

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of service to be assessed: Community Health Access Team

Directorate Community Health and Social Care

Date EIA completed 12/02/09

Areas for Impact Assessment

This assessment is on the co-location of existing services. Areas for Impact Assessment include Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Religion and Sexual Orientation.

Names and Role of people carrying out the assessment:

Sarah Prendergast, Project Manager

Chiquita Cusens, Clinical Team Leader, Intermediate Care

George Evans, Assistant Team Manager, Adult Duty Team

1. Service Description

The service being assessed is the result of a service reconfiguration being undertaken to create an integrated Health and Social Care single point of access. The service brings together the existing Adult Social Care Duty service, the PCT Single Point of Access and services that prevent admission or support discharge from hospital such as the Discharge & Transfer Team and Rapid Response Team.

The teams are to be located together in Lewis House and will be accessed via a single telephone number, fax or email address. The nature or policy of the services will not change but their proximity and function under one management structure will enable greater communication and joint working. This will enable a much quicker, unified response to referrals. Data collection will be standardised using the Social Services data system, Care First, and this will enable the team to work towards collecting and monitoring information related to equality.

2. Background information

The main problem faced when doing this assessment is lack of information on which to base any analysis. The grid at Table 1 is a quick reference guide to show data collection by service for areas to be assessed. Other data would include complaints about discrimination of which there have been none, or patient surveys.

No positive attempts have been made to survey clients in minority groups to find out what their experience of the services has been, so this report is based on the absence of complaints or any other indication of discrimination. There is a standard recommendation / action point to collect the necessary data for each area assessed and to be active in seeking feedback from clients through surveys.

An important point for the whole assessment is that all staff have Diversity Training which raises awareness of all these areas of potential discrimination.

There are two sources of ethnicity data for this assessment. The first is the 2001 Census data (table 2), which is out of date e.g. since then there has been the influx of people from Eastern Block countries, for example, Polish and Lithuanian people. This is compared with the ethnicity data for Social Services Adult Duty Referrals over the last three years, 2005-2008. There are 4.5% in the categories other than 'White' and 'Missing' categories. This has gone up from 2.77% (or by 1.3%) since 2001.

