

## South Staffordshire Council Equality Impact Assessments (EIA)

### Introduction

As functions or policies are reviewed, or new ones developed, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) should be carried out to address the following legislation:

- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000;
- Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act 2006;
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975; and
- To help implement the Employment Equality Regulations on Sexual Orientation and Religion and Belief and Age.

EIAs can help South Staffordshire Council to meet the various stages of the Equalities Standard for Local Government and increasingly service inspections are asking questions about the findings of EIAs.

An EIA is a process to determine whether a policy or function has any *"differential impacts"* that could have an adverse (negative) implication on the basis of a person's race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief or age. It is a method to ensure that a function or policy will not create any barriers that could prevent access to services or employment opportunities.

### Explaining the toolkit

Equality Impact Assessment	
<b>1</b>	<b>Title of Function or Policy to be assessed:</b> Play Strategy
<b>2</b>	<b>Date:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
<b>3</b>	<b>Name of Lead Officer:</b> Katie White
<b>4</b>	<b>EIA Team</b> Katie White, Tony Ward, Abi O'Leary, Mark Jenkinson
<b>5</b>	<b>Director/Head of Service/Service Manager:</b> Katie White
<b>6</b>	<b>Existing, new or review:</b> This is a new strategy for Play
<b>7</b>	<b>Set out the aims/objectives/purposes/outcomes of the function or policy, and give a summary of the service provided:</b>  Provides position statement on the development of Play Provision across South Staffordshire.
<b>8</b>	<b>Linked policies, functions: Are there any other functions, policies or services which might be linked with this one for the purposes of this</b>

If you have any queries or comments about Equality Impact Assessments or about the toolkit, please contact:

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Or email: [k.smith@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:k.smith@sstaffs.gov.uk)

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	<p><b>exercise?</b></p> <p>Open Space Strategy Leisure and Cultural Strategy LSP Community Strategy Every Child Matters Children and Young Peoples Plan</p>																														
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population):</b></p> <p>Children aged 0 – 19 years and their parents</p> <p>Service Providers of play provision including Parish Councils, Voluntary Play Providers and Child Minders</p>																														
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Within this table, state whether the policy or function will have a positive or negative impact across the following factors and provide any comments.</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">Positive Impact</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Negative Impact</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>Children’s Play provision improved</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>Policy statements developed around the provision of inclusive play.</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>N/A</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Race</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>N/a</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion/belief</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>N/A</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexuality</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>N/A</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments	Age	<b>Yes</b>		<b>Children’s Play provision improved</b>	Disability	<b>Yes</b>		<b>Policy statements developed around the provision of inclusive play.</b>	Gender	<b>N/A</b>			Race	<b>N/a</b>			Religion/belief	<b>N/A</b>			Sexuality	<b>N/A</b>		
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<b>11</b>	<p><b>What evidence do you have for the statements you have made above?</b></p> <p><b>£200,00 of external national lottery funding achieved to improve facilities across South Staffordshire owing to Strategy Work.</b></p> <p><b>Policy Statements are being built into the LDF policies for future focus</b></p>																														
<p><b>12. From evidence given at Q.11 what actions, if any, will you need to take against each of the following equality strands:</b></p>																															
<p><b>Disability:</b></p> <p>Ensure appropriate training and guidance to staff providing play provision</p>																															
<p><b>Race:</b></p> <p>Ensure appropriate training and guidance to staff providing play provision Training for all staff concerned specifically around race equality standards</p>																															
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**Age:**

Age appropriate activities delivered  
Ensure appropriate training and guidance to staff providing play provision

**Religion/belief:**

Ensure appropriate training and guidance to staff providing play provision

**Sexuality:**

Ensure appropriate training and guidance to staff providing play provision

**13. Briefly explain how the policy or function contributes to Community Cohesion by answering the following questions:**

- How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment?

The provision and employment of play rangers as a consequence of the additional funding accessed for Play provision to engage children and their families in play activities.

The play strategy clearly states the intention to deliver around the locality concept to ensure equity of provision across the district.

- Does it or could it celebrate diversity?

No but could do if we share good practice with other areas and other providers when evaluating success of the project.

- Will it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities?

Yes by breaking down barriers of limited provision and providing a communal meeting place for local communities

- How will it help to prevent social exclusion?

The strategy identifies hotspot areas for deprivation around health, community safety hot spots. This signpost future funding to areas that have been excluded before.

- Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded?

By focusing future funding as above

- How will it provide good quality, inclusive services?

Investment of £200,00 initially plus additional investment in play due to the increase in profile of play with the strategy.

**14. Consultation:**

Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function or policy, who was involved and the outcome.

See below

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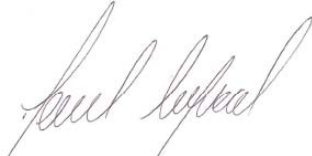
**Chief Officer/Director/Head of Service:**

I am satisfied with the results of this EIA

I have seen the Council's (3) Equality Schemes or Equality Action Plan and am satisfied with the contribution it can make.

I agree to review the Action Plan after 12 Months with the Directorate's Equality representative.

**Signature of Chief Officer/Director/Head of Service:**



Dave Heywood  
Director of Community Services  
South Staffordshire Council

**Completion of the Toolkit:**

Approved: 19.06.08  
Kieran P. Smith  
Policy and Partnerships

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**Further information to Questions 14 . Consultation**

**Appendix 3 of Play Strategy**

Consultation Summary and examples

Type	Description	Summary of findings
<b>Questionnaires &amp; Surveys</b>	<p>Consultation – Children and parents (Tree Consultation – See examples below)</p>	<p>322 Children respondents 43 adult respondents</p> <p><b>Parents</b> Do you live within walking distance of:</p> <p>92% Parish Play Area 86% Sports Pitch 51% Leisure Centre 15% Skate Park</p> <p>Do your children make good use of your local facilities? 76% no 24% yes</p> <p>If no – Why not?</p> <p>26% poor equipment quality 46% Safety and Security of area 28% Safety of equipment</p> <p><i>Children</i> Where do you play?</p> <p>80% Play Area 40% on my street 62% friends house 24% playing pitch 98% Home 92% School 3% other</p> <p>Who do you play with?</p> <p>98% Friends 78% Family 26% Parent Guardian</p> <p>When do you play?</p> <p>93% School Breaktimes 64% After school 97% School Holidayas 92% weekends</p> <p><b>NB Multiple answers were accepted</b></p>

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	Democracy week	<p>600 young people aged 12 – 15 years over 8 separate sessions within Democracy week</p> <p>Main focus of consultation was democracy however there was an Open Space consultation carried out, on which comments regarding play / leisure space were requested.</p> <p>Headline comments from young people around play provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited facilities for teenagers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ' sometimes we just want to sit but it looks like we are hanging around'</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> We don't know what to do when we get to the MUGA</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited availability to sports equipment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School pitches are locked up at night</li> </ul>
	South Staffordshire View Point	<p><b>Priority Challenge 2006</b> When requesting panel's view on their priorities for the council, Maintaining and improving access to services and facilities was in the top 5 priorities.</p> <p><b>Green Spaces 2005</b> 67% of respondents had used South Staffordshire open space including play areas, visiting at least once a week.</p> <p>20% reported that quality of provision needs improvement 18% requested more play facilities</p> <p>When non users were asked for reasons of non use: 32% reported safety and security of facilities and open spaces</p>
<b>Focus Groups</b>	Youth Service	Specific focus groups have been held regarding project development with young people in Perton and Great Wyrley Areas to ensure young people's voice is paramount in project development.
	HYPE	<p>Graffiti Boards used at HYPE club night event requested young people to write there aspirations and needs for their local area.</p> <p>Multi Use games Area were added to the graffiti</p>

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		<p>board 4 times, as well as 'space for us to chat and skate'</p> <p>This highlights the need for young people specific play areas with freedom of choice of activity rather than fixed traditional play equipment.</p>
	<p>County Strategy – Community Providers</p> <p>(taken from County Play Strategy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rural nature of South Staffordshire poses problems to planning play provision.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders believed insufficient geographically appropriate play areas leading to children being victims of crime and undervalued by society.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More joined up working necessary</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need to work on transition from junior provision to youth services.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need for unified approach to holistic services for children</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clear progression in training required</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improvements in inclusive play</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> External funding support required, including coordination of funding requirements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Refurbishment of play facilities across the district</li> </ul>
<b>District Wide Audit</b>	Open Space Consultation	<p>In depth, comprehensive assessment of provision, for open space, includes play.</p> <p>Awaiting results of playing pitch and open space audits.</p>
<b>Family event</b>	Big Summer Event	<p>Participants (5 – 13 years) were asked to post voting tokens in boxes for specific questions regarding the event and their play and leisure time.</p> <p>328 respondents</p> <p>Where do you choose to play?</p> <p>4% play @ after school clubs with friends 36% Play @ home 26% play at local parish play area / park 34% play @ leisure centre</p>

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<b>Specific Activity Sessions</b>	Children's Fund Activities – Targeted programmes	<p>'Tops and Pants' pilot evaluation of SUSSED 'out and about' sessions at Perton and Featherstone:</p> <p>Headlining comments made by children on the 'pants' are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Park needs improving</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Big Kids have to share little kids park not fair!</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> More playing fields and space to play</li></ul>
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**EXAMPLES:**

Young Children and Parents Consultation method

Tree Poster to collect all completed leaves from children and Parents

Parent's forms

Children's forms

**Young people's Consultation method**

What is **Tops** about your Area?

What is **pants** about your area?

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