

Discontinuing the Surrey Disability Register

Question	Answer
Did you use the EIA Screening Tool?	No

1. Explaining the matter being assessed

Question	Answer
What policy, function or service change are you assessing?	<p>It is being proposed to discontinue the Surrey Disability Register (SDR).</p> <p>The Surrey Disability Register is a voluntary register for residents with a disability living in Surrey. It has been in place since 2004 and was originally set up as SALDR (Surrey Adult Linked Disabilities Register), a voluntary database holding information on adults (over 18) with learning disabilities. It was then extended to include the following disabilities: physical, visual, hearing or dual sensory loss.</p> <p>The benefits for residents on the register are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twice yearly newsletter• ID card that can support members to get discretionary discounts at leisure centres, cinemas and independent coffee shops.• Members are automatically added to the Vulnerable People's Reporting System, which highlights vulnerable residents in case of emergency, such as flooding, electrical outage. <p>The decision to discontinue the register is being considered due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing a disability register is not a statutory requirement or an essential part of the directorate's offer;• All of the benefits from the register are also offered by other local, or national organisations or services. As part of the closure, we would signpost members to the wide range of alternative support available;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) survey was issued in 2018, only 3,725 members out of 10,583 responded to say they wished to stay on the register. Membership has grown to 4,556 currently; • It benefits a reducing number of residents that are not known to Adult Social Care and do not have eligible social care needs; • The related costs to manage and produce two newsletters and membership cards per year are high - £13,636 per annum; • The resource to manage associated activity across Adult Social Care, SCC Communications and Engagement team and the Contact Centre admin hub is disproportionately high in relation to the real value provided to residents with a disability – 726 hours/101 days per annum; • There is reduced capacity to lead on the activity within the directorate • When an analysis of neighbouring local authorities was undertaken, following the Care Act 2014, out of six local authorities only two decided to continue with the register, both of which ask for proof of disability (Surrey County Council doesn't); • Over the sixteen years ASC has developed a wide range of alternative networks to engagement with, and access the views of, people with disabilities; • There is a wide range of support for people with disabilities in Surrey and ASC continues to signpost residents to appropriate support in communities as part of their universal information and advice service; • Surrey County Council commissions a number of local charities to engage with and directly support people with disabilities, older people and carers. • The Priority Services Register is an excellent, and more universal, alternative to the Vulnerable

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	<p>People’s Reporting System, helping people in emergency situations and power outages.</p> <p>A public consultation took place over six weeks between Monday 27 February to Friday 6 March 2020 informing SDR members of the proposal, seeking their views before a final decision was made. The final decision was delayed due to Covid-19.</p> <p>The visual impairment register which is a statutory register and is managed by Sight for Surrey on behalf of Surrey County Council, is not affected by this proposal.</p>
<p>Why does this EIA need to be completed?</p>	<p>Any change to a regular service provision/offer requires an EIA to be completed.</p>
<p>Who is affected by the proposals outlined above?</p>	<p>Members of the SDR, currently residents.</p> <p>Staff who support the SDR: ASC Information and Engagement Team, Contact Centre administration hub staff and the SCC Communications and Engagement Team.</p>
<p>How does your service proposal support the outcomes in the Community Vision for Surrey 2030?</p>	<p>It will free up resources and budget to focus on supporting people most in need.</p>
<p>Are there any specific geographies in Surrey where this will make an impact?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wide

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Question	Answer
Briefly list what evidence you have gathered on the impact of your proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the original benefits of being a member of the SDR was entitlement to a free bus pass. This is no longer the case as a bus pass is dependent on the severity of a disability.• We do not know which organisations locally provide discounts on presentation of the SDR membership card but have anecdotal feedback that cinemas and leisure centres typically do.• Previous Membership Survey feedback (953 responses in 2017) shows what people valued most about their membership:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Newsletter 68.83%○ VPRS 37.55%○ Discounts 33.62%○ Access to Local groups 32.24%○ Other 17.34%.• From a sampling exercise undertaken on the membership it is believed that 68% of the membership, are current Adult Social Care clients (33%) or have been in the past ten years (35%).• The Priority Services Register is an excellent, and more universal, alternative to the Vulnerable People's Reporting System, helping people in emergency situations and power outages. It will be promoted widely by the council for the benefit of local residents.• The biggest impact will be members not receiving accessible information and news. There are some ways that we can mitigate against this by encouraging people to join local user-led or carer organisations and also sign up to electronic newsletters if they are online.

2. Service Users / Residents

There are 10 protected characteristics to consider in your proposal. These are:

1. Age including younger and older people
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Pregnancy and maternity
5. Race including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
6. Religion or belief including lack of belief
7. Sex
8. Sexual orientation
9. Marriage/civil partnerships
10. Carers protected by association

Though not included in the Equality Act 2010, Surrey County Council recognises that socio-economic disadvantage is a significant contributor to inequality across the County and therefore regards this as an additional factor.

Therefore, if relevant, you will need to include information on this. Please **refer to the EIA guidance** if you are unclear as to what this is.

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Age

Question	Answer
What information (data) do you have on affected service users/residents with this characteristic?	We are currently unable to extract data from LAS. At the last survey data analysis in 2016, over 50% of the SDR members were over 65.
Impacts	Both

Impacts identified	Supporting evidence	How will you maximise positive/minimise negative impacts?	When will this be implemented by?	Owner
Being part of the SDR means that residents receive a twice-yearly newsletter, with information on preventative services, volunteering, activities. The newsletter, which is in printed format, has been identified by members as the most valued benefit of the register. We know that residents over 65 are less likely to go online for information so a printed newsletter is useful.	28% of people aged over 60 and 51% of people aged over 75 do not have essential digital skills (Digital Nation 2018).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will be directed to older people's charities like Age UK Surrey and user-led organisations in Surrey, for example, Surrey Coalition of Disabled People, where they can receive information and stay informed on local matters and health and care services. Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and Sight for Surrey produce accessible formats of their newsletters. 	At the time of closure and ongoing	Local information providers, user-led organisations, health and social care organisations local councils and VCF.

Equality Impact Assessment

Impacts identified	Supporting evidence	How will you maximise positive/minimise negative impacts?	When will this be implemented by?	Owner
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is being done by ASC and health and local council partners to ensure that residents are able to access information at their chosen point of access, be it a library, GP, Citizen's Advice, or voluntary, community or faith (VCF) organisation. This minimises the impact of one information channel stopping. 		

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Impacts identified	Supporting evidence	How will you maximise positive/minimise negative impacts?	When will this be implemented by?	Owner
<p>Due to the age breakdown of the SDR, it is likely that the majority of members who are over 65 are more vulnerable. Not being on the Vulnerable People's Reporting System (VPRS), which highlights vulnerable residents at times of emergency due to flooding for example, to emergency services may mean residents will be at risk during those times. Residents who are open cases in Adult Social Care are automatically added to the VPRS.</p>	<p>We do not have the breakdown of age for people who are SDR members and also currently receiving support for ASC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18% of survey respondents said they were current ASC clients. More than 70% of members did not reply to the survey. • It had been estimated that 12% of SDR members have not had in the past or are currently not receiving support from ASC and therefore, not on the VPRS already. • Existing clients will remain on the VPRS, giving extra assurance to residents at times of local crises. • The Priority Services Register run by utilities companies is an excellent alternative to help residents in emergency situations and power outages. This will be widely promoted to local Surrey residents from autumn 2020. 	<p>If a decision is made to stop the register.</p>	<p>ASC Information and Quality team.</p>

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Question	Answer
What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decisions makers need to be aware of	There has been a recent review of the bus pass for people with disabilities, which means that this is a further change affecting people with disabilities in a short space of time. Residents may feel that support for older people and people with disabilities is being reduced.

Question	Answer
Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated? Please identify impact and explain why	Identifies negative impacts that can't be mitigated, together with evidence.

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Disability

Question	Answer
What information (data) do you have on affected service users/residents with this characteristic?	2,261 with a learning disability 302 with a mental health condition 4,125 with a physical disability or impairment 3,872 with a visual impairment.
Impacts	Both

Impacts identified	Supporting evidence	How will you maximise positive/minimise negative impacts?	When will this be implemented by?	Owner
<p>As a member of the SDR, residents receive a membership card with the SCC logo on it to show that they are part of the SDR. Leisure centres, cinemas etc can choose, at their discretion to give the member a discount. It also gives them discount on mobility equipment. Not having this card may mean that residents are not able to access the same discounts.</p> <p>The residents who this is likely to affect the most are those who</p>	<p>We are unable to assess how often members of the SDR used their card to access specific discounts as they are entitled to them with or without a membership card.</p> <p>It is currently not known how many members of the SDR are not already entitled to disability benefits/ support/ classed as disabled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents would be encouraged to apply for a National Disability Identification Card (DID). The aim of the card is to remove the need for individuals to carry their paper documentation with them at all times. The card can be used as proof that you are in receipt of an eligible benefit and, therefore, 	Ongoing.	ASC to signpost to alternative disability identification cards and relevant local organisations who can provide information and access to local groups and networks.

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<p>are not yet meeting the threshold for accessing disability benefits or being classed as disabled. They may be vulnerable and unable to access support yet due to eligibility criteria. The newsletter/ the card and the VPRS supports them to access information or receive tangible benefits which are preventative in nature.</p>		<p>entitled to gain entry in certain establishments at concessionary rates and, in some cases, offer free entry to another person assisting the disabled person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents with a disability are entitled to a discount on mobility equipment irrespective of whether they are on the register or not. • Residents with a disability would still be able to access discounts at leisure centre, cinemas etc as they would just need to use another proof of disability, eg a national disability identification card or a blue badge. • ASC, health partners, local councils and the voluntary community and faith sector are working on local action plans to ensure that residents can access 		

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Impacts identified	Supporting evidence	How will you maximise positive/minimise negative impacts?	When will this be implemented by?	Owner
		<p>information on care and support at their chosen point of access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will be directed to older people's charities like Age UK Surrey and user-led organisations in Surrey, for example, Surrey Coalition of Disabled People, where they can receive information on local matters and health and care services. 		

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Question	Answer
What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decisions makers need to be aware of	There has been a recent review of the bus pass for people with disabilities, which means that this is a further change affecting people with disabilities in a short space of time. Residents may feel that support for older people and people with disabilities is being reduced.

Question	Answer
Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated? Please identify impact and explain why	Identifies negative impacts that can't be mitigated, together with evidence.

You will need to copy and paste these boxes for each of the protected characteristics likely to be impacted.

3. Staff

No impacts have been identified on any staff with protected characteristics.

4. Amendments to the proposals

CHANGE	REASON FOR CHANGE
No amendments to the proposals are recommended as a result of the Equality Impact Assessment.	All negative impacts can be mitigated

5. Recommendation

Based your assessment, please indicate which course of action you are recommending to decision makers. You should explain your recommendation below.

Outcome Number	Description	Tick
Outcome One	No major change to the policy/service/function required. This EIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact, and all opportunities to promote equality have been undertaken	X
Outcome Two	Adjust the policy/service/function to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers you identified?	
Outcome Three	Continue the policy/service/function despite potential for negative impact or missed opportunities to advance equality identified. You will need to make sure the EIA clearly sets out the justifications for continuing with it. You need to consider whether there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient plans to stop or minimise the negative impact • Mitigating actions for any remaining negative impacts plans to monitor the actual impact. 	
Outcome Four	Stop and rethink the policy when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination (For guidance on what is unlawful discrimination, refer to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance and Codes of Practice on the Equality Act concerning employment, goods and services and equal pay).	

Question	Answer
Confirmation and explanation of recommended outcome	Please confirm which outcome you are recommending and explain the reasons for your recommendation

Equality Impact Assessment

6a. Version control

Version Number	Purpose/Change	Author	Date
1	Initial draft	Siobhan Abernethy	9 December 2019
2	Final version	Siobhan Abernethy	22 September 2020

The above provides historical data about each update made to the Equality Impact Assessment. Please do include the name of the author, date and notes about changes made – so that you are able to refer back to what changes have been made throughout this iterative process. For further information, please see the EIA Guidance document on version control.

6b. Approval

Approved by*	Date approved
Head of Service	Liz Uliasz
Executive Director	Simon White
Cabinet Member	Cllr Sinead Mooney
Directorate Equality Group	ASC

EIA Author	Siobhan Abernethy
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*Secure approval from the appropriate level of management based on nature of issue and scale of change being assessed.

6c. EIA Team

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Team Role
Siobhan Abernethy	Information Advice and Engagement Lead	Surrey County Council	ASC Information and Engagement Team
Kathryn Pyper	Senior Programme Manager	Surrey County Council	

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