

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION: Proposal to close Dolphin Centre on certain Bank holidays throughout the year	Department: Dolphin centre
Person responsible for assessment: Helen Archer Person responsible for strategy where different from above: Mike Crawshaw	Date of assessment: 18.01.12

Brief description of strategy, partners and those who will be affected by its delivery:

The content of this equality impact assessment is based on potential impact of the Dolphin Centre closing on additional Statutory Bank Holidays. Currently the Dolphin Centre is closed Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years Day Bank holidays throughout any year. The remaining Bank holidays the Dolphin Centre is open to public but offers a reduced service due to service demand. The reduced service relates to instant access provision such as swimming, gym and the soft play. Scheduled fitness classes do not take place on Bank holiday

It is proposed to close the Dolphin Centre on Easter Bank holidays and May Bank holiday. Over several years the Dolphin Centre has operated a reduced service on a Bank holiday however the customer usage is significantly lower than normal working Monday which would suggest the impact would be minimal to all users, however to support this an assessment a information collection exercise will be carried out in the key areas of the service on Monday 23rd January.

The management team have identified that due to an already reduced programme on Statutory Bank holidays that the impact would not restrict any protected characteristical groups directly ensuring discrimination is prevented, but would have a small impact on service users as a whole.

The Dolphin Centre provides a service contributes significantly to the Health and Well being of the population. Its provision, layout and facilities including programme is varied to meet the needs of all the characteristical groups noted in equality impact assessment and promote community cohesion and the needs of Darlington's diverse communities. This proposal is for closure of whole facility on further Bank holiday dates rather than reduce the service impacting on specific individuals

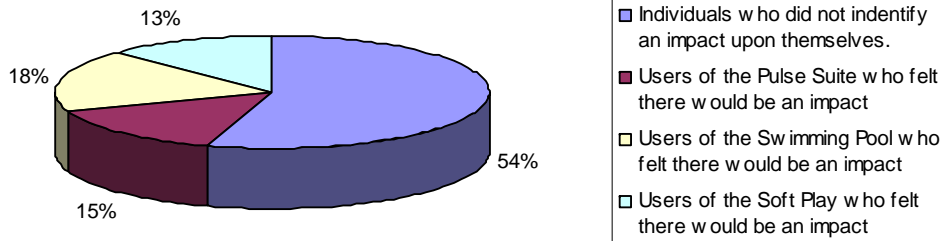
Cross negative impacts have been identified with the closure of East Row Toilets with regard to particularly limited options in accessing public toilets and the potential impact upon the quality of facilities at the Dolphin Centre as usage is increased due to higher demand. A number of individuals through the consultation sessions relating to the potential closure of East Row Toilets have identified the Dolphin Centre as the next closest facilities.

In addition to the corporate consultation events and specific meetings undertaken regarding proposals within the MTFP. In order to capture any potential specific impacts arising from the proposal to close to Dolphin Centre on certain Bank Holidays, an impact assessment data capture was undertaken on Wednesday the 25.01.12 with a sample of users of the Dolphin Centre.

Potential arising impacts were identified across the three main facilities impacted by the proposal where individuals ordinarily have direct access at their leisure. These were, the swimming pool, soft play and the pulse suite. In total across the three facilities information from 224 users was collected, 118 of these individual normally use the Dolphin Centre on a Monday, 96 of whom identified that they would be impacted if the Dolphin Centre was closed on a Bank Holiday.

A number of individuals identified that there would be an impact upon themselves by very nature of the fact that the facility would not be available. Very few individuals quantified this further, where they had it was contained to the Soft Play facility and related to the fact that Nurseries and other Child Care facilities are not open on a Bank Holiday.

Potential Impacts overview from the closure of the Dolphin Centre on a Bank Holiday



Comment Received through online forum.

Dolphin Centre should remain open on bank holidays for the reason that it is a holiday and there are usually more people in the town.

Financial Savings

	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's
Gross Savings	20	20	20	20
Decommissioning costs				
Redundancy costs				
Net savings	20	20	20	20

Introduction

This is a generic document that will require interpretation in particular circumstances. If, after reading the guidance, you require further information on how to implement the assessment, please contact Peter Roberts, Social Enterprise Development Manager 01325 388713

Q.1 Is your strategy and the actions it proposes accessible to everyone within the community? Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.

This proposal specifically relates to the closure of the provision on specific bank holiday dates, the service provision will not be available on these dates. The Dolphin Centre itself as a facility is available to all protected characteristic groups.

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Equality Act 2010 Protected characteristics:				
Age				Please refer to proposal scope above
Disability				
Gender reassignment				
Pregnancy and Maternity				
Race				
Religion or belief				
Sex				
Sexual orientation				
Marriage and Civil Partnership				

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Local Priorities:				
Geographical impacts				
Carers				
Young People leaving care				
Gypsies & Travellers				
Refugees & Asylum Seekers				
Unemployed or low income				
People with spent criminal convictions				

Q.2 (a) For whatever reason, does your strategy and the actions it proposes treat any group differently from others?

Yes	
No	NO

If you have answered 'yes', please specify those individuals or groups affected and whether the impact has the potential to be adverse.

(b) What needs to be done to prevent any potentially adverse impact?

Q.3 (a) Does your strategy promote equality? (e.g. does it contain actions that demonstrate a consideration of community cohesion and the needs of the members of Darlington's diverse communities)

The proposal scopes relate to the closure of the Dolphin Centre on specific bank holiday dates, the response below relates to the Dolphin Centre as a facility.

Yes	Y
No	

If you have answered 'yes', please give examples of how equality is promoted.

Dolphin Centre provides a service which contributes to Health and Well being of the population. Its provision, layout and facilities including programme is varied to meet the needs of all the characteristic groups noted in equality impact assessment and promote community cohesion and the needs of Darlington's diverse communities.

Q.4 In the past three years, have you consulted with any of the following groups regarding the development of your strategy?

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please summarise evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes?)	If no, are you satisfied that the strategy has no impact on this group?
Age	x		<p>This specific proposal is part of the corporate consultation undertaken on the Medium Term Financial Plan: Consultation events have taken place as part of the 2011/2012 MTFP budget consultation events, these include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation events specifically targeted for disabled, young people and older people • Town Crier publications • Online forums • Talking Together Events • Staffing road shows and internal communications to employees • Attendance at local community groups and action groups (i.e. DAD) • A further specific impact assessment collation exercise was held with 224 users of the Dolphin Centre to ascertain any specific impact arising from the proposal. 	
Disability	x		As above	
Gender reassignment	x		As above	
Pregnancy and Maternity	x		As above	
Race	x		As above	
Religion or belief	x		As above	
Sex	x		As above	

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please summarise evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes?)	If no, are you satisfied that the strategy has no impact on this group?
Sexual orientation	x		As above	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	x		As above	
Geographical impacts	x		As above	
Carers	x		As above	
Young people leaving care	x		As above	
Gypsies & Travellers	x		As above	
Refugees & asylum seekers	x		As above	
Unemployed or low waged	x		As above	
People with spent criminal convictions	x		As above	