.</p> <p>Of the total number of people with severe impairments of both hearing and sight, the split between the genders is 50:50.</p>
11. Sexual orientation equality	Y	N X	Neutral	<p>The screening panel were unable to find any evidence to suggest that people from the LGBT community are more or less likely to be specifically impacted by this strategy.</p>
12. Gender re-assignment	Y	N x	Neutral	<p>The screening panel were unable to find any evidence to suggest that people who are undertaking or who have been through gender reassignment community are likely to be specifically impacted by this strategy.</p>

13. Age equality	Y	N	Yes: Positive	<p>The risk of developing sensory support needs increases with age.</p> <p>Age-related damage to the cochlea is the single biggest cause of hearing loss: 71.1% of over 70 year-olds and 41.7% of over 50 year-olds have some form of hearing loss.</p> <p>Age-related macular degeneration is by far the leading cause of blindness in adults</p> <p>One in five people aged 75 and over are living with sight loss. One in two people aged 90 and over are living with sight loss.</p> <p>Life expectancy in Bracknell Forest is higher than the national average at 80.8 years for men and 84 years for women. This is compared to 79 years for men and 83 years for women throughout the United Kingdom .</p> <p>Understanding growth rate is important because the most significant risk factor for developing Sensory Needs is age. In Bracknell Forest, the largest population increase is predicted to be amongst those aged over 90 – an 83% increase between 2011 and 2021.</p>
14. Religion and belief equality	Y	N X	Neutral	The screening panel were unable to find any evidence to suggest that people of any particular religious group are likely to be specifically impacted by this strategy.
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y X	N	Positive	There is a small amount of evidence to suggest that there is a risk to women of experiencing temporary sensorineural hearing loss following birth. This condition is called Otosclerosis.
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Y	N X	Neutral	The screening panel were unable to find any evidence to suggest that people who fall into this group are likely to be specifically impacted by this strategy.

17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	Carers – Around half of older people in the UK have additional disabilities or long term health conditions as well as their hearing loss which require the support of a family member, spouse or friend.		
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	N/A		
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	People with sensory needs will be significantly positively impacted. Numbers of people in Bracknell Forest affected, please see above.		
20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Please explain for each equality group
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	N/A		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Please explain your decision. If you are not proceeding to a full equality impact assessment make sure you have the evidence to justify this decision should you be challenged. If you are proceeding to a full equality impact assessment please contact Abby Thomas.
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.			
Action	Timescale	Person Responsible	Milestone/Success Criteria
Information in this strategy will be available in large print, braille and British Sign Language.	June 2016	Head of Long Term Conditions	Strategy information available in a variety of formats.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	Sensory Needs Strategy Action Plan.		

25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?	Consultation included British Sign Language interpreters, Speech-To-Text-Reporters, information in large print and braille, telephone interviews and face-to-face interviews.
26. Chief Officers signature.	Signature: _____ Date: _____

When complete please send to abby.thomas@bracknell-forest.gov.uk for publication on the Council's website.