

Appendix B - Reopening of Day centres and the Continued Impact of Covid 19 on Provision of Day Opportunities

Reference No.	EQUA558
Responsible Officer Quality Control Officer Accountable Officer	John Freeman Saba Rai John Williams
1. Purpose of the proposal	This Equality Assessment describes the impact Covid 19 has had on day opportunities services across Birmingham since March 2020 and the actions taken since the phased reopening of day centres commenced from 26 th April 2021. Reassurance is provided of the positive response of day opportunity service providers since March 2020, many of whom adapted their day centre-based provision to offer more agile targeted online and outreach activities over the pandemic, that maximise interaction but minimise the risk of Covid 19 infection. This enabled important continuity of support and routine to be maintained for vulnerable service users, whilst also providing channels of communication between carers, providers and social care staff, whereby wellbeing and safeguarding issues can be addressed and escalated.
2. Age details:	The Council currently arranges a range of day opportunities for younger and older adults, including those with mental, physical, sensory and learning disabilities. Attention will be paid to ensuring that adults are not excluded from accessing their day opportunity of choice because of age. A review by Public Health England (PHE) (02 June 2020) into the disparities in the risk and outcomes of Covid 19, reports major inequalities in its impact. It identified age as the greatest risk factor, significantly impacting older age groups. National data shows that for those aged 9 to 64 years, the rate of death involving Covid 19 for disabled males was 6.5 times greater than those not disabled, while for females it was 11.3 times greater. Older adults attending day centres continue to be protected by the implementation of best practice for infection control as advised by SCIE on behalf of the government. Practical information: What to consider when re-opening day care services (scie.org.uk)
3. Disability details:	The Council currently arranges a range of day opportunities for younger and older adults, including those with mental, physical, sensory and learning disabilities. The Council intends for all disabled adults to continue to be supported as appropriate in line with eligible care needs. It is estimated that in 2019 around 50,860 adults aged 18-64 in Birmingham have a moderate disability and a further 14,287 have a serious physical disability. A substantially higher proportion of individuals who live in families with disabled members live in poverty, compared to individuals who live in families where no one is disabled. People with a disability are often vulnerable and can suffer from poorer health than the general population. They can also experience worse outcomes when the wider determinants of health are considered. Data gathered across the pandemic by ONS and The 'learning from deaths of people with learning disabilities' (LeDeR) programme showed that there was a disproportionately high number of deaths of disabled people during the pandemic. This analysis was done according to a person's disability status as recorded in the 2011 Census: people are counted as disabled if they said their daily activities were 'limited a little' or 'limited a lot' by a health problem or disability. Disabled adults attending day centres continue to be protected by the implementation of best practice for infection control as advised by SCIE on behalf of the government. Practical information: What to consider when re-opening day care services (scie.org.uk)
4. Gender details:	Currently there is day care provision available that is gender specific to address cultural and religious needs.

	Public Health data showed that working age males were twice as likely to die as females from Covid 19. After adjusting for region, population density, socio-demographic and household characteristics, the relative difference in mortality rates between those 'limited a lot' and those not disabled, was 2.4 times higher for females and 1.9 times higher for males.
5. Gender reassignment details:	All day opportunities support and services, will continue to be respectful and sensitive to specific needs related to this characteristic in line with The Equality Act 2010. The reopening of day opportunities and how services are provided and accessed, is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on adults accessing day opportunities with regard to gender reassignment.
6. Marriage and civil partnership details:	The reopening of day opportunities and how services are provided and accessed, is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on adults accessing day opportunities with regard to marital status.
7. Pregnancy and maternity details:	The reopening of day opportunities and how services are provided and accessed, is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on women who are pregnant whilst accessing such support.
8. Race details:	Currently there is provision available for adults, predominantly older adults, which is specific to Asian and Chinese communities. 40% of day care service users generally are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups. It is highlighted that people from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups were more likely to die from Covid 19 than someone who is white British with people born outside the UK at greater risk. Adults from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups attending day centres continue to be protected by the implementation of best practice for infection control as advised by SCIE on behalf of the government. Practical information: What to consider when re-opening day care services (scie.org.uk)
9. Religion or beliefs details:	The reopening of day opportunities and how services are provided and accessed, is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on adults accessing day opportunities with regard to their religion or beliefs.
10. Sexual orientation details:	The reopening of day opportunities and how services are provided and accessed, is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on adults accessing day opportunities who are LGBT+ .
11. Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.	The EA will be reviewed and amended as required. This assessment will be presented as an Appendix to the Cabinet Report, scheduled currently to go to the December 2021 Cabinet meeting. Mitigation of any identified potential adverse impact will be considered in future planning for day opportunities and factoring in any ongoing impact of Covid 19.
12. What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?	Demographic data Social care client data Office of National Statistics data Public Health data
13. Consultation analysis	There has not been any external consultation about the proposals in the report.
14. Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.	Day Opportunities services benefit approximately 2000 citizens with a wide range of support needs, including older people, people with learning disabilities, autism, dementia, physical disability and people with mental ill health across the city. At the point of reopening, in line with national guidance, reduced building capacity was in place to ensure that social distancing and infection control could be implemented. This meant that most adults had reduced attendance at the centres. Outreach support continued for those with reduced attendance and those who chose not to return immediately.
15. Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact on any particular group(s)?	Continued minimisation of the adverse impact of Covid 19 on provision of day opportunities will be dependent on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of infection control measures • Increased availability of alternative accessible community-based activity • A sustainable outreach support programme implemented by current day care providers that can respond to the challenges of seasonal changes • Birmingham not being subject to further lockdown measures

16. How will the effect(s) of this policy/ proposal on equality be monitored?	Any proposed actions post-Cabinet will be monitored to ensure that they are compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and all relevant social care legislation. Provision of both internal and external day opportunities will be monitored to maintain accurate and up to date information about citizens who are receiving support.
17. What data is required in the future to ensure effective monitoring of this policy/proposal?	Monitoring of both building based and outreach activity and the recipients of such support will be implemented across internal and external provision. As the impact of Covid 19 continues, it remains important to gather insights and understand the impact on centre-based day services caused by the pandemic.
18. Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)? If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead	Across the wider group of adults who currently access day opportunities, there has not been significant adverse impact from the approach taken to a safe phased reopening of building based day opportunities. Attendance at day centres whilst social distancing and other restrictions remain in place, continues to be responsive to the wide range of support needs of the adults who are eligible for support from Adult Social Care.
19. Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal	<p>In March 2020, Day Opportunity services delivered from day centres were closed in response to the Covid 19 outbreak and in line with government / public health guidelines on the closure of non-essential service provision, social distancing and shielding.</p> <p>Evidence emerged of the profound impact of Covid 19 on high risk citizens that are representative of the service users of day opportunity services. This evidence painted a worrying picture of the risk to both service users as well as their carers' from accessing centre-based services in closed environments. Individual risk to the service user due to their disability and co-morbidities was further compounded by risks associated with travel and transport to day centres alongside the challenge of social distancing within some of the buildings from which services are delivered.</p> <p>At the point of the phased reopening of day centres commencing from April 26th 2021 a number of measures designed to keep citizens and staff safe were implemented and continue through to the present time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment of buildings and activity • Risk assessment of individuals • Compliance with national guidance around infection control measures • Regular testing of staff with all providers being registered with Test and Trace. • Encouragement for staff and volunteers, plus citizens and their families to have both vaccinations. The booster vaccination is now being accessed. • Outreach support available for citizens not at the centre. <p>The effective management of risk remains key to day centres remaining open.</p>
20. Consulted People or Groups – consultation process	There has not been any consultation on the reopening of day centres.
21. Informed People or Groups	The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Opposition Group Leaders, Chair of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee are briefed regularly. The Adult Social Care Management Team were also engaged in the process. The Chair of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee were briefed.
22. Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA	<p>In line with the council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 the day opportunities have specific relevance to the protected characteristics of disability, race, gender and age.</p> <p>Alongside the reopening of day care centres the Council continues to explore how to further shape and influence such areas as the development of community assets, employment options, personal assistant support, and community access as additional support available for citizens that they might choose to access.</p>

There have been minimal infections of staff and citizens reported. Across September, there were 18 incidences of staff testing positive and 11 citizens across all providers. In all cases the Local Health Protection Unit was notified as required and infection control responses initiated.

Day opportunities services will continue to work with citizens, their carers and partners to offer day activities, applying caution over the winter period into 2022. Regular communication will be maintained to ensure timely sharing of information and responses to issues that might arise.

The Equality Assessment will be reviewed. Any specific needs or support related to the protected characteristics will be addressed accordingly.