

# Equality Impact Assessment Template

**Date: 25 July 2018**

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	<b>Re-commissioning a Local Healthwatch Service</b>
Directorate and Service Area	<b>David Stevens Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing</b>
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	<b>David Stevens</b>
Contact Details	
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Justin Haywood - Commissioning Operational Manager Sheena Rafiq - Commissioner
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	
Date EIA completed	14 June 2018
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required  
(Please provide as much information as possible)**

To authorise the commencement of re-procurement of a Local Healthwatch Service in Sandwell to ensure that the Council continues to fulfil its statutory responsibilities as set out in part 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

**2. Evidence used/considered**

The Council has a statutory duty to commission a Local Healthwatch Service for the Borough.

Funding will not be reduced given that it is statutory duty to commission a local Healthwatch service and funding currently funded from the Department of Health's (DoH) 'Local Reform and Community Voice Grant' (LRCV).

There are seven statutory functions to be delivered by a Local Healthwatch. These are:

- **Function 1-** Gathering views and understanding the experiences of people who use services, carers and the wider community;
- **Function 2 -** Making people's views known;
- **Function 3 -** Promoting and supporting the involvement of people in the commissioning and provision of local care services and how they are scrutinised ;
- **Function 4 -** Recommending investigation or special review of services via Healthwatch England or directly to the Care Quality Commission (CQC);

- **Function 5** - Providing advice and information about access to services and support for making informed choices;
- **Function 6** - Making the views and experiences of people known to Healthwatch England and providing a steer to help it carry out its role as national champion; and
- **Function 7**- NHS Complaints Advocacy – this function has been commissioned separately.

The current Local Healthwatch contract covers functions 1 to 6 and is due to expire on 31 March 2016. Function 7 is delivered through a separate contract with POHWER and is not part of this proposal.

Healthwatch Service will maximise the opportunity for every Sandwell citizen to take part and have their voice heard and will actively engage and involve individuals, community groups, the seldom heard and disadvantaged groups

A core function of Healthwatch will be to represent patient, service user and public voices in health and social care services. Ensuring that all communities are engaged in this process will be a critical success factor that will need to be measured meaningfully.

*The current contract relating to this Service is due to expire on 31 March 2019 and no further extensions are contractually possible.*

### **3. Consultation**

Consultation will be undertaken to determine the final Specification.

There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of an effective Local Healthwatch service will support the views of hard to reach and protected groups being incorporated into service delivery and design for local health and social care services

There is no prescriptive approach set out by the Act for procuring Local Healthwatch. The Council has a number of options open to it in agreeing how to establish a Local Healthwatch. These include going out to the market in a formal open tendering exercise or grant-aid an organisation. However, local councils' responsibilities towards Healthwatch are laid out in legislation so alternative options to the scope of Healthwatch services are limited.

### **4. Assess likely impact**

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The commissioning of an effective Local Healthwatch Service will provide support to vulnerable people including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that a local Healthwatch service will have a positive impact on protected groups. It will be for the benefit of everyone within the local community and will ensure that the views of all people are heard, with the aim of influencing the planning, commissioning and monitoring of all health and care services. Given that this is its core purpose, Healthwatch in itself can be seen as a tool to meet the equality duty.

**Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics**

**4a. Use the table to show:**

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
<b>Age</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people's needs.
<b>Disability</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people's needs.

<b>Gender reassignment</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people's needs.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people's needs.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people's needs.
<b>Race</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people's needs.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]



<b>Religion or belief</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people’s needs.
<b>Sex</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people’s needs.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people’s needs.
<b>Other</b>	✓			The procurement of quality Healthwatch service should contribute to the safety and reduction of risk to vulnerable people through effective signposting and information, and through supporting the planning and development of services to meet people’s needs.

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes  No

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

**5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?**

**6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?**

**7. Monitoring arrangements**

The Contract is monitored through the Contracts Team, to ensure contract compliance and that the service provider is working towards achieving the agreed contract specification.

## 8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

**9. Publish the EIA**

## **Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?**

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

### **Practical advice, guidance and support**

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA, using the electronic EIA toolkit or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Improvement and Efficiency. The officers within in Improvement and Efficiency will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

**Please contact:**

Kashmir Singh - 0121 569 3828