

Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Section: Street Scene		Officers undertaking assessment: Pat Swinton-Transport & Operations Manager Gwen Came-Enforcement Officer	
Name of policy, procedure etc: Dog Control Orders	Date of Assessment: 12 th October 2009	Is this a new or existing policy? NEW Amendments to existing policies	
Policy Aims			
Briefly outline the policy/procedure/service by putting it into context and describe its aims, objectives and purpose Aim to improve the local environment by setting guidelines for dog owners. It is a proportionate response to the problem caused by those in control of dogs and their activities.			
Who is intended to benefit from the policy? All. Dog owners will benefit from having clear understanding about their responsibilities. Non-dog owners will understand what they can expect from dog owners. It is a fair balance of the interests of those in charge of dogs and those affected their activities.			
Who implements the policy, and who is responsible for the policy? The policies are implemented by officers from Street Scene Services. Responsibility rests with the service manager.			
Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy? All residents and visitors, especially those using parks and open spaces.			

Are there any other organisations or partners involved in the delivery of the service? Who is the lead or accountable body?

PCSO's are empowered to issue fixed penalty notices.

The accountable body is the Council, as the Waste Collection Authority for South Kesteven.

Does the policy contribute to the achievement of the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy? Can any aspects of the policy contribute to inequality? Please explain your answer.

The measures generally contribute to environmental protection and enhancement and ensure a clean environment in our towns and villages.

In general the policies or recommended changes to policy set out in the report should enhance further the quality of life in the district.

Evidence

What are the existing sources of evidence and mechanisms for gathering data?

What monitoring data is available on the number of people who use the service or are affected by the policy? Who holds this information?

If no monitoring has been undertaken, will this be done in the future? If so, specify what arrangements you intend to make. If you do not intend to do any monitoring, please provide your reason for this decision.

What are the key performance indicators and targets attributed to the policy?

There are statutory PI targets.

Local

Statutory

NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)
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The 2010 service Plans include equality targets. These will be determined for this service area when the service area impact assessment is completed.

What consultation has been carried out with stakeholders and service users

previously about the policy?

A report on dog control orders will be subject to public consultation after it has been considered by the council in Spring 2010. The council's web site is also used to issue information and receive comments and there is a facility for the public to comment. The public can also comment by telephone, letter, email and personal visit. All comments are recorded for appropriate action.

Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy or function? Please explain your answer.

If the proposals for consultation are accepted by Council, the proposals will be widely advertised via the web site, and local press.

Action will be taken to ensure that information offered is available in alternate formats and languages.

Is there any informal feedback from managers, staff or voluntary organisations?

Feedback from staff arises from day to day operations, from residents via email, web site comment, letters and direct contact. The Mayrise system summarises some complaints and requests. Initial feedback from frontline staff is encouraging to the concept of dog control orders. Other departments are also involved as they have an impact on the use of dog control orders.

Is there a complaints system? If yes, are complaints monitored by race, gender, and disability as a minimum?

Yes. The new Covalent system is capable of monitoring all diversity strands. All complaints are received and processed by customer services. Initial complaints are not yet, however, monitored by race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or religious belief.

What further evidence is needed to understand the impact upon equality?

A service area impact assessment is currently being prepared and this will identify any further action required.

Impact

Does the data show different impact upon different groups? What existing evidence is there for this?

Race - Not known due to lack of monitoring but information requires to be offered in alternative formats

Gender - Not known due to lack of monitoring

Age - Children will benefit from having dog-free play area where they do have the fear of dogs and enjoy play safely.

Religion – Not known due to lack of monitoring

Disability - Not known due to lack of monitoring

Sexual Orientation – Not known due to lack of monitoring

Transsexuality – Not known due to lack of monitoring

A new corporate monitoring form for 2010 includes all the above groups.

Do these differences amount to an adverse impact?

Not yet known

Are there concerns that the policy could have a differential impact on any other groups of people e.g. those with dependants/caring responsibilities, those with an offending past, those with learning difficulties, transgender or transsexual people. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Please explain your answer.

It may be perceived as having a negative impact on disabled people who use a guide dog (guide dog for the blind or the deaf). However, dogs used for purposes defined under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 are exempt from the provisions of the dog control order. Those with learning difficulties are not listed under the exemptions, and therefore authorised officers will use their discretion in such cases. Training to identify difficulties and strong team support should help to overcome difficult situations.

Are there any factors that might account for differential impacts or non-achievement of the policies outcomes, such as barriers that prevent people from fully accessing the service? For example, communication difficulties, physical access, information not being accessible, use of language, childcare responsibilities?

Non-internet users would generally be less well informed of the council's policies. It is not always possible, timely or economic to communicate in any other way in relation to some matters (such as recent weather emergency/service disruption information), although in respect of these proposals a press notice will be prepared.

Future Actions

Should the policy or function proceed to a Full Impact Assessment? (Please explain your reasoning)

Provided the actions set out in the Action Plan are carried out to address the

issues identified, there does not seem to be anything to be gained from this. As stated, the majority of the policies are provided to all residents with no reference to age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability or personal circumstances.

ACTION PLAN

Action	Completion Date	Responsibility	
Ensure that information offered is available in alternate formats and languages.	June 2010	Service Manager and Communications Team	
Develop a format for regular reports relating to requests and complaints related to dog control	June 2010	Service Manager and Customer Services	
Examine possibility of requesting feedback from all or a sample of residents via survey form which will request equalities monitoring information.	June 2010	Service Manager and Equalities Team	
Identify contacts for minority groups with a view to future consultation.	March 2010	Service Manager	
Staff training in procedures	December 2010	Service Manager	
Date Full Impact Assessment should commence N/A			
Review Date			
Review Date			
Review Date			
Signed:		Date: 12 th October 2009	