**Equality Impact Assessment - Specialist Health Improvement Service Budget Reduction**

Equality Impact Assessment completed January 2025.

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| **What impact will this proposal have on the groups protected groups?** | |
| Age | The Census 2021 gives the following breakdown of the Borough’s population by age:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Age Group** | **Numbers in 2021** | **Percentage in 2021** | **Proportional Change from 2011** | | 0 to 14 | 45842 | 20.5 | 9.6% | | 15 to 29 | 39738 | 17.8 | -6.6% | | 30 to 44 | 45363 | 20.3 | 5.7% | | 45 to 64 | 55959 | 25.0 | 4.4% | | 65 and Over | 36868 | 16.5 | 19.6% |   These figures indicate that the Borough has a growing number of children and significantly, the elderly. Older people are also at an increased risk of poorer health.  Over 70% of Living Well recipients are over 40, half of which are over 60, meaning older people are likely to be disproportionately affected by a reduction in service delivery. |
| Disability | The 2021 Census confirms that 19.0% of the Borough consider themselves to be disabled or their activities are limited due to a health-related issue. Rochdale Borough has higher rates of residents noting a long-term health problem or disability when compared to Greater Manchester or England and Wales. In general terms, therefore, the levels of disability and associated health issues are acknowledged to be of relevance to this Borough.  In 2023/24, service users disclosed 2790 identified long-term health conditions, including diabetes (type 1 and 2) cardiovascular disease, cancer and obesity, so the proposed reduction will disproportionately affect people with long-term health conditions. |
| Gender reassignment or transgender people | The 2021 Census recorded this data for the first time. 0.55% of adults in Rochdale identified as having a different gender identity than that registered at birth, compared to 0.62% in GM and 0.54% in England and Wales.  It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Race | In relation to Rochdale Borough, the 2021 Census confirms the following data on ethnicity. The overall population of Rochdale Borough is 223,770. Of these, 156,669 are classified as white British (70.0%); and 67,102 (30.0%) as BME. BME groups now account for a greater proportion of the population than was the case in 2011. Pakistani is the largest population among the BME groups and now accounts for 13.6% (30,525) of the total population in 2021, having grown by over 37.1% over the past decade.  It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Religion or belief | The 2021 Census confirms the following religious groups in the Borough:   * Christian (104,841 or 46.9%, a decrease of 18.2% since 2011) * No religion (64,349 or 28.8%, an increase of 60.8% from 2011) * Muslim (42,121 or 18.8%, an increase of 43.1% from 2011)   Rochdale’s proportion of Muslim residents exceeds the comparative figure for Greater Manchester (13.0%) and also England and Wales (6.5%).  It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Sex | It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Sexual orientation | The 2021 Census recorded this data for the first time.  Heterosexual 91.0%, Gay/Lesbian 1.2%, Bisexual 0.9%, Other 0.2% and Not Answered 6.7%.  This is a slightly higher proportion of heterosexual people than GM (89.3%) and England and Wales (89.4%).  It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Carers | It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| Serving or ex serving armed forces | It is not anticipated that this group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal. |
| **What impact will the proposal have on borough wide aims?** | |
| People living in poverty | In 2023-24 80% of the residents engaged with Living Well lived in wards within deprivation quintiles 1 and 2 (most deprived). In total Living Well supported 3,000 people during the period. |
| Zero hunger | Referrals made by Living Well to foodbanks may reduce in line with capacity. |
| Health and wellbeing | Living Well aims to prevent people from becoming ill, or supporting people with long term conditions to manage their health better. The number of people with long term conditions that Living Well are able to support will decrease which could place additional pressure on wider health care services. |
| Work and the economy | This proposal is likely to have an impact on local employment:  1. Over half of the clients the service works with considers themselves unemployed. The service offers support with lifestyle changes, such as how to manage long term conditions or increase confidence to be able to return to work  2. Living Well have a substantial volunteering programme and where applicable, recruits into paid work from within that pool. By having fewer paid roles, this will decrease  3. 82% of the workforce live in Rochdale borough. |
| Partnership working | There will less capacity to train the wider system in health promotion, support events, groups and meetings across the borough, reducing opportunities to reach the community. |