

# Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00911 (Version 1)

## SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

<b>Service &amp; Division:</b>	Social Work Adult Services Community Care	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b>	Hazel Webb
		<b>Team:</b>	Central Locality
		<b>Tel:</b>	07802926899
		<b>Email:</b>	hazel.webb@falkirk.gov.uk
<b>Proposal:</b>	Cease internal provision of Meals on Wheels	<b>Reference No:</b>	

What is the Proposal?	Budget & Other Financial Decision	Policy (New or Change)	HR Policy & Practice	Change to Service Delivery / Service Design
	Yes	No	No	Yes

Who does the Proposal affect?	Service Users	Members of the Public	Employees	Job Applicants
	Yes	No	Yes	No

**Other, please specify:**

### Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):

27/11/2024	Cessation of the Meals on Wheels service. Alternative ways of Service users being supported with meal preparation would be sought

**SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

For budget changes ONLY please include information below:			Benchmark, e.g. Scottish Average
Current spend on this service (£'0000s)	Total:	£84230	
Reduction to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:	£71880	
Increase to this service budget (£'000s)	Per Annum:		
If this is a change to a charge or concession please complete.	Current Annual Income Total:		
	Expected Annual Income Total:		
If this is a budget decision, when will the saving be achieved?	Start Date:	01/04/2025	
	End Date (if any):		

**SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE** Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)

**A - Quantitative Evidence** This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

A total of 19 meals are provided each week.

Meals and wheels provide meals to 7 individuals who reside in their own homes over Monday-Friday. One individual receives meals 5 days a week; the remaining 6 service users receive meals between 1-3 days per week. All service users are currently having their support at home needs reviewed and alternative options are being considered where appropriate.

Varying characteristics in this number including elderly, physical impairment, cognitive impairment

**B - Qualitative Evidence** This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

**Social - case studies; personal / group feedback / other**

Feedback has been sought via Participate plus on the partnerships budgets proposals.

A number of engagement sessions have also been held in a variety of venues

Carers Voice Group (27/01)-34 people.

Larbert Library drop-in session (28/01)-20 people

ADP Authentic Voices Group (03/02) -8 people

Grangemouth Library drop-in session (07/02) -12 people

Falkirk High Flats Tenants Association (10/02) -15 people

Happy Mondays Bonnybridge Group (10/02)-40-50 people

Initial feedback includes

54% of people felt that the proposal would have no impact/were unsure

23% of people felt the proposal would have significant impact

23% of people felt the proposal would have some impact

Overall, while some respondents acknowledged potential cost savings and the availability of alternative meal options, there was a strong sentiment that any changes to the service must ensure that vulnerable individuals continue to receive nutritious meals and necessary support.

Respondents are concerned about the potential negative impacts of changes to the meals on wheels service, emphasizing the importance of maintaining access to quality meals for those in need. A recurring theme is the necessity of having a replacement service that is reliable and sustainable. There is a call for integrated community-based services and ensuring that any new provider maintains the standard and quality of meals

**Best Judgement:**

**Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?**

No

**Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?**

**What gaps in data / information were identified?**

<b>Is further research necessary?</b>	Yes / No
<b>If NO, please state why.</b>	

**SECTION FOUR: ENGAGEMENT**

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the policy or proposal must take place

<b>Has the proposal / policy / project been subject to engagement or consultation with service users taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?</b>	No	
<b>If YES, please state who was engagement with.</b>		
<b>If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.</b>	Engagement has not yet included service user input however characteristics of the people in the service were considered throughout.  Participate plus has been open to all staff and members of the public to offer their views and ideas	
<b>How was the engagement carried out?</b>	<b>What were the results from the engagement? Please list...</b>	
<b>Focus Group</b>	No	
<b>Survey</b>	No	
<b>Display / Exhibitions</b>	No	
<b>User Panels</b>	No	
<b>Public Event</b>	No	
<b>Other: please specify</b>		
<b>Has the proposal / policy/ project been reviewed / changed as a result of the engagement?</b>	No	
<b>Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?</b>	No	
<b>Is further engagement recommended?</b>	Yes	

## SECTION FIVE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

**Equality Protected Characteristics:** What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposal / policy / project? This section allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. poverty, health inequalities, community justice, carers etc.

Protected Characteristic	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Please provide evidence of the impact on this protected characteristic.
Age	✓			Older people are the highest users of health and social care services. All service users will be reviewed and an alternative to Meals on wheels provision sought
Disability	✓			There will be a focus on developing person centred care and will result in greater choice and control for people with a disability
Sex	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Ethnicity	✓			The HSCP has a commitment to 'Provide people who require assessment, treatment, care and support (and those involved in their care) with access to local services free from barriers, behaviours and discrimination'.
Religion / Belief / non-Belief	✓			The HSCP has a commitment to 'Provide people who require assessment, treatment, care and support (and those involved in their care) with access to local services free from barriers, behaviours and discrimination'.
Sexual Orientation	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Transgender	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Pregnancy / Maternity	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Marriage / Civil Partnership	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Poverty	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Care Experienced	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.
Other, health, community justice, carers etc.	✓			There is insufficient information to measure the impact on this protected characteristic, therefore the impact is assessed as neutral.

**Public Sector Equality Duty: Scottish Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance quality of opportunity and foster good relations. Scottish specific duties include:**

	<b>Evidence of Due Regard</b>
<b>Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):</b>	People may experience difficulty accessing alternative services due to age, disability and poverty. All individuals who currently use the service will have their needs reviewed and outcomes identified
<b>Advance Equality of Opportunity:</b>	People may experience difficulty accessing alternative services due to age, disability and poverty. All individuals who currently use the service will have their needs reviewed and outcomes identified
<b>Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):</b>	



**SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?		Describe the interest / affect.
<b>Business</b>	Yes	Private sector-externally commissioned providers who work in line with Falkirk council. A cessation of Meals and Wheels may increase the availability of commissioned hours.
<b>Councils</b>	Yes	Falkirk council-due to cessation of a service
<b>Education Sector</b>	No	
<b>Fire</b>	No	
<b>NHS</b>	No	
<b>Integration Joint Board</b>	Yes	IJB due to the cessation of a service.
<b>Police</b>	No	
<b>Third Sector</b>	Yes	Third sector-externally commissioned providers who work in line with Falkirk council. A cessation of Meals and Wheels may increase the availability of alternative provision.
<b>Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.</b>		

**SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING**

**Mitigating Actions:** If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section 5 please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes

**No Mitigating Actions**

**Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposals.**

No negative impacts on protected characteristics anticipated

<b>Are actions being reported to Members?</b>	No
<b>If yes when and how ?</b>	

**SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposal / policy / project. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	Yes	No negative outcomes anticipated
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	No	
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

**SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF**

Lead Officer:

Signature:	<i>Hazel Webb</i>	Date:	27/11/2024
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**SECTION TEN: EPIA TASK GROUP ONLY**

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA:</b> Has the EPIA demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, identified mitigating actions as well as ownership and appropriate review of actions to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties?	Yes
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<b>ASSESSMENT FINDINGS</b>  If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA  If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA	Proposal was included as part of the budget consultation.	
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<b>Where adverse impact on diverse communities has been identified and it is intended to continue with the proposal / policy / project, has justification for continuing <u>without making changes been made</u>?</b>	No	If YES, please describe: No adverse impact has been identified.
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**LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA**

LEVEL		COMMENTS
<b>HIGH</b>	Yes / No	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Yes / No	
<b>LOW</b>	Yes	Impact has been assessed as neutral as individuals will still receive meals through an alternative provider. Proposal impacts less than 10 people.

**SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF**

<b>Director / Head of Service:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Caroline Doherty</i>	<b>Date:</b>	14/03/2025