

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Equality Analysis

The council has an important role in creating a fair society through the services we provide, the people we employ and the money we spend. Equality is integral to everything the council does. We are committed to making Croydon a stronger, fairer borough where no community or individual is held back.

Undertaking an Equality Analysis helps to determine whether a proposed change will have a positive, negative, or no impact on groups that share a protected characteristic. Conclusions drawn from Equality Analyses helps us to better understand the needs of all our communities, enable us to target services and budgets more effectively and also helps us to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

An equality analysis must be completed as early as possible during the planning stages of any proposed change to ensure information gained from the process is incorporated in any decisions made.

In practice, the term '**proposed change**' broadly covers the following:-

- Policies, strategies and plans;
- Projects and programmes;
- Commissioning (including re-commissioning and de-commissioning);
- Service review;
- Budget allocation/analysis;
- Staff restructures (including outsourcing);
- Business transformation programmes;
- Organisational change programmes;
- Processes (for example thresholds, eligibility, entitlements, and access criteria).

2. Proposed change

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Directorate | Children, Young People and Education |
| Title of proposed change | Education Estates Strategy / School Admission Arrangements |

2.1 Purpose of proposed change

Briefly summarise the proposed change and why it is being considered. Please also state if it is an amendment to an existing arrangement or a new proposal.

The proposed Education Estates Strategy will ensure that the Council is compliant with its statutory requirements relating to school place sufficiency duties across three stages of education: early years, primary, and secondary and in relation to special school provision. The Strategy includes:
School Place Planning - Early Years; Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU); Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND);
School Admissions - proposed Admission Arrangements for Croydon's community schools for the 2025/26 academic year and adoption of the proposed Pan London co-ordination arrangements;
School Maintenance and Compliance - proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan for 2023/24 including asbestos management; and fire safety works in Croydon community schools.

All of the proposed changes are amendments to existing arrangements.

School Place Planning

In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Council has a statutory duty to "secure that sufficient schools for providing— (a) primary education, and (b) [secondary] education are available for their area" as well as to "secure diversity and increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of school places" in the borough. The strategy aims to ensure that there are sufficient and suitable school places available for all of Croydon's children; admission arrangements and policies are fair and lawful; the education estate is maintained to a good standard and comply with our duties under equalities and health and safety legislation and compliance with statutory safety legislation and mandatory fire safety requirements.

Early Years

Local authorities are required by legislation - Childcare Act 2006 and Children and Families Act 2014 - to secure early education places for three and four year olds, as well as disadvantaged two year olds Early Years, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Croydon has a wide range of provision offering funded places ranging from day nursery, preschool; schools with nursery places and funded childminders. Cabinet has been asked to note the information contained in the Education Estates Strategy report. There are no proposed changes.

Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to arrange suitable education for permanently excluded pupils, and for pupils who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. Education outside of school, when it is arranged by Local Authorities or schools is called alternative provision. There are no immediate proposed changes.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Nationally and in Croydon, about 97% of children are educated in the state-funded school system without the need for help or support beyond that which a mainstream school can provide. Of these children between 11-12% need some additional support at some stage to address a learning need for varying periods of time. The Council as an education authority has specific duties in relation to provision of education for children with special educational needs

(SEN). The main duties include: to identify whether a child for whom they are responsible has SEN; and to assess a child who in their opinion has SEN. If the assessment shows that it is necessary, to make an EHC Plan: determining the child's needs and the educational provision required and to ensure the specific provision set out in the Plan is provided. The proposed strategy / changes, include change of provider of Rainbow nursery from September 20120 with a related consultation on the extension of the age range for St Giles School. This change will contribute to improved care, and early years educational outcomes and life chances for all children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. Consultation will be undertaken on a proposal to extend the age range of St Giles Special School to provide specialist education for children with learning difficulties from 3 - 4 years old, to enable Croydon's offer of early education to be provided effectively for all children.

The Council is undertaking feasibility studies and suitability/quality survey of a number of special schools (Red Gates; Priory and St Giles Schools) to inform options for the development of the Education Estate, specifically to ensure equality of opportunity to access good or outstanding special education provision in the Borough for children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities.

School Admissions

In line with the Schools Admission Code, 2014, Admission Authorities, including Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code. This includes consulting on proposed changes to admission arrangements annually and at least every 7 years where there have been no changes. Consultation was held for 2018/19 academic year.

Managing surplus places

Falling rolls is a pressing issue for most primary schools across the borough. Currently, there are more places than necessary for pupils at primary schools. The local authority is working in partnership with local school leaders, including Voluntary Aided and Multi Academy Trusts to discuss and agree a collective strategy to manage the high level of surplus school places. This includes reduction of published admission number (PAN). Some schools have already reduced their PAN via consultation in determining their admission arrangements; or their in-year admission number via the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

School Maintenance

The Council is the employer for community schools, community special schools, maintained nursery schools and pupil referral units and is responsible for larger condition and maintenance works. It has a duty to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to monitor and review any preventative and protective measures that have been implemented. The programme of works / maintenance plan will ensure that schools are properly maintained and remain open and supports educational performance and the health & safety of pupils, staff and school community.

The main aim of the Education Estates Strategy is to ensure that as an education authority the Council fulfils its statutory duties relating to school place planning, school admission and school maintenance. Local authorities are required to meet their statutory duty by providing a school place for every child that requires one, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or disability and the other protected characteristics. Admission arrangements for all Croydon community schools must be determined annually. All schools are required by law to have oversubscription criteria for admissions, which are used to determine the offer of places if a school receives more applications than there are places available. The criteria must be clear, fair, and objective in line with the School Admission Code, Equality Act and other relevant legislations, promoting equality and inclusiveness for residents.

Implications for Equalities

One of the key aims of the Education Estates Strategy is to improve diversity and choice of schools, the right amount of and different types of schools to improve parental choice. This will help to ensure that all pupils have equitable access to school and ensure that the Council's duty to provide sufficient school places for pupils of statutory school age is fulfilled.

The Council is the employer for community schools, community special schools, maintained nursery schools and pupil referral units and is responsible for larger condition and maintenance works ensuring that school buildings meet minimum standards.

As part of the consultation process on any proposed changes, respondents will be asked to complete an equality and diversity questionnaire, looking at Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Disability. The information collected will help to identify any special requirements; promote equality; and improve choice and diversity.

3. Impact of the proposed change

Important Note: It is necessary to determine how each of the protected groups could be impacted by the proposed change. If there is insufficient information or evidence to reach a decision you will need to gather appropriate quantitative and qualitative information from a range of sources e.g. Croydon Observatory a useful source of information such as Borough Strategies and Plans, Borough and Ward Profiles, Joint Strategic Health Needs Assessments <http://www.croydonobservatory.org/> Other sources include performance monitoring reports, complaints, survey data, audit reports, inspection reports, national research and feedback gained through engagement with service users, voluntary and community organisations and contractors.

3.1 Additional information needed to determine impact of proposed change

Table 1 – Additional information needed to determine impact of proposed change

| If you need to undertake further research and data gathering to help determine the likely impact of the proposed change, outline the information needed in this table. | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Additional information needed | Information source | Date for completion |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

For guidance and support with consultation and engagement visit <https://intranet.croydon.gov.uk/working-croydon/communications/consultation-and-engagement/starting-engagement-or-consultation>

3.2 Deciding whether the potential impact is positive or negative

Table 2 – Positive/Negative impact

For each protected characteristic group show whether the impact of the proposed change on service users and/or staff is positive or negative by briefly outlining the nature of the impact in the appropriate column. If it is decided that analysis is not relevant to some groups, this should be recorded and explained. In all circumstances you should list the source of the evidence used to make this judgement where possible.

| Protected characteristic group(s) | Positive impact | Negative impact | Source of evidence | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|-------------|---------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Age | <p>In line with the School Admissions Code, school places are allocated using the agreed/published admissions criteria. The proposed criteria relate to children and young people of statutory school age. Admissions to schools are a function that operates within a statutory framework. Croydon is the admission authority for community schools and there are arrangements and criteria for the admission of pupils to nursery, primary and secondary mainstream maintained schools.</p> | | <p>School admissions code - GOV.UK</p> <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/borough-profile/</p> <p>Croydon Population Estimates by age bands</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age (years)</th> <th>Numbers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4 years</td> <td>27,372</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-10 years</td> <td>32,451</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-17 years</td> <td>35,486</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/ons-census-2021-croydon-highlights-from-each-data-release/</p> <p>Croydon has 23.1% of its residents aged 0-17 years (90,241)</p> <p>Population estimates - Office for National Statistics</p> | Age (years) | Numbers | 0-4 years | 27,372 | 5-10 years | 32,451 | 11-17 years | 35,486 |
| Age (years) | Numbers | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-4 years | 27,372 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5-10 years | 32,451 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11-17 years | 35,486 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disability | <p>Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability are given priority in the admissions criteria or attend special schools. All schools are required to admit a child if their Education and Health Care Plan names the school.</p> | | <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/borough-profile/</p> <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/ons-census-2021-croydon-highlights-from-each-data-release/</p> <p>Disability - Croydon Observatory</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | <p>Disability category</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Numbers</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Day-to-day activities limited a lot</td> <td style="text-align: right;">24,380</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Day-to-day activities limited a little</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28,733</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Day-to-day activities not limited</td> <td style="text-align: right;">310,265</td> <td style="text-align: right;">85.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total of all categories.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">363,378</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source : ONS, Census 2011, Table QS303UK.</p> | | Numbers | Percentage | Day-to-day activities limited a lot | 24,380 | 6.7% | Day-to-day activities limited a little | 28,733 | 7.9% | Day-to-day activities not limited | 310,265 | 85.4% | Total of all categories. | 363,378 | 100.0% |
|--|---|------------|--|--|---------|------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|--|--------|------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| | Numbers | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day-to-day activities limited a lot | 24,380 | 6.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day-to-day activities limited a little | 28,733 | 7.9% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day-to-day activities not limited | 310,265 | 85.4% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total of all categories. | 363,378 | 100.0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gender Reassignment | | | <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/borough-profile/ No relevant data available on this for Croydon</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sex | <p>Children are allocated school place in line with Admissions Code. The proposed changes are not sex specific. The admission arrangements do not contain criteria that impact differently on people with a particular sex.</p> <p>N.B. Croydon also has a 'local' characteristic of 'gender': the same analysis applies.</p> | | <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/borough-profile/</p> <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/ons-census-2021-croydon-highlights-from-each-data-release/</p> <p>Croydon is made up of 52% females and 48% males. <i>Source : ONS, Mid Year Estimates 2019, released June 2020.</i></p> <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/8-gender/</p> <p>Population estimates - Office for National Statistics</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marriage or Civil Partnership | | | <p>This is not applicable as this is for children of statutory school age.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | | | <p>This is not relevant for children of statutory school age.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Race | <p>The Admission Criteria, based on the Schools Admissions Code, are used to allocate school places and do not include ethnicity or race as criteria.</p> | | <p>https://www.croydonobservatory.org/borough-profile/</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|---|
| | The are no proposed changes that will have any negative impact on pupils from different ethnic groups | | https://www.croydonobservatory.org/ons-census-2021-croydon-highlights-from-each-data-release/ Population estimates - Office for National Statistics |
| Religion or belief | <p>The admission arrangements for voluntary aided school could contain a denominational criterion within the policy, to enable priority or children whose parents are active members of their church and who request admission to a church school on denominational grounds. However, all applications, including those with no faith basis for applying, are considered applying the published arrangements.</p> <p>The admission criteria are based on determined admission arrangements compliant with the relevant legislation, Schools Admission Code and is unlikely to discriminate unlawfully.</p> | | https://www.croydonobservatory.org/borough-profile/ https://www.croydonobservatory.org/ons-census-2021-croydon-highlights-from-each-data-release/ Population estimates - Office for National Statistics |
| Sexual Orientation | | | This is not relevant for children of statutory school age. |

Important note: You must act to eliminate any potential negative impact which, if it occurred would breach the Equality Act 2010. In some situations this could mean abandoning your proposed change as you may not be able to take action to mitigate all negative impacts.

When you act to reduce any negative impact or maximise any positive impact, you must ensure that this does not create a negative impact on service users and/or staff belonging to groups that share protected characteristics.

3.3 Impact scores

Example

If we are going to reduce parking provision in a particular location, officers will need to assess the equality impact as follows;

1. Determine the Likelihood of impact. You can do this by using the key in table 5 as a guide, for the purpose of this example, the likelihood of impact score is 2 (likely to impact)
2. Determine the Severity of impact. You can do this by using the key in table 5 as a guide, for the purpose of this example, the Severity of impact score is also 2 (likely to impact)
3. Calculate the equality impact score using table 4 below and the formula **Likelihood x Severity** and record it in table 5, for the purpose of this example - **Likelihood (2) x Severity (2) = 4**

Table 4 – Equality Impact Score

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Severity of Impact | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Likelihood of Impact | | | |

Key

| Risk Index | Risk Magnitude |
|------------|----------------|
| 6 – 9 | High |
| 3 – 5 | Medium |
| 1 – 3 | Low |

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Table 5 – Impact scores

| Column 1 PROTECTED GROUP | Column 2 LIKELIHOOD OF IMPACT SCORE Use the key below to score the likelihood of the proposed change impacting each of the protected groups, by inserting either 1, 2, or 3 against each protected group. 1 = Unlikely to impact 2 = Likely to impact 3 = Certain to impact | Column 3 SEVERITY OF IMPACT SCORE Use the key below to score the severity of impact of the proposed change on each of the protected groups, by inserting either 1, 2, or 3 against each protected group. 1 = Unlikely to impact 2 = Likely to impact 3 = Certain to impact | Column 4 EQUALITY IMPACT SCORE Calculate the equality impact score for each protected group by multiplying scores in column 2 by scores in column 3. Enter the results below against each protected group. Equality impact score = likelihood of impact score x severity of impact score. |
|---|---|--|--|
| Age | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Disability | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Gender reassignment | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Sex | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Marriage / Civil Partnership | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pregnancy or Maternity | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Race | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Religion or belief | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Sexual Orientation | 2 | 2 | 4 |

Equality Analysis

4. Statutory duties

4.1 Public Sector Duties

Tick the relevant box(es) to indicate whether the proposed change will adversely impact the Council’s ability to meet any of the Public Sector Duties in the Equality Act 2010 set out below.

Advancing equality of opportunity between people who belong to protected groups

Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

Fostering good relations between people who belong to protected characteristic groups

Important note: If the proposed change adversely impacts the Council’s ability to meet any of the Public Sector Duties set out above, mitigating actions must be outlined in the Action Plan in section 5 below.

5. Action Plan to mitigate negative impacts of proposed change

Table 5 – Action Plan to mitigate negative impacts

Complete this table to show any negative impacts identified for service users and/or staff from protected groups, and planned actions mitigate them.

| Protected characteristic | Negative impact | Mitigating action(s) | Action owner | Date for completion |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Disability | | | | |
| Race | | | | |
| Sex | | | | |
| Gender reassignment | | | | |
| Sexual orientation | | | | |
| Age | | | | |
| Religion or belief | | | | |

Equality Analysis

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | | |
| Marriage/civil partnership | | | | |

6. Decision on the proposed change

| Based on the information outlined in this Equality Analysis enter X in column 3 (Conclusion) alongside the relevant statement to show your conclusion. | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Decision | Definition | Conclusion - Mark 'X' below |
| No major change | Our analysis demonstrates that the policy is robust. The evidence shows no potential for discrimination and we have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitoring and review. If you reach this conclusion, state your reasons and briefly outline the evidence used to support your decision. The Education Estates Strategy is designed to be inclusive. The EQIA process did not identify any direct or indirect discrimination through the Education Estates Strategy and identified some groups where opportunities for children and young people with protected characteristics might be advanced. The School Admissions Code sets out what schools and the local authority must do to comply with the law. The Strategy is also in line with the Public Sector duty to consider or think about how their policies or decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act. | X |
| Adjust the proposed change | We will take steps to lessen the impact of the proposed change should it adversely impact the Council's ability to meet any of the Public Sector Duties set out under section 4 above, remove barriers or better promote equality. We are going to take action to ensure these opportunities are realised. If you reach this conclusion, you must outline the actions you will take in Action Plan in section 5 of the Equality Analysis form | |
| Continue the proposed change | We will adopt or continue with the change, despite potential for adverse impact or opportunities to lessen the impact of discrimination, harassment or victimisation and better advance equality and foster good relations between groups through the change. However, we are not planning to implement them as we are satisfied that our project will not lead to unlawful discrimination and there are justifiable reasons to continue as planned. If you reach this conclusion, you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and it must be in line with the duty to have due regard and how you reached this decision. | |
| Stop or amend the | Our change would have adverse effects on one or more protected groups that are not justified and cannot be mitigated. Our proposed change must be stopped or amended. | |

Equality Analysis

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| proposed change | | |
| Will this decision be considered at a scheduled meeting? e.g. Contracts and Commissioning Board (CCB) / Cabinet | Meeting title: Cabinet Date: January 2024 | |

7. Sign-Off

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Officers that must approve this decision | | |
| Equality lead | Name: Helen Reeves | Date: 03/01/2024 |
| | Position: (Interim) Head of Strategy and Policy | |
| Director | Name: | Date: |
| | Position: | |