

# Equality Impact Assessment Form (CYPPR3)

## 1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

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Directorate: CYPD	Date of Assessment: 16 February 2011

## 2. Name of the policy: Outdoor and Environmental Education Services

Policy decision on the proposal that the council gets out of the business of direct provision of outdoor and environmental education, and requests officers to identify options for the future use of the relevant sites. The policy decision relates to current GCC youth support service provision at GCC-owned facilities at South Cerney, Wilderness, Buckstone, Plump Hill and Pwll Du.

## 3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

The proposal is based on the council's Meeting the Challenge principles and within the context of other proposals: to make young people's services more targeted (delivering £3.6m savings), and to improve the council's budget position by better use of assets.

While the important contribution of outdoor and environmental education services is understood; under the principle of 'providing the basics' the council is proposing that they are no longer part of core council business. There are many alternative providers, and schools in the county have a range of imaginative and creative ways of addressing these issues.

It is also proposed to maintain some provision for mobile outdoor and environmental education within the new targeted youth support service, alongside support services for the D of E Award.

## 4. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

Young people within the scope of the new targeted youth support service (i.e. vulnerable and at risk) will benefit from the continued provision of mobile outdoor and environmental education.

Young people in schools and colleges will continue to have access to outdoor and environmental activities delivered by other providers. It is possible, though not determined at this stage, that some of this alternative provision in future might be delivered at the current sites.

## 5. What outcomes are expected?

Young people within the scope of the new targeted youth support service will have the same good outcomes from outdoor and environmental education as all users do now.

The outcomes for the council relate to Meeting the Challenge, making better use of capital assets and reducing financial risk.

## 6. Have you consulted on this policy?

**Yes:** A consultation paper on the Review of Provision of Outdoor & Environmental Education Services and the D of E Award went to all schools, colleges, other users and staff from 6 December 2010 to 31 January 2011.

**Details of consultation and outcome:** 141 separate submissions were made during the consultation period, half from current service users. Most consultees disagreed with the council's proposal to get out of the business, but opinions were balanced on what option to consider as a suitable alternative (other provider, social enterprise, partnership, other). There was concern that viable alternative arrangements for the provision of outdoor and environmental education services are found.

## 7. What evidence has been used for this assessment: e.g. Research, previous consultations, MAIDEN?

Performance management and consultation information from the above.

## 8. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?

	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Evidence
<b>Age</b>			X	Young people's access to similar activities will depend on school decisions and the availability of alternative providers. It is reasonable to assume young people will have a high participation rate in any alternative provision.
<b>Disability</b>	X			It is not known what opportunities any alternative provider would provide for disabled young people; however they would need to comply with statutory requirements. Special schools currently make good use of outdoor education facilities. If activities are no longer provided, the availability of alternative arrangements would need to be tested.
<b>Gender</b>			X	Research shows that outdoor learning particularly benefits boys and young males. Schools will be aware of the need to address any gender gaps for attainment.
<b>Race including Gypsy &amp; Traveller</b>			X	A wide range of minority groups currently use the provided facilities, mostly organised by schools. Access to opportunities will depend on decisions taken by schools which will be affected by costs and budgets. There is no evidence to suggest that these groups would be particularly disadvantaged.
<b>Religion or Belief</b>			X	No negative impact identified for different religious groups.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			X	No negative impact identified for LGBT young people.
<b>Transgender</b>			X	No negative impact identified for transgender young people.

