

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

THE STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT FORM - the initial screening process

SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION BEING ASSESSED: Babergh Assist

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION: (e.g. main purpose, users or beneficiaries etc)

This is a community alarm service which is tenure neutral and which supplies and supports this assisted technology to people who request this service. Babergh Assist is available to all but is specifically targeted to people who are vulnerable, lonely or socially isolated including the carers and relatives of these groups.

The service is chargeable at £2.70 per week (as at 1st April 2008). The Council currently supports 900 clients.

Please indicate if it is an existing area of service or a new area/project:

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Age	The service has a positive impact on older people who are seeking to maintain their independence at home. This type of service is positively promoted not only by Babergh Council officers but those in ACS and the health services as part of a package of support to enable people to stay put longer in their homes.			

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Belief or faith	The service provides a positive impact for those people with a specific religious belief that need to be taken into account when receiving emergency intervention or treatment.			
Disability	The service provides for a positive impact on disabled people and those responsible for their care again often as a wider package of assistance. The Council again seeks to target this client group.			
Sexual Orientation		There is no evidence to suggest that this client group are adversely effected by our service delivery		
Gender		The service is gender neutral.		

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Race			Information gathered from the service shows that clients from BME groups have a very low take up of this service. There is a possible unintended negative impact for clients, or their carers, who do not speak English.	Low

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IF ANY AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH LOW LEVEL NEGATIVE IMPACT

IS THE IMPACT LIKELY TO CHANGE OVER TIME?

Yes	X	No	
-----	----------	----	--

IF YES, HOW WILL THE IMPACT CHANGE?

The issues of language barriers have been highlighted as a possible negative impact only. Information gathered from the service shows that clients from BME groups have a very low take up of the service. However, this may change if the number of non-English speaking clients increases in line with demographic trends.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMISE OR REMOVE ANY *UNINTENDED* NEGATIVE IMPACT?

Measures as already in place to minimise the possible impact and will be monitored in the future. All Council information and advice, whether in person or following written request, can be interpreted in different language formats. The Central Control staff are also trained and supported to respond to different language needs.

HOW COULD YOU MONITOR THIS WORK?

By reporting findings and analysis from customer satisfaction surveys. Further work, where appropriate, could be undertaken jointly with the Council's Equality & Diversity Steering Group and relevant partner organisations

IF YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED ANY AREAS WHERE THE LEVEL OF NEGATIVE IMPACT IS HIGH PLEASE REFER TO YOUR HEAD OF SERVICE PRIOR TO COMPLETING A STAGE TWO ASSESSMENT FORM

Signed:David Clarke.....Service Manager undertaking the Assessment.

Date:12 September 2008.....