

Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment – Initial Screening

Assessor(s) Name(s):	Kathie Glover, Commissioning Officer
Directorate:	Community Wellbeing and Social Care Directorate
Date of Completion:	10 November 2018

Name of Policy/Strategy/Service/Function Proposal

Recharge Agreement with the IW NHS Trust relating to Cross Solent Travel Scheme funded by the Isle of Wight Council to fund travel costs for NHS patients travelling to the mainland for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis.

The Aims, Objectives and Expected Outcomes:

Until 2005 the Island's Health Services operated a discretionary scheme and provided funding to reimburse people for cross Solent travel where they were required to attend mainland appointments for Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy or Renal Dialysis. Where people have low income or are in receipt of specific qualifying benefits or allowances the NHS has a statutory duty to reimburse their travel costs through the Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (Travel Expenses and Remission of Charges) Regulations 2003 (HTCS), but the discretionary scheme went beyond this statutory duty and provided reimbursement that was not means tested.

In 2005, the NHS made a decision to withdraw the discretionary scheme that reimbursed people who were not eligible to claim for their travel costs under the HTCS. It was at this time that Isle of Wight Council members expressed a commitment to assist local residents with the cost of travelling to the mainland for treatment when the NHS ceased to provide this support.

Since 2006 the council has funded the discretionary scheme through a recharge agreement with the NHS Trust. The council currently fund foot passenger fares allowing patients who are not in receipt of the qualifying benefits to access the statutory HTCS, to still claim these expenses back. This can also include the cost of a carer/escort foot passenger fare where the patient is over 65 years of age or under the age of 18.

The council currently provides Adult Social Care with £60,000 per year to support this discretionary scheme. The Isle of Wight Council's decision to provide this funding makes us

nationally unique as no other local authority chooses to fund transport for NHS patients and there is no duty or responsibility placed on local authorities to do so.

The Council is considering whether or not it should continue to fund this cross Solent travel for two reasons:

First, in such challenging financial times, the council must take very difficult decisions in how it can best meet its duties and responsibilities despite the significant reduction in funding from Government.

Second, the council is also concerned about the inequitable nature of this funding. It only supports those local residents who are travelling for a restricted range of treatments (chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis), meaning that those people who have to undergo cross Solent travel to attend a mainland hospital for an equally serious illness or life-saving treatment receive no financial support from the Council.

Accordingly, the funding of this scheme was identified as a potential budget saving for 2018/19. However, the council recognizes the importance of hearing and considering the views of Island residents to inform any decisions about the future funding of this discretionary scheme and it is therefore going out to public consultation using an independent partner to administer the consultation and analyse the results.

Delete as appropriate:

- This is a proposal for a new, changed or removed policy/strategy/service/council function

This EIA seeks to measure the impact of changing or ceasing the council's current funding of cross Solent travel for people who do not qualify for support from the NHS statutory Healthcare Travel Scheme they are travelling for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis.

Key Questions to Consider in Assessing Potential Impact

Will the policy, strategy, service or council function proposal have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics or other reasons that are relevant issues for the local community and/or staff?

Yes

Has previous consultation identified this issue as important or highlighted negative impact and/or we have created a “legitimate expectation” for consultation to take place? A legitimate expectation may be created when we have consulted on similar issues in the past or if we have ever given an indication that we would consult in such situations

Yes

Do different groups of people within the local community have different needs or experiences in the area this issue relates to?

Yes

Could the aims of these proposals be in conflict with the council’s general duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not?

Yes

Will the proposal have a significant effect on how services or a council function/s is/are delivered?

No

Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?

No

Does the proposal involve a significant commitment of resources?

No

Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

No

If you answer **Yes** to any of these questions, it will be necessary for you to proceed to a full Equality Impact Assessment after you have completed the rest of this initial screening form.

If you answer **No** to all of these questions, please provide appropriate evidence using the table below and complete the evidence considerations box and obtain sign off from your Head of Service.

Protected Characteristics	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reasons
Age		X		The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively on all affected people, however it is possible that older people may be more likely to be affected as research shows that 52% of all cancers are diagnosed in people over the age of 65 (National Cancer Institute)
Disability		X		The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. As cancer and renal failure are likely to fall under the category of a disability there will be a greater negative impact on those individuals.
Gender Reassignment		X		The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.
Marriage & Civil Partnership		X		The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own

			travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.
Pregnancy & Maternity		X	The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.
Race		X	The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.
Religion / Belief		X	The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.
Sex (male / female)		X	The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone

				and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation		X		The need to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis is an event which could occur to any member of the public regardless of any protected characteristic. The removal of funding for this scheme would require individuals, who do not meet the criteria for support under the Healthcare Travel Scheme (HTCS), to fund their own travel costs. Therefore, withdrawal of the IW Council's funding will impact negatively but equally on everyone and would not discriminate against any particular protected characteristic.

Are there aspects of the proposal that contribute to or improve the opportunity for equality?	No
<i>If answered Yes, describe what these are and how they may be promoted or enhanced</i>	

Evidence Considered During Screening
<p>(HTCS) Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs/</p> <p>HC11 Help with health costs http://www.isleofwightccg.nhs.uk/Help%20with%20travel%20costs%20for%20NHS%20Patients%202017.pdf</p> <p>Consideration as to the number of people who have used this discretionary service:</p> <p>Year: 2014-2015 Number of patients: 239</p> <p>Year: 2015-2016 Number of patients: 313</p> <p>Year: 2016-2017 Number of patients: 296</p> <p>Year: 2017-2018 Number of patients: 253</p> <p>Cross Solent Travel Discounts provided by the ferry companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wightlink • Hover Travel

- Red Funnel

The IW Council and IW CCG have established a Patient Travel Improvement Group which is engaging with local support groups and all of the ferry companies to work together to improve the experience for patients who are required to travel for NHS funded health appointments.

Head of Service Sign off:	 Jonathan Smith Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning
Advice sought from Legal Services (Name)	 Judy Mason HR Manager and Principal Lawyer
Date	10 November 2018

A signed version is to be kept by your team and also an electronic version should be published on the council's website (follow the link from the EIA page on the intranet)

Stage 2 Full Equality Impact Assessment

Assessor(s)Name(s):	Kathie Glover, Commissioning Officer
Directorate:	Community Wellbeing and Social Care Directorate
Date of Completion:	10 November 2018

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The Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS)

The Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS) is part of the NHS Low Income Scheme, and was set up to provide financial assistance to those patients who do not have a medical need for ambulance transport, but who require assistance with their travel costs. Under the scheme, patients on low incomes or receiving qualifying benefits or allowances are reimbursed in part or full for costs incurred in travelling to receive certain NHS services, where their journey meets certain criteria.

The expected outcomes are that patients on low incomes under the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) or receiving other qualifying benefits that meet the HTCS eligibility criteria will continue to be fully supported or partly supported through the (HTCS) Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme

To qualify for help with travel costs under the HTCS, you must meet three conditions:

1. At the time of your appointment, you or your partner (including civil partners) must be receiving one of the qualifying benefits or allowances, or meet the eligibility criteria of the NHS Low Income Scheme.
2. Your journey must be made to receive NHS-funded non-primary medical or non-primary dental care services, to which you have been referred to by a GP, dentist or hospital consultant.
3. For referrals made by a primary practitioner such a GP or dentist, the service must be provided on a different day and in premises other than those occupied by the

practitioner who made the referral.

Patients will be able to claim an automatic refund for their travel from the cashier's office at the hospital they attend and must provide proof that they are in receipt of the eligible benefits. Further information on the Health Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS) eligibility criteria can be found here: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/Travelcosts.aspx>.

Patients on a low income will need to complete an HC1 form available from the Job Centre Plus Office, from Patient Services at St Mary's Hospital or by telephoning 03001230849 and ask for HC1 help with health costs form. Or you can ask for a form by sending an email to: nhsforms@spsl.uk.com.

Additional information in relation to the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) can be found here: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/nhs-low-income-scheme.aspx>

Cross Solent Travel Discounts provided by the ferry companies

Red Funnel:

Red Funnel's scheme provides discounted foot passenger travel to eligible Isle of Wight residents who have an NHS medical appointment in Southampton. A special return passenger ferry fare is available for the patient and one person travelling with them. Where the patient is a child, the discounted fare is available for up to 2 adults travelling with the child. Please note the fare only applies to sailings from East or West Cowes after 8:45am (exceptions may be made for earlier appointments).

Wightlink:

Wightlink offers 50% ferry discounts exclusively for Isle of Wight residents travelling to the mainland for an NHS-funded hospital appointment. 50% Discounts apply to Standard, Economy and Foot passenger fares for IOW residents.

50% discount applies to IOW Residents; Economy and Standard fares.

Discount only applies to patient + 1 (with the exception of children where two parents will be permitted to travel) travelling under an NHS funded appointment.

Hover Travel:

Offers a reduction in the cost of foot passenger travel on Hovertravel's passenger services for patients attending NHS appointments on the mainland. The scheme provide patients attending NHS appointments at mainland hospitals, and one person travelling with them, with a discounted return fare between Ryde and Southsea and also provide a free connection (saving £2.40 per person) using the HoverBus from Southsea Esplanade to the bus terminus at The Hard, Portsmouth.

Free Onward Travel to Hospital Appointments:

Southampton

Free Mini Bus to Southampton General Hospital – provided by Wessex Cancer Trust
The Daisy Bus service operates between the Red Jet Ferry to Southampton General Hospital and Jurys Inn specifically for people coming over to the hospital from the Isle of Wight.

Portsmouth

Free Minibus to QA Hospital – provided by Wessex Cancer Trust
Dedicated bus service which runs between the Hover Travel terminal at Southsea and Portsmouth's Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.

Delete as appropriate:

- This is a proposal for a new, changed or removed policy/strategy/service/council function

This EIA seeks to measure the impact of changing or ceasing the council's current funding of cross Solent travel for people who do not qualify for support from the NHS statutory Healthcare Travel Scheme they are travelling for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis.

Scope of the Equality Impact Assessment

Current funding of £60,000 per annum supported 253 patients to travel to the mainland to receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis during 2017/18. In addition, companions and carers were also supported to travel with the patient in a proportion of these cases.

The council has recognized the importance of hearing and considering the views of Island residents to inform any decisions about the future funding of this scheme and is therefore embarking on a public consultation using Healthwatch IW as an independent partner to administer the consultation and analyse the results.

Analysis and assessment

The IW Council are working closely with the NHS Trust and the ferry companies to improve the patients travel experience. This work is part of the broader multi agency work being undertaken to consider cross Solent travel arrangements for Island residents as part of the Acute Service Redesign and other Local Care Board work streams. Better promotion of available options to obtain a refund for travel if appropriate or a discounted ferry cost is being developed. These schemes are now well promoted via the development of new leaflets and on the CCG website.

Frontline staff located within the council's information, advice and guidance centre and across the NHS Trust are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme and cross Solent travel discounts and are able to provide assistance and signposting to the most appropriate help.

Risks have been identified as follows:

Removal of the council funding for this scheme could result in people being unable to undertake life-saving treatments.

Consultation may deliver an expectation from the public that the current scheme should be made more equitable by expanding it to support a wider range of health conditions, which would not be financially viable.

Recommendations

It is recommended that we progress to full public consultation to enable the council to make an informed decision about the future funding of this travel scheme. Stage 2 of the EIA will be updated once the responses have been received.

Action/Improvement Plan

The table below should be completed using the information from your equality impact assessment to produce an action plan for the implementation of the proposals to:

1. Remove or lower the negative impact, and/or
2. Ensure that the negative impact is legal under anti-discriminatory law, and/or
3. Provide an opportunity to promote equality, equal opportunity and improve relations within equality target groups, i.e. increase the positive impact

Area of impact	Is there evidence of negative positive or no impact?	Could this lead to adverse impact and if so why?	Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or any other reason?	Please detail what measures or changes you will put in place to remedy any identified impact (NB: please make sure that you include actions to improve all areas of impact whether negative, neutral or positive)
Age	negative	<p>Financial burden of funding own travel for mainland health appointments if a person does not meet the eligibility criteria for support under the NHS Healthcare Travel Scheme.</p> <p>The resident could forgo life saving medical treatment</p>	No	<p>Where the person is eligible for support with cross solent travel under the HTCS, they will not be affected by this change.</p> <p>Those who are not eligible to claim for cross solent travel under the HTCS for either themselves or their carer/escort will incur a cost in ferry charges but will benefit from the discounts offered by the cross solent travel companies on the island.</p> <p>There are various organisations and charities who offer additional support to local island residents.</p> <p>Wessex Cancer Trust – Telephone 02380516575</p> <p>Additional information can be found here:</p>

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				<p>http://wessexcancer.org.uk/home/isle-of-wight</p> <p>British Red Cross Society Telephone 01983 522718 Additional information can be found here: http://www.redcross.org.uk/Where-we-work/In-the-UK/Southern-England/Hampshire-Isle-of-Wight-and-Surrey</p> <p>The IOW Kidney Patients Association Telephone 01983 855095 Additional information can be found here: http://opencharities.org/charities/298041</p> <p>Carers IW Telephone: 01983 533173 Further information can be found here: http://carersiw.org.uk/</p>

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Disability	negative	As above	No	As above
Gender Reassignment	negative	As above	No	As above
Marriage & Civil Partnership	negative	As above	No	As above
Pregnancy & Maternity	negative	As above	No	As above
Race	negative	As above	No	As above
Religion / Belief	negative	As above	No	As above
Sex (male or female)	negative	As above	No	As above
Sexual Orientation	negative	As above	No	As above

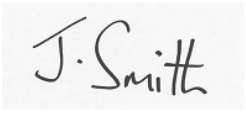
Please remember - actions should have SMART targets and be reported to the Diversity Board (this should be done via your Directorate representative) and incorporated into your service/team Plans and /or objectives of key staff

Summary

Date of Assessment:

27 November 2018

Signed off by Head of Service/Director


Jonathan Smith
Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning

Review date

April 2019 following decision based on the outcome of the public consultation

Date published

30 November 2019