

# Equality Impact Assessment Template

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

**Version 4: January 2019**

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	SENDIASS
Directorate and Service Area	Children and Education
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Peter Forth, Senior Commissioning Manager
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Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	
Date EIA completed	7 June 2022
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required**

**(Please provide as much information as possible)**

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide children with SEN or disabilities for whom they are responsible with impartial information and advice about matters relating to their SEN or disability.

Sandwell agreed the establishment of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) in 2014.

The contract for the provision of the existing SENDIASS service in the borough ends on 31.3.23.

This report seeks approval to commence a new procurement process and then in line with Council's Procurement and Contract procurement rules award a contract for the provider of the Special Educational Need or Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) within Sandwell.

**2. Evidence used/considered**

The current SENDIASS contract has been in place for the last three and a half years. During that time the service has generated evidence of the impact of the service on children, young people with SEND and their families.

Monitoring reports give evidence of the take-up of the service and the progress made on addressing issues raised by families.

Reports are considered in quarterly contract meetings with the local authority and details are fed through to the SEND Board.

A breakdown of data for 2021/22 for example shows:

Gender: Male 69%; Female 31%

Age: 0-5 years 8%; 5-11 years 52%; 11-16 years 33%; 16-25 years 7%

Ethnicity: White British 59%; Indian 8%; Pakistani 8%; White/Black Caribbean 6%; Black African 5%; Others (with less than 5% per ethnicity) 14%.

SEN/Disability: Autism 34%; Undiagnosed 19%; ADHD 8%; MLD 8%; Anxiety 7%; Medical 7%; Others (with less than 5% per SEN/Disability) 17%

Geographical spread: West Bromwich 27%; Oldbury 19%; Rowley 17%; Tipton 14%; Smethwick 12%; Wednesbury 11%.

### **3. Consultation**

All users of the service are consulted when their case is closed (The agreed consultation point).

In the 2021/22 the satisfaction rate with the service per quarter was 98-100% of respondents. 100% said that they would recommend the service to others.

### **4. Assess likely impact**

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The report seeks approval to go out to tender to identify a suitable agency to run the SENDIASS service from 1 April 2023. This will ensure that the council is able to meet its legal obligations to provide the service and there is no gap in service provision.

The existing staff would have transfer rights to the successful bidder under the TUPE regulations. This should ensure that there is consistency of practice through this transition phase and there should be minimal impact on service delivery.

The specification for the service from 1 April 2023 will not be greatly amended to the existing specification to again give us consistency of practice.

As a result of the above there is likely to be no adverse impact on people or groups with protected characteristics.

**Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics**

#### 4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
<b>Age</b>	✓			The Service has a broad remit working with children and young people 0-25 years.
<b>Disability</b>	✓			The Service is targeted at children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability and their families. The Service provides families with the information and advice that they require; will support them as necessary in developing their self-confidence and will assist in addressing matters through conflict resolution processes.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>			✓	

<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>			√	
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>			√	
<b>Race</b>			√	
<b>Religion or belief</b>			√	
<b>Sex</b>			√	
<b>Sexual orientation</b>			√	
<b>Other</b>				

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment?

**No**

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

**5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?**

**6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?**

**7. Monitoring arrangements**

The successful agency will be required to closely monitor access to the service and report back quarterly to the local authority through the quarterly meetings. The agency will be expected to have analysed the data and devised an action plan to address any issues that have been identified.