

## Worcestershire County Council Equality Impact Assessment Simplified Desktop Screening

This exercise is not an Equality Impact Assessment. It is a simplified desktop exercise designed to establish if there is a need to carry out a full assessment.

<b>Part One:</b> basic information needed to identify the policy/function and to prepare for the screening.		
1.1	Directorate and Section/Unit.	Environmental Services Dept. Trading Standards Service
1.2	Title or brief description of the policy/function being screened.	Consumer Education
1.3	To which section of the Directorate or Corporate "business/service plan" does this relate?	Trading Standards Advice & Support Unit
1.4	Are there any related policies/functions? If so what are they?	Consumer Education Strategy
1.5	Screening carried out by	Chris Phillips
1.6	Date of screening	2/12/09
1.7	What is the policy or function trying to achieve?	To provide Worcestershire residents with the information and knowledge they need to resolve consumer-related problems for themselves or to be aware of potential problems so that they can be avoided e.g. contractual issues relating to the purchase of goods or services or current scams
1.8	What are the specific outcome measurers?	A general public that is well informed on consumer-related issues.
1.9	Who is formally responsible for ensuring the delivery of this policy/function?	Steve Birch.
1.10	Who is responsible for leading the delivery if different from 1.9?	Chris Phillips
1.11	Are there any priorities within this policy/function? If so what are they?	The intention is to provide access to information to all groups regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or educational attainment. Where scams are involved, the intention is to identify the groups most at risk in order to provide them with information to help them to avoid falling victim.
1.12	Has any consultation, explicitly on the policy/function, taken place? If so who was consulted and when?	Consultation has been carried out at Community Fairs during 2008. Ongoing user surveys are carried out within the Trading Standards Service of people who have accessed the Service for consumer advice or to make a consumer complaint.
1.13	Is equality monitoring in place for this policy/function?	Yes. The education strategy has introduced a feedback form that identifies the groups that have received talks or been subject to some other kind of education event. This has only recently been introduced and limited information is available at present. It should, however, provide useful information over time.

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

		Yes	No	Details
2.1	Is there any way in which the policy/function is directly discriminatory or in breach of the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy?		No	The education strategy has been drafted with the need to ensure that education activities cover the whole range of people within the community. There is a project within the action plan to engage with hard to reach communities.
2.2	Are there any barriers to people from minority groups getting the full benefit of this policy/function which have not been resolved as part of the policy/function?		No	The Trading Standards website is accessible to large sectors of the community, although it is recognised that it would not be accessible to all. The education strategy includes a requirement to ensure that all groups are able to access information and it will be necessary to engage with representative groups to enable this to happen. This is the subject of a project being undertaken to improve accessibility.
2.3	Are there any other ways the policy/function could unintentionally deliver poorer quality outcomes for individuals because they were members of a minority group?		No	As 2.2
2.4	Could people from minority groups reasonably believe that they would be likely to get poorer benefits from the policy/function?		No	As 2.2



If the answer to any of these questions is yes or "could be yes" then you **must** take action. If the issue is straightforward remedy it **now** so the answer changes to no. If it cannot be remedied now or there are outstanding issues you should go on to a full EIA.