

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT DESKTOP SCREENING

This exercise is not an EIA. It is a desktop exercise designed to establish if you need to carry out a full assessment. When completing the screening please use plain English avoiding the use of acronyms or jargon. Any documents referred to should be attached to the screening form.

Part One: basic information needed to identify the policy and prepare for screening

1.1	Directorate and Section/Unit	Adult & Community Services – Access Service
1.2	Title or brief description of the policy being screened.	Carewise is a website providing details of services and events that support a broad range of social care and general wellbeing outcomes and is intended for direct use by members of the public and indirect use through other agencies with access to the system.
1.3	Screening by:	Andrew Morley – Access Manager
1.4	Date of screening	7 th June 2010
1.5	Related policies/functions:	<i>The Access Centre – EIA already completed</i> <i>Choice & Control programme</i>
1.6	To which section of the Directorate or Corporate "business/service plan" does this relate?	Part of the ACS business plan and also part of the Choice & Control Programme
1.7	Is this a new or existing policy?	This is a new service
1.8	What is the policy trying to achieve?	To improve the signposting activities of the Council and other agencies and to provide high quality information and a range of options to people looking for suitable care services.

1.9	What are the planned outcomes for this policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a reliable single source of information on care and related services. • Support consistency of quality of signposting activity from information and advice agencies/services • Provide a tool for use in the purchasing of services through individual budgets
1.10	Who will benefit from the policy? How will they benefit?	<p>Anyone with care needs, or their carer, whether eligible for a community care assessment or not. This includes people with a broad range of disabilities as well as gender and ethnicity/race issues through access to information about specific services such as Domestic Violence or Hate Crime support. Any agencies working with people with these needs will also benefit from free access to the system and the information it contains.</p>
1.11	Who is formally responsible for the delivery of this policy? If different, who is responsible for leading on the delivery?	<p>A multi agency project group was jointly responsible for the initial development of this service but responsibility for delivery and ongoing development rests with the ACS Access Manager.</p>
1.12	What (if any) are the key priorities within this policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining accurate listings of all appropriate services • Ensuring indexing & search options support access to useful information • Promoting use of this system by the public and appropriate organisations
1.13	What (if any) previous consultation has been done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information & Advice Agencies 2008

	on this policy? Who was consulted and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random sample of service users (contact through different agencies) 2008 • Choice & Control Service User Group 2009/10. • Test group of Sight Concern members 2010
1.14	Is equality monitoring in place for this policy?	No

Part Two: this is the test to see if further action is required. For the purpose of this exercise concentrate on the impact on people of differing age, gender, disability, race/ethnicity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

		Y	N	Details including what information you have based your decision on.
2.1	Is there any way in which the policy is directly discriminatory or in breach of the County Council's Equality and Diversity Policy? (see Annex E)		N	The site has been developed in accordance with the Council's Accessibility Policy.
2.2	Are there any barriers to people from minority groups getting the full benefit of this policy which have not been resolved as part of the policy?		N	Although additional work is underway to enhance access to the information through use of screen reading software. – <i>Please see action plan attached.</i>
2.3	Are there any other ways the policy could unintentionally deliver poorer quality outcomes for individuals because they belong to a minority group or groups?(they		N	The accessibility arrangements, either direct or through external agencies using the system, provide additional options and lead to a service improvement.

	may belong to more than one)			
2.4	Could minority groups reasonably believe they would be likely to get poorer benefits from the policy?		N	The system adds to, and supports, existing information and advice services.
2.5	In what ways could this policy make a positive contribution to equality or to relations between groups?			More readily available information should improve the level of understanding between groups.

If the answer to questions 2.1 to 2.4 is yes or "could be yes" then you **must** take action. If the issue is straightforward then remedy this **now** so the answer changes to no. If it cannot be remedied now or there are outstanding issues you must continue on to a full EIA. Where you have decided a full EIA is not required but have identified actions which must be taken then please record these below:

Specific Action	How will you know when this is completed?	Resources/cost	Person Responsible	Completion date
Development of a web skin to enhance screen reader performance	New pages will be added to the web site	Not yet known – expected to be free or low cost	Andrew Morley	October 2010