

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Before completing this EqIA please ensure you have read the guidance on the intranet.

Initial Information

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Name: | John Newcombe |
| Job Title: | Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety |
| Email address: | John.newcombe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk |
| Members of the assessment team: | John Newcombe/Graham Duggan |
| Date assessment started: | 3 January 2022 |
| Date of completion: | 21 January 2022 |
| Review | 6 months from implementation of Order |
| Version Number: | 1 |

Part 1: Background Information

Is this (please tick or expand the box to explain)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Existing | |
| Changing, updating or revision | X |
| New or proposed | X |
| Other | |

Is this (please tick or expand the box to explain)

| | |
|---|---|
| Internal (employees only) | |
| External (residents, communities, partners) | X |
| Both of the above | |

What is the name of your policy, strategy, project or service being assessed?

ASB-related Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO), made under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

What is the policy, strategy, project or service designed to do? (Include the aims, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy)

To protect public health and public safety from the adverse implications of anti-social behaviour. These can be classified as personal, nuisance or environmental, including physical and/or affecting mental health and wellbeing.

What is the background or context to the proposal?

Some of the previous district and borough councils had a range of legislative controls, including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), to protect the public from the adverse effects of ASB by prohibiting certain actions and behaviours at specified locations. These have transferred into Dorset Council and are now due for review/renewal. Additional controls and locations are included in the proposed PSPO's.

Types of controls include;

- Restriction on consumption of alcohol in certain outside public areas
- Restriction on acting in an anti-social or disorderly manner in certain outside public areas
- Restriction on intentional feeding of gulls in certain outside public areas
- Restriction on aggressive begging in certain outside public areas
- Restriction on cycling along The Promenade, Weymouth
- Restriction on access Trinity Passage, Weymouth
- Restriction on unauthorised overnight camping in certain outside public areas
- Restriction on lighting of fires in certain outside public areas

The Orders will be in force for a period of 3-years at which time they will be due for statutory review.

Enforcement of the Orders by Police Officers/authorised officers is by fixed penalty notice at £100 to be paid within 28 days, £75.00 if paid within 14 days

Part 2: Gathering information

What sources of data, information, evidence and research was used to inform you about the people your proposal will have an impact on?

Data from the following sources:

- Census 2011
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019
- ONS Neighbourhood Statistics
- Public Health England – Health Profiles 2017
- Dorset Statistics via GeoWessex - Appendix A gives the appropriate data on age, sex and disability as percentages of the population in Dorset.
- Equality & Human Rights Commission – Public Sector Equality Duty

Consultation has also taken place with the following organisations;

- Dorset Police
- Town & Parish Councils
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (DWFRS)

- Forestry England
- National Trust

These organisations have control of relevant land or in the case of Dorset Police, responsibility for dealing with ASB in conjunction with the Council. DWFRS were consulted as the responsible fire authority in relation to the provision for fires on open land. They were consulted ahead of the public consultation.

What did this data, information, evidence and research tell you?

Data and service knowledge/information suggested that;

1. The most impacted protected characteristics are considered to be age and disability. Younger people have a higher likelihood of being involved in some types of ASB and/or complained about in relation to ASB. Mental health can give rise to behaviour interpreted as ASB.

Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?

Not at this stage although further information may be needed as implementation of the Orders proceeds and as part of the scheduled review.

Part 3: Engagement and Consultation

What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this proposal?

A public consultation was undertaken with approximately 250 responses received. The consultation report is on the Council website.

How will the outcome of consultation be fed back to those who you consulted with?

A consultation report has been produced and has been published on the Council website. The consultation report will also form part of reports to Place & Resources Overview Committee and Cabinet.

Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment Guidance before completing this section.

Not every proposal will require an EqlA. If you decide that your proposal does **not** require an EqlA, it is important to show that you have given this adequate consideration. The data and research that you have used to inform you about the people who will be affected by the policy should enable you to make this decision and whether you need to continue with the EqlA.

Please tick the appropriate option:

| | |
|---|---|
| An EqlA is required (please continue to Part 4 of this document) | X |
| An EqlA is not required | |

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| (please complete the box below) | |
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This policy, strategy, project or service does not require an EqIA because:

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| n/a |
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Name: John Newcombe, Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety

Date: 21 January 2022

Please send a copy of this document to [Diversity & Inclusion Officer](#)

Next Steps:

- The EqIA will be reviewed by Business Intelligence & Communications and if in agreement, your EqIA will be signed off.
- If not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqIA, to get a better understanding.

Part 4: Analysing the impact

Who does the service, strategy, policy, project or change impact?

- If your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option. Please cut and paste the template accordingly.

For each protected characteristic please choose from the following options:

- Please note in some cases more than one impact may apply – in this case please state all relevant options and explain in the ‘Please provide details’ box.

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| Positive Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups. |
| Negative Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against |
| Neutral Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups |
| Unclear | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision. |

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| Age: | Negative/Positive Impact |
| What age bracket does this affect? | Young and older people |
| Please provide details: | Negative: Young people <18 years have a higher likelihood being involved in some types of ASB and maybe subject to complaint and initial investigation. PSPO provisions do not apply to <18 years and other remedies, if appropriate, would be considered. For example, liaison with Dorset Council Children’s Services outreach service. |

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| | <p>Positive: Older people have a higher likelihood of suffering from stress/anxiety from neighbourhood ASB. PSPO's act to reduce ASB and the associated stress/anxiety.</p> |
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| <p>Disability: (including physical, mental, sensory and progressive conditions)</p> | <p>Negative: Mental health conditions/behaviours/capacity can be misinterpreted as intentional ASB and be subject to inappropriate enforcement action.</p> <p>Positive: Mental health conditions/behaviours/capacity can cause additional vulnerability to ASB. PSPO's act to reduce ASB and the negative effects of ASB on vulnerable people.</p> <p>Restriction on cycling along The Promenade, Weymouth, may assist people with visual impairment.</p> <p>Appropriately trained enforcement officers may assist people with substance abuse issues.</p> |
| <p>Does this affect a specific disability group?</p> | <p>People with mental health conditions/behaviours/capacity issues.</p> |
| <p>Please provide details:</p> | <p>See above</p> |

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| <p>Gender Reassignment & Gender Identity:</p> | <p>Unclear Impact</p> |
| <p>Please provide details:</p> | <p>Control of the excessive consumption of alcohol may reduce alcohol aggravated ASB. It is unclear at this time whether this will have an impact and will be considered as part of the EqlA review.</p> |

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| <p>Pregnancy and maternity:</p> | <p>Unclear Impact</p> |
| <p>Please provide details:</p> | |

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| <p>Race and Ethnicity:</p> | <p>Negative/Unclear Impact</p> |
| <p>Please provide details:</p> | <p>Negative Impact: Understanding of written English used on signage may cause an unintentional breach of a provision.</p> <p>Camping provisions will not target Gypsies and Travellers relating solely to tented camping on certain beaches.</p> |

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| | Unclear Impact: Control of the excessive consumption of alcohol may reduce alcohol aggravated ASB. It is unclear at this time whether this will have an impact and will be considered as part of the EqIA review. |
| Religion or belief: | Unclear Impact |
| Please provide details: | Control of the excessive consumption of alcohol may reduce alcohol aggravated ASB. It is unclear at this time whether this will have an impact and will be considered as part of the EqIA review. |
| Sexual orientation: | Unclear Impact |
| Please provide details: | Control of the excessive consumption of alcohol may reduce substance aggravated ASB. It is unclear at this time whether this will have an impact and will be considered as part of the EqIA review. |
| Sex (consider both men and women): | Neutral Impact |
| Please provide details: | Statistically, men are more likely to be involved in ASB and as such, will be subject to a higher proportion of enforcement action. Whilst this is not considered to be a direct equalities issue, there may be links to other characteristics such as age and disability. For example, a PSPO seeks to control behaviour whereas investment in young people may diminish the behaviour in adult life |
| Marriage or civil partnership: | Neutral Impact |
| Please provide details: | No change/no assessed significant impact |
| Carers: | Neutral Impact |
| Please provide details: | No change/no assessed significant impact |
| Rural isolation: | Unclear Impact |
| Please provide details: | The majority of proposed ASB PSPO provisions cover locations in towns. |

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| | The control of unauthorised camping and lighting of fires on land may have a positive effect on those living in remote rural areas |
| Single parent families: | Neutral |
| Please provide details: | No change/no assessed significant impact |
| Social & economic deprivation: | Negative |
| Please provide details: | The restriction on aggressive begging may reduce income used for the provision of food, clothing and housing. However, money gained in an aggressive way is not acceptable behaviour and the provision does not ban begging. The effects of this provision will be considered as part of the EqlA review. |
| Armed Forces communities | Unclear Impact |
| Please provide details: | There might be issues in relation to veterans and disability/mental health. As part of the review process, contact will be made with veterans support groups to understand any implications better. |

Part 5: Action Plan

Provide actions for **positive**, **negative** and **unclear** impacts.

If you have identified any **negative** or **unclear** impacts, describe what adjustments will be made to remove or reduce the impacts, or if this is not possible provide justification for continuing with the proposal.

| Issue | Action to be taken | Person(s) responsible | Date to be completed by |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Under 18's may be mistakenly subject to enforcement action | Appropriate re-fresher training for enforcement officers. Training includes good enforcement practice and equalities awareness. | Community Safety Team Leader | Within 3-months of Orders taking effect |
| 2. Mental health condition/behaviour/capacity may be mistaken for ASB | Appropriate re-fresher training for enforcement officers. See 1 above. | Community Safety Team Leader | Within 3-months of Orders taking effect |
| 3. Mental health condition/behaviour/capacity may impede understanding of provisions | Appropriate re-fresher training for enforcement officers. See 1 above. Clear and appropriate signage that is understandable and helpful. Use Graphic Design/Communications Team. | Community Safety Team Leader Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety | Within 3-months of Orders taking effect On date Orders take practical effect |
| 4. Reduction of ASB towards people with protected characteristics | Publicise PSPO's taking advice from Communications Team on channels to use. | Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety | On-going |

| Issue | Action to be taken | Person(s) responsible | Date to be completed by |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5. Ethnicity may impede understanding of enforcement officers and signage | Appropriate re-fresher training for enforcement officers. See 1 above. | Community Safety Team Leader | Within 3-months of Orders taking effect |
| | Clear and appropriate signage (see 4 above). | Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety | On date Orders take practical effect |
| 6. Restriction on aggressive begging may cause additional hardship | Appropriate re-fresher training of enforcement officers to ensure restriction/enforcement action only taken in necessary incidences e.g. upsetting and repeated behaviours. | Community Safety Team Leader | Within 3-months of Orders taking effect |
| | Enforcement Officers to provide signposting to relevant services for those engaged in begging e.g. homelessness support; mental health & wellbeing; foodbanks. | Community Safety Team Leader | Within 3-months of Orders taking effect |

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| Officer completing this EqlA: | John Newcombe | Date: | 21/01/22 |
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Census data – Dorset Council area

Population figures

| | Dorset Council area | |
|-------------|---------------------|------|
| | | % |
| All males | 184,100 | 48.9 |
| All females | 192,380 | 51.1 |
| 0-15 years | 59,930 | 15.9 |
| 16-64 years | 208,740 | 55.4 |
| 65+ years | 107,810 | 28.6 |
| | 376,480 | |

Source: 2011 Census, Office for national Statistics

Diversity

95.6% White British
 4.4% BME
 1.7% main language not English

Source: 2011 Census, Office for national Statistics

Disability

4.6% of the population based on those claiming Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance in the Dorset Council area.

Additionally:

| Long term health problem or disability | Total | % |
|--|-------|-------|
| Day-to-day activities limited a lot | 6315 | 9.69 |
| Day-to-day activities limited a little | 7786 | 11.95 |
| Day-to-day activities not limited | 51066 | 78.36 |

| | Total | % |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| Very good health | 27,562 | 42.29 |
| Good health | 23,933 | 36.73 |
| Fair health | 9,802 | 15.04 |
| Bad health | 2,952 | 4.53 |
| Very bad health | 918 | 1.40 |

Source: 2011 Census, Office for national Statistics