

Name of proposal/policy	Prevention Contract: DeafConnect	Budget number (if applicable)	
Service area responsible	Commissioning	Cabinet meeting date	11 th December 2018
Name of completing officer	Bernie Lally	Date EqIA created	27/09/2018
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Anna Earnshaw	Date of approval	01/10/2018

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'Due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

We do this by undertaking equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to help us understand the implications of policies and decisions on people with protected characteristics – EqIAs are our way of evidencing this.

All assessments must be published on the NCC equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers where an EqIA is relevant **MUST** include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published. If you require assistance in getting your EqIA published, please contact equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

PART 1

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

NASS currently commissions an advice and support service to people with hearing loss/ impairment. This contract was transferred following the end of Supporting People commissioning.

- DeafConnect Prevention Contract started 11th September 2015 ends 31st March 2019
- The Supplier provides a service for people of all ages throughout Northamptonshire who are hearing impaired, deaf, deafened and hard of hearing and who, in the case of those over 18 years of age, are not eligible for support from NCC under the Care Act across a range of needs, through support for individuals and group-based work and community activity
- Contract Annual Value: £37,800 (£18,450– NASS, £18,450 - Children's)
- Previously £42,000 - £21,000 NASS, £21,000 Children's, reduced March 2017

Description of proposal under consideration/development

The contract is due to end on 31st March 2019 so the proposal is to not recommission the service, subject to consideration of the consultation feedback and the equalities implications.

Data used in this Equality Impact Assessment (general population data where appropriate but each EqIA should contain information on people who use the service under consideration – if this is not applicable to your proposal then you probably do not need to do an EqIA)

Data Source (include link where published)	Please summarise what the data tells us – for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”
<p>From provider , services delivered in a 12 month period, April 2017-March 2018 :</p> <p>No of hearing impaired people/ families whom were offered advice = 305 Ongoing support has been given to 67 individuals of which 9 are parents/ families and 58 are adults. No of Children's Holiday activities and attendance = 6, 80 children attended Family Sign Language given in 6 sessions to 39 people Number of monthly Adult groups at the end of the year - 3</p> <p>The NASS Monitoring report completed on the 26th September 2017 recorded the following year to date statistics: The final 1:1 hrs for the year were 653 with 32 hours travel time to achieve this.</p>	<p>Breakdown by geographical area. Wellingborough 10%, Towcester 2%, South Northants 1%, Rushden 7%, Northampton 52%, Kettering 14%, East Northants 2%, Daventry 7%, Corby 4%, Brackley 1%</p> <p>Breakdown by ethnicity :- Asian British 2%, Asian Indian 1%, Asian Pakistani 1%, Black British African 1%, Black British Caribbean 1%, British Black Other 1%, White British 73%, White European 3%, White Irish 1%, White Other 1%, Not stated 15%</p> <p>64% of clients are female and 34% male with 2% unknown.</p>

The following were estimates for the year - Group hours 270 hrs, Volunteer befriending/ community advocacy etc - 260hrs, Children and Youth Activities 96 hrs staff time plus 4 volunteers – 384 hrs

The actual number of volunteer hours for adult services under this contract were 2000 for groups, 300 for the befriending/ Community Advocacy, and 1600 for administration.

The service delivered included the following support:

- Making Telephone calls
- Letter writing
- Access to other services
- Letter reading – understanding documents
- Making appointments with other organisations
- Booking interpreters for meetings with other organisations
- Housing problems – housing association and private
- Household management – support dealing with utilities when you cannot use a phone.
- Tinnitus – advice and support
- Debt – understanding their debt and accessing appropriate support
- Access to Leisure activities
- Crime prevention
- Complaints to other service providers
- Benefits applications and accessing DWP support
- Assistive equipment
- Lip reading classes
- Health – understanding conditions, medication and accessing services
- Deaf awareness understanding
- Care packages accessing social services
- Parenting skills
- Accessing the legal system
- Support to parents with children in the education system
- Support with and to employers
- Accessing employment services
- Tax
- Access to education and training

Tick the relevant box for each line by using a capital 'P' to make a <input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex				X
Gender Reassignment				X
Age				X
Disability				X
Race & Ethnicity				X
Sexual Orientation				X
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)				X
Pregnancy & Maternity				X
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)				X
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)				X

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
<p>The impact has been assessed as unsure because as yet, a decision has not been made on the future of the contract and we do not yet fully understand what the resulting impact of ending the contract may be. The above impacts will be updated following consultation.</p> <p>However, because of the nature of service users supported by this contract, people who share the protected characteristics of age and disability are likely to be affected by any changes to the contract.</p> <p>We have been advised that if the contract is recommissioned, this will better enable Deafconnect to obtain further funding from other sources. Service currently costs £136,000 per year, funding from NASS is a £18,450.</p>	<p>The consultation exercise will help the Council to understand the impact of not continuing with this contract and/or whether any other options should be considered. At present, it is the view of officers that the contract offers considerable value for money because it delivers a low cost all-age county wide service, Deafconnect levies in significant additional funding, which NCC or a private sector partner may not be able to access. However, the value for money based on the actual aspects of the service delivered with the NASS funding needs to be tested against the views of service users and against the wider context of the Council's financial position.</p>

Deafconnect may continue to source funding from other sources if NCC funds do not continue, but this is not guaranteed.	
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Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part 2

Consultation in October to seek views on the impact of not recommissioning the service from 1st April 2019.

Consultation will entail an online questionnaire which will also be sent to identified users. Consultation will also include two face to face events.

PART 2 – if required

Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above

	What does this information tell us?
TBC	

Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part 2 into account) – including review date if required

TBC