

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

<b>Proposal name</b>	<b>Approval of an All Age Exploitation Strategy for Walsall</b>		
<b>Directorate</b>	Economy, Environment and Communities		
<b>Service</b>	Resilient Communities		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Paul Gordon		
<b>Proposal planning start</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021	<b>Proposal start date (due or actual date)</b>	The strategy comes into force if it is approved by the safer Walsall Partnership. (30/09/2021)

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Show which category the proposal is and whether it is new or a revision.		
	Policy	<b>Yes</b>	<b>New</b>
	Procedure	<b>No</b>	
	Guidance	<b>No</b>	
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Revision</b>
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	<b>Partnership</b>	Revision
	Other - give details		
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	<p>Both nationally and within the Borough it is recognised that serious violence and exploitation have devastating consequences for families and communities in Walsall. More specifically, the fear of violence causes anxiety to many and can prevent them from actively participating and engaging fully in their lives and will impact on their future life chances.</p> <p>The partnership's understanding of those children, young people and adults that are vulnerable to and victims of harm will continue to be developed with equality monitoring and analysis considered in each annual review. There will be a focus on culturally competent communications and support to the borough's diverse communities and on identifying unmet need and less visible impacts, for example, the impact of serious violence on girls and young women and of sexual exploitation on boys and young men.</p> <p>The impact of exploitation on the health and wellbeing of our residents is both damaging and costly both to individuals, communities and their ability to fully develop and thrive.</p> <p>The development and delivery of a strategy that reduces exploitation, especially one that has the full support of partner organisations and a commitment to a whole system multi</p>		



agency approach to deliver evidence-based interventions to reduce risk and strengthen the protective factors in their lives is a prerequisite to delivering effective activity and achieving measurable outcomes.

A “public health approach” is a methodology that, in this case, treats violence and exploitation like an infectious disease. It suggests that policy makers should search for a ‘cure’ by using scientific evidence to identify what causes violence exploitation and find interventions that work to prevent it spreading.

Our Overall goal is to prevent violence and exploitation, reduce the harm caused and thus improve health and wellbeing across Walsall Borough.

If the Strategy is approved, an action plan will be prepared and governance of the plan will sit with the Safer Walsall Partnership.

<b>3</b>	<b>Who is the proposal likely to affect?</b>		
	<b>People in Walsall</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<b>All</b>	<b>Y e s</b>	Exploitation is something that has serious consequences to anybody who falls victim to it. It is clear that exploitation can be more impactful on individuals who have existing vulnerabilities.
	<b>Specific group/s</b>		
	<b>Council employees</b>		
	<b>Other (identify)</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer’s protected characteristics.</b>		
	This All Age Exploitation Strategy is for all people within Walsall		
<b>5</b>	<b>Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal.</b>		

The need for an exploitation strategy by the identifiable links between other crimes and data the decision of the Safer Walsall Partnership to focus on exploitation through the Violence Reduction Unit. It is also recognised that there are many linkages with other pieces of work including the work of the Safeguarding Board

A public consultation was carried out in October 2020 by west Midland Police for the Safer Walsall Partnership through a survey was sent out to the public across the West Midlands. This was to help inform the Strategic Needs Assessment. There were 462 responses from Walsall Residents and only six reported that the most important issue for Walsall. It has, however, been identified that many other crimes have strong links to exploitation and therefore the need for a strategy not only will tackle exploitation but will also impact other crime ranging from ASB to violence and significantly, includes County Lines.

**Consultation Activity**

Complete a copy of this table for each consultation activity you have undertaken.

Type of engagement/consultation	Public Consultation	Date	October 2020
Who attended/participated?	General Public		
Protected characteristics of participants	All		
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views of people from protected characteristics</li> </ul>		

**6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation**

Whilst it is clear from the public consultation that exploitation does not feature highly as the 'most important issue' from a crime perspective, there is clear evidence nationally and regionally that through links with other crimes and through case studies that the impact of exploitation within Walsall is and therefore a multi-agency strategy to challenge violence & exploitation will result in greater opportunities for effective partnership working and more opportunities to tackle such exploitation across the borough resulting in Walsall becoming a safer place.

**7 How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group?  
The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.**

Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No
Age	The impact of the strategy should have a positive impact across all people with a protected characteristic. It is intended that the action plan that will be prepared from this strategy considers the impact on all protected characteristics.  Consideration will also be given to groups not included in the Equality Act, e.g. lone parents, refugees, unemployed people, carers.		
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage and civil partnership			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			
Sex			

	Sexual orientation	
	Other (give detail)	
	Further information	
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.	(Delete one) Yes
	There are strong links to the work of the Safeguarding Board, the Violence Reduction Unit and the reducing violence priority of the Safer Walsall Partnership. The priorities and outcomes relating to exploitation are aligned.	
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
	A	No major change required

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
31/12/2021	Review of Action Plan and update of EQIA.	Director of Resilient Communities		

Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail


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