

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## THE STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT FORM - the initial screening process

**SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION BEING ASSESSED:** Community Safety and Leisure Team – Function: Anti-Social Behaviour work

**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION:** Main purpose of this area of work for the team is to provide an avenue for reporting ASB incidents and a process for investigation and resolution of case work. The team covers BDC housing enforcement cases for ASB (rather than tenancy enforcement in general) and non-housing cases. The definition of ASB would incorporate cases of harassment of whatever kind and domestic violence.

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

<b>Target Equality Group</b>  <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Positive Impact</b> If yes, please explain how  <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Neutral Impact</b> If yes, please explain how  <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Negative Impact</b> 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>	<b>If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low?</b>  <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
<b>Age</b>	It is known, from public consultation, that the issue of ASB is a bigger concern for older people than for the young. Effective ASB casework should therefore have a positive impact for the older generation in terms of reassurance, dealing with specific incidents and tackling the fear of ASB/crime. However, much of this increased concern is		A large aspect of the work to tackle ASB is centred on prevention and diversionary work with young people. Although much effort is made not to portray this work in a negative way, the very fact that this focus exists could feed into negative perceptions of young people as 'a problem'. This can be mitigated against, to some extent, by	Low Impact – The potential negative effect can continue to be addressed though balanced publicity that ensures positive initiatives are featured.

<b>Target Equality Group</b>  <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Positive Impact</b> If yes, please explain how  <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Neutral Impact</b> If yes, please explain how  <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Negative Impact</b> 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>	<b>If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low?</b>  <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
	fuelled by the perception of this issue (there is no evidence to that suggest the older generation are more likely to suffer incidents of ASB). Issues of perception are influenced most significantly by the portrayal of the issue in the media, local and national, so the degree to which effective ASB casework can influence this is limited.		ensuring that publicity generated by BDC in regard to these initiatives is balanced and highlights the many positive activities of young people. These efforts, though, have to be seen in the context of a national and local media portrayal of young people that is overwhelmingly negative.	
<b>Belief or faith</b>	Harassment on the grounds of faith, particularly in combination with issues of race, can mean that ASB disproportionately affects people from these groups. Effective casework to tackle these incidents will have a positive influence on the quality of life for those people. To ensure this happens though an increased corporate effort may be needed on issues like translation services, to ensure effective access to services.			

<b>Target Equality Group</b>  <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Positive Impact</b>  If yes, please explain how  <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Neutral Impact</b>  If yes, please explain how  <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	<b>Does it have a Negative Impact</b>  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>	<b>If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low?</b>  <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
<b>Disability</b>	Disability and mental health issues can be an additional factor in the harassment of people, both in terms of being targeted and the extent to which people's lives are affected. Effective ASB casework can help tackle those issues and thereby have a positive impact. There may be issue of underreporting of incidents, which need to be examined.		Mental health can be a factor with the perpetrators of ASB. This could add to an unbalanced negative perception of those with mental health issues.	Low impact – need to ensure balanced publicity and a proportionate response to the issues.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	People suffer targeted harassment on the grounds of sexual orientation. Effective ASB casework can ensure that incidents are effectively investigated and tackled. Efforts should be made to ensure that victims are aware they can report incidents to BDC.			

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<b>Gender</b>	Domestic abuse can affect either sex, however the vast number of reported DV cases involve women as the victim. ASB work, particularly civil enforcement actions (injunctions etc) can help protect sufferers of domestic abuse from further incidents. It is well established that incidents are underreported, tackling this involves partnership working, which is facilitated through the community safety partnership.			
<b>Race</b>	Effective ASB casework can be an important tool in ensuring that incidents of racial harassment can be tackled. There may be similar issues of access to services as those outlined under Faith/Belief.			

**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	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**IF YES, HOW WILL THE IMPACT CHANGE?**


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

Ensure balanced publicity to minimise the risk of disproportionately negative perceptions about young people and those with mental health issues.

**HOW COULD YOU MONITOR THIS WORK?**

Keep records of publicity generated and review on a periodic basis.

**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: Paul Little.....Service Manager undertaking the Assessment.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008