



Appendix D

# EqlA - Full Equality Impact Assessment

**Policy or Service to be assessed:**

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for ASB in Weymouth

**Service and lead officer:**

Community Safety. Peter Davies

**Officers involved in the EqlA:**

Melissa Johnson

**What are you impact assessing?**

Existing

New/proposed

Changing/Update/ revision

**Other, please list:**

## Step 2: Scoping – what are you assessing?

**Q1: What is the title of your service/strategy/policy/project?**

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

**Q2: What is the aim of your service/strategy/policy/project?**

To introduce a PSPO in parts of Weymouth and Portland, namely Weymouth town centre, Promenade and Easton Square on Portland, which will prohibit certain 'anti-social behaviours' namely; begging, the consumption of alcohol, cycling on the promenade and feeding gulls. ASB PSPOs are intended to provide means of preventing individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space where the behaviour is having, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; be persistent or continuing in nature; and be unreasonable.

The PSPO is not targeted at any individual or group but instead seeks to tackle behaviours that cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to others. Anyone who breaches the conditions of a PSPO will be subject to either a fixed penalty notice and/or prosecution. Consideration is always given to individual circumstances and this measure will only be used after warnings and words of advice have already been tried and failed.

**Q3: Who does/will it have an impact on? e.g. public, visitors, staff, members, partners?**

The public – residents, visitors, tourists

Businesses and facilities such as leisure  
Vulnerable adults (in relation to the begging and alcohol element)  
People with disabilities, very young children and older people (in relation to the cycling proposal)

**Q4: Are there any potential barriers to implementing changes to your service/strategy/policy/project?**

- Misinterpretation or lack of understanding about the new prohibitions if they are brought into force.
- Concerns / perceptions that the new prohibitions may be targeting a vulnerable group (addictions and mental health)

**Q5: Who else will be involved in implementing this service/policy service/strategy/policy/project?**

DCP enforcement officers  
Beach Control  
Harbours  
Dorset Police

**Step 3: Information gathering – what do you need to know about your customers?**

**Q6: What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your policy or strategy will have an impact on, that is broken down by equality strand?**

- Dorset Statistics via GeoWessex website
- Census 2011
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015
- ONS Neighbourhood Statistics
- DWP Statistics
- State of Dorset 2017
- Dorset Police Victim and offender profiles by protected characteristics under The Equality Act, 2010
- Dorset Police Public Protection Notice data
- Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Survey

Data collected from the public consultation, which took place between 16<sup>th</sup> August and the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 with 800 responses 83% of respondents were residents of Weymouth & Portland and 8 organisations gave a response (including Cycling UK, the Weymouth & Portland Access Group and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Known data about current perpetrators of begging and alcohol related anti-social behaviour



**Q7: Do you need any further information broken down strand to inform this EqlA?**

**by equality**

Yes  No

**If yes, list here and add actions to gather this data to your action plan at Step 5:**

**Q8: Is there any potential for direct or indirect discrimination?**

Yes  No  Don't know

**If yes, please explain how you are going to change this?**

Indirect. Perception that begging measure may be targeting a vulnerable group of people. Our enforcement policy will be clear and will only target repeat or aggressive begging, alongside a staged warning process. On-going support is offered to the street population in Weymouth including rough sleeper outreach service (provided by Julian's House, the Lantern project, REACH (drug and alcohol outreach), the Salvation army and Soulfood,

## **Step 4: Making a judgement about impacts**

### **Age: Anyone over the age of 16**

The PSPO conditions can be applied to anyone over the age of 16, this is due to the fixed penalty notice element of the legislation.

### **Disability:**

The proposed PSPO could have an adverse impact on people with mental health related issues or learning disabilities, who either do not understand the new regulation, or are affected by the change because of their personal circumstances.

Officers will direct individuals to appropriate support services such as The Lantern Project, Community Mental Health Teams, Homeless Outreach Services who provide support and help to vulnerable people. Mental health considerations will be taken into account by officers when assessing individual cases.

### **Gender re-assignment:**

No impacts identified.

### **Race:**

No significant impacts identified, however, some individuals may not have English as a first language and may not understand the PSPO regulations and its implications.

### **Religion or belief:**

No impacts identified.

### **Sex:**

No impacts identified.



**Sexual Orientation:**

No impacts identified.

**Pregnancy and Maternity:**

No impacts identified

**Marriage and Civil Partnerships:**

No impacts identified.

**Socio-economic groups**

Committing offences prohibited by the PSPO could result in a fine which some individuals may struggle to pay.

It is recognised that begging can have ties with poverty and social exclusion, with individuals engaging in begging due to insufficient access to financial services. Officers will direct individuals to support services locally e.g. CAB, The Lantern Project, Julian House, Homeless Outreach Support Services - all of which can support.

**Conclusion:**

The PSPO will be reviewed... and an update EqIA will be carried out.

**Step 5: Action planning**

**Step 5: Improvement plan – what are you going to change?**

*Expand boxes as necessary*

Issue	Action	Lead Officer	Achieved
Enforcement in relation to begging	Enforcement Policy. To outline a fair and consistent approach to begging.	Peter Davies	
Homelessness and financial hardship	The Council will continue to seek solutions to homelessness and financial hardship. WPBC have commissioned Julian House to provide a rough sleeper assertive outreach and engagement service in Dorset. This service provides clients who have multiple and complex needs with a range of services, including accommodation, person-centred support, training and employment support.	Housing	
Review of the PSPO	A revised Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken at X months/year will inform any necessary changes to application of PSPOs in Weymouth & Portland.		

**EqlA approved by:**

**Date:**

**Review date:**

***Check with your equality officer for the EqlA signing-off process and for posting the EqlA on the web***