

Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan Action Plan 2018/2020

Screening Form

This screening report has been adapted by **Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's** Community Planning Manager from a screening report used to assess the Programme for Government. The contents of this report relate to the requirements contained within Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and will assist in determining the need for an EQIA for the **Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan Action Plan**.

SCREENING REPORT

Legislative Requirement: The Development, implementation and monitoring of the Community Plan is a legislative function prescribed in the *Local Government Act (NI) 2014*.

Determination

An EQIA is not required because the Community Plan Action Plan is a high-level document that has no differential impact on any section 75 group and no direct adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations.

The Responsible Authority is Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Contact Officer: Catharine McWhirter, Community Planning Manager

Signed:.....Date: 16th April 2018

Background to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities designated for the purposes of the Act to comply with two statutory duties. The first duty is the **Equality of Opportunity Duty**, which requires public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.

The second duty, the **Good Relations Duty**, requires that public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 was intended to be transformative. Its aim was to change the practices of government and public authorities so that equality of opportunity and good relations are central to policy making, policy implementation, policy review and service delivery.

The duties on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations grew out of attempts to make the earlier non-statutory Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment (PAFT) initiative more effective, and from the agreement reached in the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland, that is The Belfast Agreement/Good Friday Agreement (the Agreement).

The Section 75 statutory duties make equality and good relations central to the whole range of public policy decision-making. This approach is often referred to as "mainstreaming".

Mainstreaming equality and good relations is important for several reasons. Experience in Northern Ireland and elsewhere shows that questions of equality and good relations may easily become side-lined in organisations. Focused attention on mainstreaming addresses this problem by requiring all public authorities to engage directly with equality and good relations issues through all stages of policy making and service delivery. Section 75 is part of the public policy agenda which is ultimately aimed at developing policies and services that address the needs of all people, especially those experiencing inequalities.

Mainstreaming the Section 75 requirements of assessment of policies for impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity into other policy review timetables or policy evaluation can contribute to a 'joined-up' approach to policy review, ensuring coherence, integration of public policy goals and ultimately better value for public money.

Application of the screening criteria was applied with 'Guidance for Implementing Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998' from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

Responsible Authority	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (as facilitator of the Community Plan Action Plan)
Contact Address/ Person	Mrs Catharine McWhirter Community Planning Manager Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, BT27 4RL Tel: 028 9244 7513 Catharine.McWhirter@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk
Date of Screening	12 February 2018
Title of Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan Action Plan
Purpose of Plan	The Community Plan Action was adopted in May 2017 and is a strategic long-term plan for the geographical area of Lisburn & Castlereagh, which will inform the design and delivery of public services. The Plan will provide the framework for collaboration among a number of Community Planning Partners. Its associated Action Plan puts the detail on how the Partnership is going to achieve the outcomes identified in the Community Plan.
What Prompted the Plan (i.e. legislation, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Council has a legislative duty, under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 to 'initiate, maintain, facilitate, and participate in Community Planning'. The Community Planning (Partners) Act requires statutory partners to participate and assist the Council in the discharge of its duties in relation to Community Planning. The Action Plan will influence the implementation phase of the community planning process.
Subject	Community Planning
Period covered by the Plan	Initially two years – to 2019
Area covered by the Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh area (map attached at Appendix 1)
Summary of nature/ content of the Plan	The Community Plan Action Plan will set out the actions necessary to help partners to tackle the inequalities and disadvantage experienced by some of our citizens. In implementing these actions the Partnership will aim to deliver the outcomes identified in the Community Plan. The Action Plan will include: - Development of a baseline of the existing conditions in the area;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An integrated view of the social, economic and environmental needs of the area in the context of regional, national and European policies and strategies and taking account of communities and issues that extend into neighbouring council areas and jurisdictions; - Long-term outcomes against which progress can be monitored and evaluated via a set of indicators; - A focus on delivering in the short to medium term to achieve the long-term vision - A reflection of partners' plans and strategies - A recognition that working together brings added value to the process
<p>Are there any proposed Plan objectives? a. Are these attached?</p>	<p>Our Community Plan has five outcomes rather than objectives. The Action Plan will develop these into detailed actions to be implemented by partners. A copy of the Community Plan is attached at Appendix 1.</p>

Part 1: Plan screening

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or plan under consideration. The purpose of scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy or plan, being screened. At this stage, scoping will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Information on the plan Name of the plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan Action Plan
Is the plan existing, revised or new?	New
What are the intended aims/outcomes of the plan?	
<p>The Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan, will work towards the achievement of five outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People – Our children and young people have the best start in life • The Economy – Everyone benefits form a vibrant economy • Health and Wellbeing – We live healthy, fulfilling and long lives • Where We Live – We live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally-friendly places • Our Community – We live in empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities. <p>The outcomes are important goals that are achievable over the 15 year lifetime of the Community Plan and towards which the Partnership can make real and measurable progress in the short to medium term as well. This Action Plan develops these outcomes into achievable actions to be delivered by a range of partners.</p>	
Are there are S.75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended plan?	
<p>Yes. The purpose of the Community Plan Action Plan for the Lisburn & Castlereagh area is to ensure that the work of all community planning partners focuses on the achievement of better wellbeing outcomes for all citizens. It is anticipated that this will result in increased effectiveness of the work of the partners in outcomes terms.</p>	
Who initiated or wrote the plan?	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Who owns and who implements the plan?	Lisburn & Castlereagh Strategic Community Planning Partnership

Evidence to inform the screening

1. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this plan? (Specify details for each section 75 category)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Racial group	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Age	<p>The Community Plan contains specific reference to making the Lisburn & Castlereagh area a great place for children and young people to grow up and for people to grow old.</p> <p>This reference acknowledges that the most efficient and effective approach to tackle many issues is to focus on early interventions, avoiding the potential for more serious adverse future impacts.</p> <p>Lisburn & Castlereagh has an aging population. This trend is projected to increase beyond 2030. Evidence shows that if you plan for older people you in effect plan for everyone.</p> <p>The intention of the Community Plan Action Plan is therefore to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages, by giving them the support they need in early and later life.</p>
Marital status	Lisburn and Castlereagh has an aging population and statistics show that women live longer than men, so service delivery may need to take account of older, single/widowed women.
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Men and women generally	<p>Baseline information has highlighted that there is an issue with girls, in particular, and a lack of physical activity.</p> <p>Lisburn and Castlereagh has an aging population and statistics show that women live longer than men, so service delivery may need to take account of older, single/widowed women.</p>
Disability	Information gathered during the development of the Action Plan regarding disability was the same in all areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh.
Dependants	Not applicable – Dependants have been considered in the age, disability and gender categories.

2. What are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this plan? (Specify details for each section 75 category)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Racial group	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Age	<p>The Community Plan contains specific reference to making Lisburn & Castlereagh a place for “our children and young people to have the best start in life”. Also it refers to people living “healthy, fulfilling and long lives”.</p> <p>Lisburn & Castlereagh has an aging population. This trend is projected to increase beyond 2030. Evidence shows that if you plan for older people you in effect plan for everyone.</p> <p>The intention of the Action Plan is therefore to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages, by giving them the support they need in early and later life.</p>
Marital status	Women live longer than men and may require consideration if they are widowed without access to an adequate pension, for example.
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Men and women generally	<p>Girls in particular need additional help to become involved in physical activity, which may impact on other aspects of their lives, such as education and health.</p> <p>Women live longer than men and may require different services.</p>
Disability	All statutory partners have fed their priorities into the Action Plan which reflects the different needs of people with and without disability.
Dependants	Not applicable – Dependants have been considered in the age, disability and gender categories.

Part 2: Screening questions

3. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this plan – major/minor/none? (Specify details for each section 75 category)

Section 75 Category	Details of impact	Level of impact
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Racial group	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Age	<p>The Community Plan contains specific reference to making Lisburn & Castlereagh a place for "our children and young people to have the best start in life". Also it refers to people "live healthy, fulfilling and long lives".</p> <p>Lisburn & Castlereagh has an aging population. This trend is projected to increase beyond 2030. Evidence shows that if you plan for older people you in effect plan for everyone.</p> <p>The intention of The Community Plan is therefore to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages, by giving them the support they need in early and later life.</p>	<p>Minor</p> <p><i>Age considered to be addressed by endemic actions and theme of Plan</i></p> <p><i>CDR 14/1/19</i></p>
Marital status	Women live longer than men and may require consideration if they are widowed without access to an adequate pension, for example.	Minor
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Men and women generally	A gender specific project will help to redress the inequalities evident between boys and girls.	Minor
Disability	The needs of people with and without disability will be assessed in each action in the Action Plan.	Minor
Dependants	Not applicable – The Action Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the section 75 equalities categories?

Section 75 Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Political opinion	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Racial group	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Age	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Marital status	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Sexual orientation	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Men and women generally	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Disability	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	
Dependants	All actions are devised to promote equality of opportunity.	

5. To what extent is the plan likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial groups?

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	The Action Plan contains an overarching ambition to promote good relations	None
Political opinion	The Action Plan contains an overarching ambition to promote good relations	None
Racial group	The Action Plan contains an overarching ambition to promote good relations	None

6. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial groups?

Good relations category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief Political opinion Racial group	The Action Plan contains an overarching ambition to promote good relations	

Additional considerations

- 7. People can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?**

The Community Planning Partnership recognises that no individual is exclusive to any one designated group and therefore 'multiple identities' has been given consideration at this time with respect to this policy.

Part 3: Screening decision

The decision is that the Community Plan Action Plan for Lisburn & Castlereagh does not require a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed.

8. If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

The Community Plan Action Plan for Lisburn & Castlereagh has either no or minor impact on any Section 75 group, and no direct negative impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations. Actions have been developed to address the inequalities between certain groups for example boys and girls and different ages. Implementation will provide equality of opportunity.

9. If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan, will work towards the achievement of five outcomes:

- Children and Young People – Our children and young people have the best start in life
- The Economy – Everyone benefits from a vibrant economy
- Health and Wellbeing – We live healthy, fulfilling and long lives
- Where We Live – We live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally-friendly places
- Our Community – We live in empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities.

The outcomes are important goals that are achievable over the 15 year lifetime of the Community Plan and towards which the Partnership can make real and measurable progress in the short to medium term as well. This Action Plan develops these outcomes into achievable actions to be delivered by a range of partners over the next two years.

The partners delivering the Action Plan are cognisant of their duties with regard to equality of opportunity and good relations. For this reason, it is considered that there is no need to develop a mitigation plan and it is not necessary to bring forward an alternative plan.

10. If the decision is to subject the plan to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Not applicable

11. Can the plan be amended or changed or an alternative plan introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? If so give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative plan.

Not applicable

Part 4 - Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
CATHARINE MAURICER	Community Planning Manager	8-1-19
Approved by: <i>[Signature]</i>	Director	8/1/19.