

Chesterfield Borough Council

Equality Impact Assessment - Preliminary Assessment Form

The preliminary impact assessment is a quick and easy screening process. It should identify those policies, projects, services, functions or strategies which require a full EIA by looking at negative, positive or no impact on any of the equality groups.

Service Area: Health & Wellbeing
Section: Community Safety
Lead Officer: Martin Key

Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy the preliminary EIA is being produced for: Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders.

Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:

Existing
Changed
New/Proposed

Q1 - What is the aim of your policy or new service?

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a new power under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and came into force in October 2014. PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular geographical area that is detrimental to the local communities quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

A PSPO can be made by the local authority if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out or likely to be carried out, in a public place:

- Have had, or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- Is, or likely to be of a persistent or continuing in nature.
- Is, or is likely to be unreasonable.
- Justifies the restrictions imposed.

The aim of the policy is to introduce additional controls over street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour to the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to Chesterfield.

Q2 - Who is the policy or service going to benefit?

The PSPOs are part of a series of measures aimed at taking an holistic approach to improving Chesterfield for the benefit of all.

Whilst there have been reductions in levels of reported crime within Chesterfield during 2016/17, there has been a 13% increase in reported ASB in the town centre with 972 reports in 2016/17. There has been a visible escalation of ASB focussed around street drinking, drug use and disorder around the key gateways to the town and the impact on residents and visitors is unacceptable. This is a national issue with most cities and larger towns affected. Many of the perpetrators are experiencing a complex range of issues including drug and alcohol dependency, mental illness underpinned by reductions in support due to public sector funding austerity and the impact of welfare reform changes. The impact in Chesterfield is exacerbated as it is the location for much of the multi-agency support.

There have been a number of multi-agency meetings called by the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership that have discussed the issues and possible controls. Following a detailed review of intelligence on ASB a number of new PSPO controls in support of the existing DPPOs have been considered. These have been subject to extensive consultation with the police to ensure the proposed controls are proportionate and the areas proposed for the controls are supported by adequate evidence.

Further there was a summit chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner on 14 July 2017 to address the ASB issues. This summit resulted in key actions to review existing and potential enforcement options, to review support and treatment and to lobby government on the impact of welfare reform on the vulnerable in society.

Analysis has been carried out on information taken from the ECINS database recording ASB from both council and police systems. Having reviewed the data between 5 December 2016 and 9 July 2017 there were 444 incidents recorded. Of these 186 were recorded as being alcohol-related.

These controls will benefit the residents, businesses and visitors to Chesterfield

Q3 - Thinking about each group below, does, or could the policy, project, service, function or strategy have an impact on protected characteristics below? You may also need to think about sub groups within each characteristic e.g. older women, younger men, disabled women etc.

Please tick the appropriate columns for each group.

Group or Protected Characteristics	Potentially positive impact	Potentially negative impact	No impact
Age – including older people and younger people.			√
Disabled people – physical, mental and sensory including learning disabled people and people living with HIV/Aids and cancer.	√		
Gender – men, women and			√

transgender.			
Marital status including civil partnership.			√
Pregnant women and people on maternity/paternity. Also consider breastfeeding mothers.			√
Sexual Orientation – Heterosexual, Lesbian, gay men and bi-sexual people.			√
Ethnic Groups			√
Religions and Beliefs including those with no religion and/or beliefs.			√
Other groups e.g. those experiencing deprivation and/or health inequalities.	√		

If you have answered that the policy, project, service, function or strategy could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full EIA will be required.

Q4 - Should a full EIA be completed for this policy, project, service, function or strategy?

Yes
No

Q5 - Reasons for this decision:

The aim of the PSPO is to introduce additional controls over street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour to the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to Chesterfield. The perpetrators of the ASB will be offered support through mental health and drug and alcohol services and the supporting voluntary and faith groups. One of the key outcomes of the PCC summit was a working group to focus on support and treatment. This stage of the process is consultation on the draft PSPOs and a further EIA will be produced following review of the consultation responses as part of the consideration of the final PSPO controls.

Please e-mail this form to the Policy Service before moving this work forward so that we can confirm that either a full EIA is not needed or offer you further advice and support should a full EIA be necessary.