

Title of proposed EIA	Prevention & Communities Grants Programme (P&C Grants Programme)
Reference No	EQUA1039
EA is in support of	Amended Function
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of first review	20/11/2023
Directorate	Adults Social Care
Division	Commissioning
Service Area	Prevention and Communities
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Keaton Moore
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> John Freeman
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kalvinder Kohli
Purpose of proposal	Recommissioning of the Prevention and Communities grants programme
Data sources	Consultation Results; Interviews; relevant research
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community
Age details:	<p>The Prevention and Communities Grants programme will have a positive impact on those aged 18+ by offering local services and activities that promote mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing, friendships and social connections, as well as addressing loneliness and isolation. This is underpinned by the Care Act 2014</p> <p>The aim of community-based prevention is for individuals to be able to access the right support, at the right time, enabling an early response/intervention for people who are at risk of isolation, poor health, financial exclusion, difficulties managing their home, losing their independence, and going into statutory care.</p>
Protected characteristic: Disability	Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community
Disability details:	<p>Recommissioning the P&C Grants Programme will have a positive impact on people with disabilities.</p> <p>There are approx. 380,000 disabled citizens in Birmingham. Over 60% of those with disabilities are living with a mental health condition, 25% have a hearing or visual impairment, 10% are physically disabled, and approx. 7% have a learning disability.</p> <p>(source: P2020/PANSI – Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information, 2020 figures.)</p> <p>The programme will specifically benefit people with mental health, sensory impairment, physical and learning disabilities through providing services and activities which encourage greater community inclusion, as well as prevention of crisis. This will include funding organisations which work specifically with these groups, targeting areas and activities which are tailored, co-designed and led by people with different disabilities and conditions to support them to live happier and more independent lives within their communities.</p> <p>This protected characteristic will see a significant positive impact, because majority of the services commissioned will support thousands of citizens with a disability, reducing inequalities and maximising income.</p>
Protected characteristic: Sex	Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community
Gender details:	<p>Sex and Sexual orientation will not be a barrier when accessing commissioned P&C Programme services, and there will be a positive impact on those who identify as being LGBTQ+.</p> <p>LGBTQ+ citizens are a key client group for the P&C programme, and commissioned providers will be expected to link in with NNS's across the city, where the NNS has a specific outcome of increasing the numbers of people from communities of interest participating in local groups and activities, and the needs of LGBTQ+ citizens are identified through local gap analysis. Equality and diversity training and capacity-building provided by NNS will ensure that local assets and activities, including those commissioned through the P&C programme will be accessible to LGBTQ+ citizens and inclusion of their needs. It is intended that LGBTQ+ citizens will be more active and</p>

inclusive of their needs. It is intended that LGBT+ citizens will be more active and visible in their communities, and that there will be greater awareness of their needs and the positive contribution they make.

Birmingham's LGBT Centre is a delivery partner under NNS Connected Communities – NNS and P&C Grants Programme are sister programmes, therefore both work in partnership as opposed to in silos, therefore harnessing more opportunities to work with the rich tapestry of assets and community groups in Birmingham, in turn, supporting more citizens.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender reassignment is not a barrier to access support, services or activities. The commissioned projects will ensure all people that access them who identify as transgender, non-binary or intersex are treated with respect and dignity throughout and will be able to access the same support and be offered the same opportunities whilst ensuring they have as personalised approach as any other gender. The well-developed commissioned partnership with Birmingham's LGBT Centre will support further reach into the above-mentioned communities.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Marital Status will not act as a barrier when accessing the services. Both singles and couples can access the same services and support as those who are married or have a civil partnership.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

The P&C Grants programme will have a positive effect on those who are pregnant.

More than one in five women develop a mental illness during this time and if untreated these illnesses can have a devastating impact on women and their families. This includes mental illness existing before pregnancy, as well as illnesses that develop for the first time, or are greatly exacerbated in the perinatal period.

(<https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/information/maternalmental-healthwomens-voices.pdf>)

The programme will specifically benefit people with mental health concerns and all P&C commissioned providers will promote their services to GP's and health providers (social prescribers); linking into early intervention pathways.

Protected characteristics: Race

Race details:

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic citizens not only face the same challenges as all citizens, but also face additional barriers: for instance, cultural barriers, stereotypes and poor language which can increase the chances of poorer health, isolation and loneliness, poverty and social exclusion.

The services commissioned through the P&C programme will have a positive impact on race as they will ensure that everyone has access to the appropriate support and links with partner organisations; encouraging take up of support and addressing any language barriers. For example, case studies and interviews demonstrate how the Neighbourhood Network Service (NNS) - a sister programme to P&C Grants - supports assets to provide much needed tailored support for Birmingham's diverse communities.

One of the sub-programmes within the overall P&C Grants Programme, called "healthy communities" will provide an opportunity for providers who support diverse communities to apply with proposals around promoting healthy lifestyles, self-care workshops, information and advice, 1-2-1 work.

The inclusive strategy of NNS ensures that all funded assets are developed to be inclusive and welcoming to all people regardless of ethnicity, and other protected characteristics (Ethnic Minority Groups Supported by NNS and P&C, BVSC April 2021). A key specification of the P&C programme will be for providers to develop robust links with the NNS.

Additionally, NNS has recently developed a new long-term project called NNS Connected Communities – supporting communities of interest/identity who are thinly spread across the city. All P&C Grants Programme delivery partners will be linked into this programme, and wider NNS, to ensure links/relationships/training and development is developed. BVSC as delivery partner will help ensure this is developed.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Religion or beliefs details:

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Religion or beliefs will not be seen as a barrier when accessing P&C commissioned services

SERVICE:

The NNS has demonstrated the value of having Faith-based organisations as key partners and raised awareness of their contribution to their communities.

The P&C programme intends to continue working in partnership with these organisations, to ensure that all commissioned services/activities are inclusive, accessible, and respectful of the needs of faith-based communities.

The current Programme commissions Faith-based organisations and this will continue in the recommissioned programme.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation details:

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Sex and Sexual orientation will not be a barrier when accessing commissioned P&C Programme services, and there will be a positive impact on those who identify as being LGBTQ+.

LGBTQ+ citizens are a key client group for the P&C programme, and commissioned providers will be expected to link in with NNS's across the city, where the NNS has a specific outcome of increasing the numbers of people from communities of interest participating in local groups and activities, and the needs of LGBTQ+ citizens are identified through local gap analysis. Equality and diversity training and capacity-building provided by NNS will ensure that local assets and activities, including those commissioned through the P&C programme will be accessible to LGBTQ+ citizens and inclusive of their needs. It is intended that LGBTQ+ citizens will be more active and visible in their communities, and that there will be greater awareness of their needs and the positive contribution they make.

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Socio-economic impacts

The recommissioning and future model of the P&C Grants programme will have positive socio-economic impacts.

There are economic benefits for local communities when commissioning voluntary and community organisations to deliver services and activities that meet Council priorities (Locality: Keep it Local March 2020).

Social value is a key part of the commissioning strategy and providers will be required to evidence their contribution.

The programme will support the wider community as well as service users/stakeholders and will support local organisations to develop and become sustainable, creating volunteer and paid employment opportunities for local citizens, as well as local economies as a whole. Commissioned services will increase the breadth, relevance, and accessibility of the community offer, making neighbourhoods more vibrant places to live. Activities will improve the local infrastructure and environment, for example, through developing green spaces.

The funding formula for the P&C Grants programme considers the different profiles of Birmingham's constituencies, and levels of deprivation, recognising the greater needs of deprived communities. The proposed model will bring additional funding into constituencies, targeted toward Birmingham's most deprived communities. Information about the purpose and beneficiaries of all grant-funded activity is collated and reviewed quarterly. This will allow the impact of the programme in this area to be assessed.

The socio-economic impact will be of a large scale also due to the income maximisation/debt recovery sub-programme, where £1m annually is proposed to support vulnerable citizens to maximise their income. This will include older adults, citizens with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, autism, visual and hearing impairment or loss. It is projected, annually, providers will maximise income of around £5m. This in turn will improve citizens' wellbeing and reduce inequalities.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

Ensure that funding and commissioning opportunities are well promoted and marketed with new and existing providers, organisations, and groups already working with and trusted by vulnerable adults. Due to covid, the team were unable to introduce formal evaluation methodologies. Included in the new programme will be a formal evaluation, reviewing quarterly returns, demographic, and equalities information as well as an annual survey of citizen satisfaction and impact levels of the activity attended. This will provide a greater understanding of impact but also accessibility. This will enable commissioners to ensure activities and services are available and accessed by all communities. There is also a need to connect our migrant/refugee/NRPF communities to activities/initiatives/things to do commissioned under this non-statutory programme. Stakeholder co-design events highlighted these communities are not aware of this programme. Commissioners will work with partners to bridge this gap.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended	NO
What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care data showing the profile of demand and need for services. • Demographic data • Future demand modelling • Consultation responses • Analysis of data obtained by NNS delivery and outcomes
Consultation analysis	<p>Older and disabled people are disproportionately represented in adult social care services. This is either through volume or levels of cost and risk.</p> <p>The P&C Grants Programme redesign team spoke to around 525 stakeholders (citizens, community assets, social workers, Councillors etc.), to inform priorities and themes for this programme. This ensured stakeholders co-produce direction of travel of this programme and support Commissioners in identifying biggest gaps in provision both, service wise but also geographically are considered.</p>
Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.	No
Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?	N/A
How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?	<p>Equality data and evidence of impact and positive changes for groups with protected characteristics will be monitored and reviewed quarterly. Data will be collated and reviewed by the Commissioning Team, summarised, and presented to senior management. Data will also be used to improve accessibility of services/activities on an on-going basis. BVSC Research Team will use formal methodologies to monitor this service. Where gaps are identified, Commissioners together with BVSC colleagues and delivery partners will step in to bridge these gaps. NNS will play key role in supporting this. Accessibility of services by diverse communities will be a key review approach to ensure we reach all citizens of Birmingham.</p> <p>All data captured is directly related to the Prevention First Outcomes Framework</p>
What data is required in the future?	Citizen engagement with funded services and activities ensuring that they reflect the profile of need and effectively reach the key client groups the programme has been developed and designed for and with.
Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)	No
If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.	
Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal	<p>There will be a positive impact on citizens with protected characteristics, including older citizens, disabled adults, men and women from underrepresented communities, ethnic minorities, faith communities and those who identify as LGBTQ+. There will be positive impact on citizens and communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.</p> <p>The programme has already proved successful with the aims to reduce inequality and create the conditions for greater cohesion in the city's communities.</p>
Consulted People or Groups	525 stakeholders took part in co-design events, 1-2-1s and surveys including over 100 citizens, over 200 Adult Social Care colleagues, Councillors, and around 200 community assets, other professionals, and partners.
Informed People or Groups	
Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA	<p>The P&C Grants Programme is a historical programme dating back 10+ years (previously known as Third Sector Grants Programme). In 2019, Prevention and Communities Commissioning Team took on the recommissioning of the programme to closer align it to the Adult Social Care strategy and vision, including the Prevention First Outcomes Framework. This also created an opportunity for more development/sustainability support for commissioned providers from BVSC and NNS. Since 2019, 48 providers have supported approximately 80,000 citizens and achieved income maximisation of around £7m. Case studies and stories of difference, supported by pictures and videos and combined with provider visits, show real impact on the lives of Birmingham's citizens and communities. Most of the delivery happened during the pandemic, where the P&C Programme shifted its outcomes to emergency response, providing support infrastructure without which the city wouldn't have achieved the resilience it has achieved. The team took the decision (supported by senior management) not to overwhelm providers with the burden of outcomes/impact measures. This has been rectified this year. Data will support Commissioners and the Council to identify successes and challenges to be addressed, particularly around accessibility.</p>

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Assessments - Prevention & Communities Grants Programme...

and challenges to be addressed, particularly around accessibility.

The current delivery provides support such as hoarding, bereavement, income maximisation, loneliness and isolation, workshops and information and advice supporting citizens from diverse groups and with wide range of physical/mental conditions. There are local, hyper-local and city-wide services commissioned, responding to gaps and priorities identified by data and stakeholder feedback. This approach will continue.

The application process is evaluated by an officer panel and a separate citizen panel, combining scores to decide successful bidders. BVSC and Commissioners provide surgery support and on-going development/sustainability support. NNS provides links, training and development and tools to improve fundraising and bidding skills within the sector.

Most of the priorities and themes from 2019 remain the same however, further detail around geographies and sub-challenges within each theme/priority was captured this time round, enabling Commissioners to remain focused on the biggest gaps in delivery.

Through data analysis and stakeholder engagement, a need to improve inclusion of the groups subject to this proposal has been identified as a priority for investment.

The stakeholder engagement has included citizens, current funded providers, wider voluntary and community sector, adult social care and health professionals, including social workers. Data has included adult social care demand data, as well as asset mapping data collected and analysed from Birmingham's Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS), POPPI and PANSI (2022).

The information and intelligence taken from these activities has identified the types of activity and services which may be needed to enable inclusion as well as to best engage the groups subject to this proposal.

No analysis has been done concerning gender, race or faith though these characteristics will also need to be monitored to ensure that there is fair and equal access to these groups within the new commissioning programme.

There is an identified strong connection with Neighbourhood Network Schemes. Both programmes are commissioned by the same team and supported by Birmingham's main sector infrastructure organisation, BVSC. This strong connection means that NNS will be able to support/develop assets commissioned in this programme, signpost professionals/citizens to the activities and link grantees closely with the NNS Connected Communities Project, which is focusing on communities of interest/identity as opposed to geography who are thinly spread across the city. This will increase cohesion and accessibility.

BVSC Research Team will use formal methodology tools to further evidence impact. Particular focus will be on how accessible services/activities are to our diverse communities. This approach will help Commissioners, BVSC and NNS to bridge gaps, should there be any, by working with partners and infrastructure support organisations in the city (Birmingham Community Matters, Locality, BVSC) as well as Public Health colleagues in reaching community leaders, marketing tools, notice boards and language translations.

QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

Yes

Quality Control Officer comments

The EINA addresses all of the protected characteristics and demonstrates that consideration has been given to both the positive and potential negative impacts of the programme.

the EINA can be submitted fr final approval.

Decision by Quality Control Officer

Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

Yes

Decision by Accountable Officer

Approve

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

21/12/2022

Reasons for approval or rejection

The Commissioning of the proposed services and activities will have a positive contribution to the citizens, communities and stakeholders of the City. The monitoring arrangements proposed allows the services to be adapted quickly should any adverse impacts be identified. Should this be the case, a further review and update of the EIA will be completed.

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

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