

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Community Support programme 2025/26, which is part funded by the Department for Communities and Council revenue. The overall objective of this programme is to adopt a multi-faceted approach to strengthen the role and work of community development in the Council area. The processes involved are long-term and value based and aim to address any imbalances in power and bring about change founded on social justice, equality and inclusion.

Elements of the overall programme include:

- Community development provision through staffing, within the council, to provide guidance, support and capacity building to local community/voluntary sector organisations.
- The provision of directly managed community centres, across 4 locations, to provide increased access to shared spaces, opportunities and available venues;
- Developing robust and sustainable communities through supporting community-led satellite centres, grant funding, capacity building and training and bespoke programming.
- Supporting the delivery of advice services available to all residents within the community, including welfare reform and generalist advice provision.

Name of the activity/policy/project

Community Support Programme 2025-26

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

Annual project.

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

The Community Support Programme for the council aims to deliver support to the community & voluntary sector to increase inclusion, access to services, capacity of local groups. These processes add value to the work of the Council and enable people to organise and work together to:

- ☐ identify their own needs and aspirations
- ☐ take action to exert influence on the decisions which affect their lives
- ☐ improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live, and societies of which they are a part.

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

The project is not targeting any specific Section 75 groups. There may be incidental benefits for particular equality groups however the main objective is to support all residents who are beneficiaries of any element of the programme.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

The programme has developed by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to deliver against the Community Service objectives in addition to fulfilling the requirements of funding offered by the Department for Communities.

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council owns the project. Community Services implements the project on behalf of the Council.

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/project?

If yes, are they: financial, legislative, other? Give brief details of any significant factors.

Yes :

Financial – the project is dependent on the financial assistance from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in addition to the financial support from DfC.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon?

Staff	All staff involved in the development and delivery of the programme.
Service Users	The general public / overall programme beneficiaries
Other Public Sector Organisations	DfC who contributes financially to the Council's Community Support Programme
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Local Community/Voluntary sector groups who are supported through the various streams of the programme.

Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc)	Elected Members
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Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
LCCC Corporate Plan 2024-2028	LCCC
Community Plan 2017-2032	LCCC
Community Development Strategy	LCCC
Section 75 of NI Act 1998	ECNI
Rural Needs Impact Assessment	DEARA

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Council area is the least deprived in Northern Ireland.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	This programme outlines the objectives within the council's Community Development strategy to build community cohesion, a sense of place & local identity & community involvement. LCCC recognises the important part that local groups can play in developing strong, united & connected communities. The entire council has a higher proportion of residents from a Protestant community background (49%) and have range of community organisations, some of which are single identity. Following this grouping, the proportion of residents and communities identifying as Catholic (24.0%), none (25%) and other (2%) (Census 2021). The entire programme is non-prescriptive based on religion and will focus on equal participation from all religions and none.
Political Opinion	This programme is open to all residents and organisations, regardless of political opinion.
Racial Group	The Council area has a minority of BME residents and there are several support organisations across

	the area. According to the 2021 Census, 87% of LCCC population were born in N Ireland.
Age	NISRA Census 2021 data indicates: 0-14 years – 19% 15-39 years – 30% 40-64 years – 33% 65+ years – 18% Whilst particular streams of the programme may incur a greater participation from particular age groups, the programme is not restrictive based on age.
Marital Status	Single 33% Married 52% 2021 Census; small percentages of people who are divorced, separated, widowed and in same-sex partnerships. This programme is open to all residents and organisations, regardless of marital status.
Sexual Orientation	2% of the population identify as LGBT+ (Census 2021) but accurate figures are likely to be much higher due to under-reporting. This programme is open to all residents and organisations, regardless of sexual orientation.
Men & Women Generally	LCCC Local Govt District 49% Male 51% Female (Census 2021). This programme is open to all residents and organisations, regardless of gender.
Disability	67% reported as having no long-term health conditions which impacted their day-to-day activities 81% stated their general health was either good or very good. (2021 Census). Whilst particular streams of the programme may incur a greater participation from particular age groups, the programme is not restrictive based on disability.
Dependants	The 2021 Census data for LCCC suggests 31% of residents have dependent children. 14% of the population stated that they provided unpaid care to dependents. Whilst particular streams of the programme may incur a greater participation from particular age groups, the programme is not restrictive based on this category.

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	No different needs have been identified. This programme and associated elements are open for participation to all residents. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be completed for all elements to ensure no religion is underrepresented.
Political Opinion	As above
Racial Group	As above
Age	No different needs have been identified. This programme and associated elements are open for participation to all residents. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be completed for all elements to ensure age is underrepresented.
Marital Status	No different needs have been identified
Sexual Orientation	No different needs have been identified. This programme and associated elements is open for participation to all residents. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be completed for all elements to ensure no resident is excluded.
Men & Women Generally	No different needs have been identified
Disability	No different needs have been identified
Dependants	No different needs have been identified

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	This programme will encourage participation from all residents regardless of religious belief.	Minor - There should be no differential impact as the programme elements are open to all to engage with.

Political Opinion	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Racial Group	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Age	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Marital Status	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Sexual Orientation	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Men & Women Generally	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Disability	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor
Dependants	This programme will promote inclusion from all communities through equal opportunity.	Minor

* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	LCCC will reinforce the equality obligations in relation to Section 75 across all elements of the programme.	None identified at this stage
Political Opinion		None identified at this stage
Racial Group		None identified at this stage
Age	The council will promote and encourage participation to all via the Ezine, social media,	None identified at this stage
Marital Status		None identified at this stage

Sexual Orientation	council website, & through the officers working on the ground.	None identified at this stage
Men & Women Generally		None identified at this stage
Disability	Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will provide insight, on a regular basis, for any areas of which require improved representation.	None identified at this stage
Dependants		None identified at this stage

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

Yes

- To promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
Every endeavour to ensure programme elements, where appropriate, will be fully accessible and inclusive to persons with a disability.
- To encourage the participation of disabled people in public life
As above

3 To what extent is the activity/policy/project likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	All elements of the programme will be open and available to residents, regardless. Specifically, the delivery of the Community Support Programme and provision of centres will encourage individuals to build a greater understanding of others and therefore improve good relations.	Minor
Political Opinion		Minor
Racial Group		Minor

*See Appendix 1 for details.

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	There is an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect between beneficiaries.	
Political Opinion	There is an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect between beneficiaries.	
Racial Group	There is an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect between beneficiaries.	

Multiple identity

Provide details of any data on the impact of the activity/policy/project on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The beneficiaries of this programme will be assessed through ongoing monitoring and consultation with participants.

LCCC recognises that people have many different identities and therefore multiple needs. Depending on the elements within the programme, there may be benefits for various groups on multiple identity grounds. For example, older people with disabilities will benefit from any enhanced accessibility to programmes, activities and information.

Part 3. Screening Outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a full equality impact assessment on a proposed policy or project.

There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no negative impacts identified (or only entirely positive impacts for all groups). This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor impacts identified which can easily be mitigated. Most activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant (and potentially negative) impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required	
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation	This equality screening has concluded that a full equality impact assessment is not necessary as we have not identified any negative impact and potential impacts are likely to be incidental and minor. The Council will proactively promote opportunities to diverse communities via social media, council website, community website etc. Through Officers, increased promotion to under-represented groups will also be undertaken. We will seek feedback from participants regarding delivery of the programme which will be used to inform future planning.
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

This programme is designed to be open and inclusive, as with all council initiatives, we will proactively promote to diverse communities via social media, council website, community website, and through officers.

The council will also proactively seek feedback to inform future planning.

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

As above

Timetabling and prioritising for EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

Not applicable

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? No

Part 4. Monitoring

Elements to monitoring:

1) Monitoring the activity generally as part of normal review and evaluation or service improvement and 2) monitoring by equality category.

Ongoing monitoring will take place in a variety of methods to ensure a clear representation of participants and level of achievement can be assessed. All monitoring will be considered to identify gaps in deliver, performance against the overarching objectives and participation based on equality categories.

Will be undertaken by: Name & Position/Job Title:	Frequency: Annually
Victoria Jackson Acting Community Development & Resources Manager	
Will be signed-off by: Angela McCann Head of Communities	

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Insert name (s)	Officer/manager	
Victoria Jackson	Acting Community Development & Resources Manager	28/04/2025
Approved by:		
Angela McCann	Head of Communities	28/04/2025