

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment

Title of Policy/Service/Contract: Playing Pitch Strategy

Division: Community Services & Culture

Lead Officer: Elaine Clarke

Date Assessment completed: December 2014

1. SCOPING

1.1 What are the aims of the policy, service/service change or contract?

The overall aims of the Mid Sussex District Playing Pitch Strategy are to:

- present an overview of existing provision
- assess current and future demand as a result of housing growth and identify local needs
- ensure information is available to enable the Council to make the best use of all available resources and effectively manage Council owned facilities
- support town and parish councils, sports clubs, schools and community organisations to maintain, manage and improve outdoor sports pitch provision across the District
- provide the evidence base needed to secure funds for capital investment to develop new provision and improve existing facilities
- develop an action plan to ensure the continued provision of accessible and high quality sports pitches across the District

1.2 Who does the service/policy/contract affect? Who are the main customers (internal or external)?

The Policy affects residents aged 5-59 years who currently use or could use the outdoor community bowls, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby, stoolball and tennis pitches in the District.

1.3 What equality information is available, including any evidence from engagement and analysis of use of services?

36% of adults currently take part in 30 minutes of sport per week

17% of adults currently take part in 3 x 30 minutes of sport per week

There are 773 sports teams and over 8,000 team members who compete or train regularly.

Sport England data shows that a further 6,447 working age adults and 437 retired adults would like to take part in outdoor pitch sports.

1.4 What does this information tell us about the equality issues associated with the service and implications for the protected groups?

A household survey was undertaken for the Leisure & Cultural Strategy in 2009. This showed that the two most popular types of sport and physical activity that people take part in by far are Recreational Walking and Swimming followed by Fitness Classes, Recreational Cycling and Going to the Gym.

Of those people who do not participate in exercise, the following barriers were identified:

- Cost of taking part 19.0%
- Lack of time – work commitments 12.3%
- Lack of time – family commitments 14.8%
- Lack of motivation 9.7%
- Range of facilities 5.8%
- No-one to do it with 9.0%

1.5 Are contractors or partnerships used to deliver the service? No

If No go to section 2.

If yes, please refer to the guidance notes, particularly Appendix One of the MSDC Guidance “Integrating Equality and Diversity into Procurement”, and complete the next three questions.

Identify the contractors/partnerships used to deliver the service.

The Council owns 45% of the facilities. The others are owned and managed by parish and town councils, sports clubs, education providers and other community organisations.

What is their contribution to equality in service delivery and the promotion of equality?

All facilities included in the Playing Pitch Strategy are made accessible to the general public and providers have equal opportunities policies.

How are equality issues addressed through contractual arrangements and service level agreements?

Facilities are not provided on behalf of the Council, there are no contracts in place

2. Assessment of Impact; Analysis and Action Planning

Any gaps in information or provision, opportunities to promote equalities and good relations identified above need to be translated into SMART actions and recorded here. These actions need to be delivered and monitored through the service planning process.

Opportunity to promote equality, good relations and/or address barriers to service/differential impact	Current action taken to address these	Further actions required and timescales	Lead Officer	How will impact be measured
The needs of different ethnic groups including white minorities, but also established white communities				
None				
The needs of men and women. Including taking account of pregnancy and maternity.				
Ensure sports pavilions have changing rooms that are suitable for male and female players.	Council owned pavilions have been upgraded to make them more accessible.	Check that sports pavilions have changing rooms that are suitable for male and female players when carrying out quality assessments and encourage providers to make improvements as necessary.	David Harper	Improvements as a result of quality assessments findings.
The needs of disabled people				
Ensure sports pavilions and facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.	Council owned pavilions have been upgraded to make them more accessible.	Check that sports pavilions and facilities are accessible to people with disabilities when carrying out quality assessments and encourage providers to make improvements as necessary.	David Harper	Improvements as a result of quality assessments findings.
The needs of people with a religion or belief				
None				
The needs of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and heterosexual people				
None				
Issues from marriage and civil partnership				
None				
The needs of different age groups, for example older and younger people				
Ensure sports pavilions and playing pitches are suitable for children and adult players.	The Council and other providers currently offer adult, junior and mini pitches to enable players of all ages to participate in league sports.	Review the strategy every five years in partnership with Sport England and NGB representatives and adjust provision at Council owned sites to take account of demand.	Simon Hardy	The number of pitches available continues to meet demand.

The needs of transgender communities				
None				
The needs of people who are disadvantaged by socio-economic factors such as low incomes, skill or living in a deprived area				
Ensure sports facilities are available to residents on low incomes.	There is an affordable pricing structure in place for all Council owned sports facilities that offers discounted rates to juniors, students, unemployed, senior citizens, disabled users and regular hirers.	Annual Council reporting process.	David Harper	Pitches continue to be fully booked and used to capacity.
The needs of people who live in a rural area				
Ensure facilities are distributed throughout the District and are accessible to all communities.	Sports facilities are provided within the Sport England recommended 20 minute drive time.	Review the strategy every five years in partnership with Sport England and NGB representatives to ensure supply is meeting demand.	Simon Hardy	The number of pitches available continues to meet demand.

3. Mid Sussex District Council Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Key Findings	Future Actions
1. The Council provides outdoor playing pitches for community use that are accessible to all residents irrespective of age, disability, gender, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or maternity. The strategy aims to maintain and enhance Council provision and make sport facilities accessible to all members of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular quality assessments of sports pitches and pavilions should include a review of disabled access, age ranges and male / female facilities at each site.
2. A District Wide Pavilion Improvements programme was approved in 2014 to upgrade the lighting, kitchens, heating, windows and doors at sixteen Council owned pavilions to make them more attractive to community groups.	

4. Signing off this assessment and action plan

Signature Elaine Clarke
Person undertaking the assessment

Date 11/12/2014



Signature
Head of Service

Date ...11/12/2014.....

Please send your completed impact assessment to Neal Barton for publication on the website.