



Portsmouth

Clinical Commissioning Group



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

# Equality Impact Assessment

Full assessment form 2018

[www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk](http://www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk)

[www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

Directorate:

Regeneration

Service, function:

TRANSPORT

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy (new or old):

Review of the disabled person's bus pass all day travel trial

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy:



Existing



New / proposed



Changed

Lead officer

Simon Bell

People involved with completing the EIA:

Chi Sharpe  
Simon Bell

## Introductory information (Optional)

## Step 1 - Make sure you have clear aims and objectives

### What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

To allow disabled people to use the concessionary bus pass 24 hours a day to enable them to utilise their bus pass all day to promote independence, improving access to work and education, improving further prospects of finding employment later in life. The aim of the trial was also aid people that use day services to access purposeful activity in their day-to-day life.

### Who is the policy, service, function, project or strategy going to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how?

The policy change is aimed at benefiting all disabled concessionary bus pass holders. This benefit allows all day travel where previously holders could only travel off-peak times (09:30am to 11pm, Monday to Friday), and all-day on weekends and public holidays. The bus pass doesn't cover travel in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. This benefit will allow disabled holders to access purposeful activity in their day-to-day life while promoting independence, improving access to work and education.

### What outcomes do you want to achieve?

To ensure that the consultation process meets the needs and reflected the needs of all the residents.

That the duties under the Equality Act 2010 are fully complied with.

A fair and reasonable outcome for all those effected by the changes.

### What barriers are there to achieving these outcomes?

The financial cost needed to be met by the council to fund this scheme.

The scheme is accessible

## Step 2 - Collecting your information

**What existing information / data do you have? (Local or national data)** look at population profiles, JSNA data, surveys and patient and customer public engagement activity locally that will inform your project, national studies and public engagement.

At the time of writing Portsmouth City Council's Concessionary Fares scheme has 4415 disabled pass holders who are now entitled to all day travel under this trial. In addition to this, there are 156 disabled pass holders who are registered blind, and thus are already entitled to all day free travel using their disabled person's bus pass by statute.

**Using your existing data, what does it tell you?**

Our existing data shows that we Portsmouth City Council has a significant number of concessionary fares holders who hold a protected characteristic.

## Step 3 - Now you need to consult!

**Who have you consulted with?**

Every Person that currently holds a disabled bus pass which equates to 4415 recipients.

Information on the website: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

A council officer attended a open access forum meeting that Portsmouth Disability Forum arranges where the consultation document was submitted as a group but also individuals were encouraged to fill out an individual survey as well.

**If you haven't consulted yet please list who you are going to consult with**

**Please give examples of how you have or are going to consult with specific groups or communities e.g. meetings, surveys**

Every person that receives a disabled bus pass have been sent a letter with the survey form informing them about the consultation along with a link if they would like to complete the survey online.

## Step 4 - What's the impact?

**Is there an impact on some groups in the community? (think about race, gender, disability, age, gender reassignment, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnerships and other socially excluded communities or groups)**

### **Generic information that covers all equality strands (Optional)**

627 people filled out the consultation document but some questions were skipped.

481 people answered Question 5 which asked did you access these activities before? 344 (71.52%) answered yes while 137 (28.4%) answered no.

### **Ethnicity or race**

Portsmouth is an ethnically diverse city with the black, Asian, Minority and ethnic (BAME) residents comprising of 16% of its total population, according to the 2011 Census.

No specific ethnicity data is held centrally.

### **Gender reassignment**

According to mid-2011 population estimates by the ONS, the gender split in Portsmouth is roughly 50:50.

No statistics are kept for people that are transgendered and no equality data was collected for this protected group.

### **Age**

The age range that that responded to the survey were mostly from 16-64 60% (365 people) although 38% (230 people) were over the age of 65 and are therefore also entitled to a concessionary bus pass which allows off peak travel.

### **Disability**

In Portsmouth there are approximately 20% of the population that has a disability that affects their day to day activities.

Under the Equality Act, s.149, the Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to advance the equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This includes meeting the needs of people with disabilities and it may need to involve treating people with disabilities more favourably than people who do not have a disability.

We recognise that disabled people suffer much bigger obstacles to gaining employment. We have duly

considered our duties under the Equality Act when implementing this policy to allow disabled users to access facilities such as work or education without a financial penalty.

613 people answered Question 9. (97.8%) 600 said yes when asked do you consider yourself to have a disability under the 2010 equality act? (0.8%) 5 said no and (1.31%) preferred not to say .

497 people answered Question 3 which asked to what extent do you agree or disagree that the all-day bus travel has improved your quality of life, 340 (68.4%) people said they Strongly agreed, 111 22.3% said they agreed while 28 (5.6%) people said they strongly disagreed/disagreed with this statement.

### **Religion or belief**

No specific issues have been raised with regard to religion or belief in the consultation results. It is not envisaged that concessionary fares changes will have a negative impact due to religion or belief. We do not collect this equality data.

### **Sexual orientation**

It is estimated that between 5-7% of the UK population is lesbian, gay or bi-sexual. However, there is no hard data to support that as national census has never captured that information.

There is no evidence or feedback from the consultation that the local council tax support scheme will have a negative impact due to a person's sexual orientation.

No specific issues have been raised with regard to sexual orientation in the consultation results. It is not envisaged that concessionary fares changes will have a negative impact due to sexual orientation. We do not collect this equality data.

### **Sex**

The number of males that completed the survey were 307 (50.5%) and females that filled out the survey were 293 (48.1%)

### **Marriage or civil partnerships**

No specific issues have been raised with regard to Marriage or civil partnerships in the consultation results. It is not envisaged that the concessionary fares scheme changes will have a negative impact due to Marriage or civil partnerships. Unknown as currently no data held.

### **Pregnancy & maternity**

No specific issues have been raised with regard to pregnancy and maternity in the consultation results. It is not envisaged that the concessionary fares scheme changes will have a negative impact due to pregnancy and maternity. Unknown as currently no data held.

### **Other socially excluded groups or communities**

No specific issues have been raised with regard to other socially excluded groups of communities in the

consultation results.

**Note:** Other socially excluded groups, examples includes, Homeless, rough sleeper and unpaid carers. Many forms of exclusion are linked to financial disadvantage. How will this change affect people on low incomes, in financial crisis or living in areas of greater deprivation?

## Health Impact

Have you referred to the Joint Needs Assessment ([www.jsna.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.jsna.portsmouth.gov.uk)) to identify any associated health and well-being needs?

☐ Yes

☒ No

What are the health impacts, positive and / or negative? For example, is there a positive impact on enabling healthier lifestyles or promoting positive mental health? Could it prevent spread of infection or disease? Will it reduce any inequalities in health and well-being experienced by some localities, groups, ages etc? On the other hand, could it restrict opportunities for health and well-being?

Health inequalities are strongly associated with deprivation and income inequalities in the city. Have you referred to Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment and strategy (available on the JSNA website above), which identifies those groups or geographical areas that are vulnerable to poverty? Does this have a disproportionately negative impact, on any of these groups and if so how? Are there any positive impacts?, if so what are they?

**For more help on this element of tackling poverty and needs assessment contact Mark Sage: email:[mark.sage@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.sage@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**

Across the city, one in four children is living in poverty. Nearly one in five older people (60+) in Portsmouth are experiencing income deprivation.

Adults from Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Portsmouth have been identified as one of the groups most vulnerable to poverty.

Within the scheme it allows disabled holders to travel for free during peak times allowing them greater freedom of travel without having to use their own finances to fund the travel.

## Step 5 - What are the differences?

**Are any groups affected in a different way to others as a result of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?**

**Please summarise any potential impacts this will have on specific protected characteristics**

**Does your policy, service, function, project or strategy either directly or indirectly discriminate?**

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

**If you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?**

We are indirectly discriminating against all state pension age concessionary pass holders. People of pensionable age will not be affected by the changes but will not be eligible for free all day travel unless they hold a disabled bus pass and will continue to receive free off peak travel.

## Step 6 - Make a recommendation based on steps 2 - 5

**If you are in a position to make a recommendation to change or introduce the policy, service, project or strategy clearly show how it was decided on and how any engagement shapes your recommendations.**

it is recommended that the free discretionary all day travel for disabled persons' bus passes is continued as a permanent addition of Portsmouth's English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS).

Following the introduction of the trial in April 2019 the scheme appears to be well received by the disabled persons' bus pass holders. This is indicated from the survey feedback and patronage information as detailed in Appendix. A. From information, 90% of holders who returned our survey indicated that they agreed that the trial had a positive effect on their quality of life. Since the trial was introduced there have been 43,469 trips. On average we are seeing 156 disabled pass holder trips before 09:30 throughout the city which equates to 3% of our disabled pass holders.

The survey information in Section 4 of this report, shows that the introduction of the trial has had a positive effect on enabling disabled residents to access work, health, education and training before 09:30 while encouraging 28% to access activities they previously would not before 09:30.

The change to the City Council's concessionary pass scheme has resulted in a low additional cost to the Council's concessionary reimbursement. Financial costs stated in Figure 2, Section 6 of the report reflect the financial forecasts from the City Council before the trial.

over 90% of all people who answered Q3 of the survey agreed that the trial scheme had improved their quality of life.

### **What changes or benefits have been highlighted as a result of your consultation?**

From the consultation we found that 72% of holders accessed these activities before whereas this trial has encouraged 28% of passengers to access these activities that they did not before the introduction of the trial.

### **If you are not in a position to go ahead what actions are you going to take?**

(Please complete the fields below)

#### **Action**

#### **Timescale**

#### **Responsible officer**

### **How are you going to review the policy, service, project or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?**

Portsmouth city council Public Transport team will continue to review the provision of free travel for disabled pass holders to ensure it is meeting the needs of its service users.

## **Step 7 - Now just publish your results**

**This EIA has been approved by:** Felicity Tidbury



**Contact number:**

02392 688261

**Date:**

18/03/20

**PCC staff**-Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality and diversity team. We will contact you with any comments or queries about your preliminary EIA.

Telephone: 023 9283 4789, Email: [equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

**CCG staff**-Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality lead who will contact you with any comments or queries about your full EIA. Email: [sehccg.equalityanddiversity@nhs.net](mailto:sehccg.equalityanddiversity@nhs.net)