

Equality Impact Assessment Form (CYPPR3)

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name: Francis Gobey Service: Lead Commissioner Targeted Youth Support Directorate: CYPD	Telephone: x 7410 Email: francis.gobey@gloucestershire.gov.uk Assessment updated: 9 May 2011
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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.

An independent survey has investigated the current outdoor and environmental education sites in terms of viability as businesses, and value as businesses and properties in current market conditions.

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

	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Evidence
Age			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.
Disability	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.
Gender			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.
Race including Gypsy & Traveller			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.
Religion or Belief			x	No negative impact identified for different religious groups.
Sexual Orientation			x	No negative impact identified for LGBT young people.
Transgender			x	No negative impact identified for transgender young people.
Other groups: Rural isolation, NEET, Deprivation Health Inequality		x		High quality outdoor services will continue to be available for priority groups of vulnerable and at-risk young people within the redesigned targeted youth support service.

<p>Community Cohesion</p>	<p>Describe how the proposed activity, policy, strategy, service, procedure or function will contribute to Community Cohesion.</p> <p>You will need to consider;</p> <p>Is there equality between those who will and won't benefit from the proposal?</p> <p>Are there strong relationships between groups and communities in the area affected and will the proposed action promote positive relationships?</p> <p>Does the proposal bring groups / communities into increased contact with each other</p>	<p>The Wilderness Centre and SCOEC have provided important venues for inclusion projects disabled young people learning with mainstream peers.</p> <p>Schools are the main users of the current centres and have responsibility for promoting community cohesion. Any alternative arrangements will need to ensure strong relationships are maintained and opportunities to bringing communities/ groups together are maximised.</p>
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9. If you have identified a negative impact in question 8, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?

Action(s):	How will this action be Monitored/Evaluated	When will policy / service / strategy / procedure / function be reviewed?	Carried to Level 2?	Carried to Level 3?
Process to be established to inform options appraisal of future options for sites and business. (Process must address identified equality implications)	Programme Board	Process agreed March 2011 Final decision in May 2011	Y/N	Y/N
Provision maintained for young people within the scope of the new targeted youth support service	Programme Board	Once new service is operational		
Work with special schools to ensure future opportunities for inclusive provision	Programme Board	Once new service is operational		

Declaration

We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy and, where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.

We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the County Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment.

Completed by: Francis Gobey

Date: 9 May 2011

Role: Lead Commissioner Targeted Youth Support

Countersigned by Head of Service

Date: 9 May 2011

Date for Review:

equalities@gloucestershire.gov.uk