

Name of proposal/policy	Prevention Contract: Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB)	Budget number (if applicable)	
Service area responsible	Commissioning	Cabinet meeting date	11 th December 2018
Name of completing officer	Bernie Lally	Date EqIA created	27/09/2018
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Anna Earnshaw	Date of approval	01/10/2018

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'Due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

We do this by undertaking equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to help us understand the implications of policies and decisions on people with protected characteristics – EqIAs are our way of evidencing this.

All assessments must be published on the NCC equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers where an EqIA is relevant **MUST** include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published. If you require assistance in getting your EqIA published, please contact equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

PART 1

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

- NASS currently commissions a prevention service with NAB offering information, advice and support service for people of all ages (and their families and carers) who are blind/partially sighted. This was transferred from a previous Supporting People funded contract.
- Contract Annual Value: £73,800 (£49,500 from NASS, £24,300 from Children First), ends 31st March 2019.
- NAB provide advice and support to adults and children – also needs-based low level rehabilitation (for those not eligible under the Care Act for rehabilitation by NCC (OCS) specialist rehabilitation officers)
- This is a countywide service. A high level of home visits as rehab is best delivered in people's homes to take into account their living environment regarding trips/falls, room lighting, cooking, magnification etc.
- NAB have 3,000 people on their books of which about 220 are 0-25s; 600 referrals a year about 30 of which are 0-25s. Majority are older people (over 65s) who have degenerative sight conditions. Younger adults and children (support to children is funded by the Children's First contribution to the contract) predominantly have congenital or degenerative sight conditions. Contract delivers approximately 231 hours per week (gross) less 20% personal admin = in the region of 185 support hours; to which can be added approximately 80 hours per week volunteer input. The above figures do not include resources committed to NAB activities that do not form part of the 'service' funded, by NCC. NAB levies in considerable additional funding which cover the costs of NABs wider activities and the resources for these).
- The number of referrals annually has been fairly steady over last few years; the nature of demand is also similar but NAB increasingly undertake more in terms of follow up activities now because other agencies NAB would have previously referred a customer to are no longer operating
- NASS contribute £49,500 per annum to an overall service costing £315K pa. Up to 2010/11 the service was funded by NCC at £160K. The contract at that time was the core service. Since then they have leveraged in additional funding: currently in Year 3 of 3 years Lottery funding (£120K pa). Additional funding from applications to Trust funds; also legacies, donations and use of reserves. The core service now costs £300K pa of which NCC contribute £73K (£49,500K NASS) Core service is now much broader than that funded by the NCC contract, enabling a holistic approach to the individual encompassing health, housing, income etc. The provision of NCC funding is important when making applications to the Lottery and other funds as statutory agency funding is recognised as important and helps lever in additional funding which may not be available if NCC was not funding. Therefore NCC funding (£73Kpa) helps leverage in three times as much additional funding (£240K pa) through applications.
- NAB provide support at hospital eye clinics and more support for children in and outside schools as the LA/schools provision of support staff has reduced. NAB will refer customers to the VI team at OCS if a statutory need is identified and continue to provide support to these customers. NAB services complement the statutory service provided by NCC (OCS) providing a range of health and wellbeing checks/support that contributes to people being able to continue to live independently. Overall the number of visually impaired people is increasing as a result of people living longer and therefore the demand for this service will rise.
- There is no other comparable service funded locally

Description of proposal under consideration/development

The contract is due to end on 31st March 2019 so the proposal is to not recommission the service, subject to consideration of the consultation feedback and the equalities implications.

Data used in this Equality Impact Assessment (general population data where appropriate but each EqIA should contain information on people who use the service under consideration – if this is not applicable to your proposal then you probably do not need to do an EqIA)

Please summarise what the data tells us – for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”

NOTE: Statistics refer to totality of relevant NAB services, NCC funding amounts to 23% of cost of such services

Note 2: Statistics refer to services delivered to Adults and Children unless otherwise specified

1. Average number of home visits, including follow up visits, made in response to referrals received. All age groups.

2016.17 1100

2017.18 836

1A. As 1 above including follow-up telephone calls

2014.15 1735

2015.16 1921

2016.17 2288

2017.18 1828

2. Number of regular groups and frequency 2017.18.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>NAB</u>	<u>Other</u>
weekly - activity/interest	4	
monthly -social	9	
monthly - activity/interest	5	1
quarterly	1	

3. Average number of referrals accepted each year, with appropriate response delivered as per 1. and 1a. Above

2015.16 603

2016.17 805

2017.18 624

4. Evidence that service is available to visually impaired people across the whole of the county

<u>Locality</u>	2015.16	2016.17	2017.18
Kettering	117	133	121
South and West Northants	71	112	75
Northampton (South)	99	117	94
Northampton (North)	114	185	118

Wellingborough	115	149	136
Corby	87	109	80
Total	603	805	624

5. Evidence that visually impaired people from BME communities are able to access the service.

Data showing ethnicity of core client group (i.e. visually impaired people & carers) who receive some form of support each year. As at June 2018 (rounded to one decimal place):

White British – 95.8%

White Irish – 0.2%

White UK/Irish Gypsy/Traveller – less than 0.1%

White Other – 1.0%

Mixed ethnicity – 0.2%

Asian Indian – 0.8%

Asian Pakistani – less than 0.1%

Asian Bangladeshi - 0.1%

Asian Chinese – 0.1%

Asian Other – 0.4%

Black African - 0.3%

Black Caribbean – 0.4%

Black Other – 0.1%

Arab – 0.1%

Other – 0.4%

6. Clients receiving information and advice about the service and about living with sight loss on regular basis each year

2017.18 3,459 people

Tick the relevant box for each line by using a capital 'P' to make a <input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex				X
Gender Reassignment				X
Age				X
Disability				X
Race & Ethnicity				X
Sexual Orientation				X
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)				X
Pregnancy & Maternity				X
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)				X
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)				X

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
<p>The impact has been assessed as unsure because as yet, a decision has not been made on the future of the contract and we do not yet fully understand what the resulting impact of ending the contract may be. The above impacts will be updated following consultation.</p> <p>However, because of the nature of service users supported by this contract, people who share the protected characteristics of age and disability are likely to be affected by any changes to the contract.</p>	<p>The consultation exercise will help the Council to understand the impact of not continuing with this contract and/or whether any other options should be considered. At present, it is the view of officers that the contract offers considerable value for money because it delivers a low cost all-age county wide service, NAB levies in significant additional funding, which NCC or a private sector partner may not be able to access. However, the value for money based on the actual aspects of the service delivered with the NASS funding needs to be tested against the views of service users and against the wider context of the Council's financial position.</p>

Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part 2

Consultation in October to seek views on the impact of not recommissioning the service from 1st April 2019.

Consultation will entail an online questionnaire which will also be sent to identified users. Consultation will also include two face to face events.

PART 2 – if required

Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above

TBC	
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Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part 2 into account) – including review date if required

TBC
