

# South Lakeland District Council

## Health, Social, Economic & Environmental Impact Guidance & Proforma



### Aims of the Health, Social, Economic & Environmental Impact Assessment

The aims of conducting the Impact Assessment are:

- To improve population health
- To reduce health inequalities
- To maximise any health benefits
- To minimise any health risks
- To inform decision making of any health impacts and to ensure that they are given consideration

### When should an Impact Assessment be completed?

The Impact Assessment should be carried out at the beginning of a new project or programme, when conducting a service review and when developing a new policy. This enables consideration to be given to any potential health impacts at the very beginning of the process.

It is recommended that officers complete the Impact Assessment form even if initially they do not anticipate any health impacts to ensure that the proposal has been thoroughly considered.

### How do I complete the Impact Assessment?

You will need to consider your proposal against four different categories, these include:

- Environmental conditions
- Social and economic factors
- Factors that impact a person's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing
- Access to services, spaces or social opportunities that improve health and wellbeing

When undertaking this piece of work it is likely that you will need to carry out some desk based research as a minimum to help you assess the impacts. There are some examples overleaf which demonstrate how different proposals can impact health and wellbeing.

**For further information please contact:**

Rachel Earnshaw, Public Protection Officer: [r.earnshaw@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:r.earnshaw@southlakeland.gov.uk)



## Examples of how proposals can affect health

<p><b>Will the policy have an impact on environmental conditions that would affect health?</b></p>	<p>A policy on active travel would positively affect health through reducing motorised forms of transport and increasing more sustainable forms of transport.</p> <p>Building a new housing development without footpaths would discourage people from walking to local shops and services.</p>
<p><b>Will the policy have an impact on social and economic factors that would affect health?</b></p>	<p>Increasing access to advice on benefits in a deprived area could reduce poverty, and increase access to goods, services and activities.</p> <p>Assisting businesses who wish to expand who offer good employment will improve the health of the local population.</p>
<p><b>Will the proposal affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</b></p>	<p>Upgrading the equipment in a playground would encourage usage and active lifestyles for children.</p> <p>Installing benches on walking routes will encourage older adults to take walks.</p>
<p><b>Will the proposal have an impact on access to information or access to services, spaces or social opportunities that can impact on health?</b></p>	<p>A proposal to build a take-away food outlet in an area where there are no healthy food stores and numerous existing take-away venues would increase access to unhealthy food types. This will have a further negative impact on diet, obesity and physical health in South Lakeland.</p>

## Assistance

For assistance in completing the Health, Social, Economic & Environmental Impact Assessment Proforma please contact Rachel Earnshaw, Public Protection Officer: [r.earnshaw@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:r.earnshaw@southlakeland.gov.uk)



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Please complete this form and attach it to your report.

Project, policy or programme: <b>COUNCIL POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE</b>						
Health Impacts	Potential Impacts				Comments	Recommendations
	Positive	No impact	Negative	Not sure		
	Please tick the appropriate box					
<b>Environmental Conditions</b>						
Air quality	✓					
Water quality and pollution	✓					
Built environment	✓					
Natural environment and biodiversity	✓					
Energy consumption/ efficiency	✓					
Noise	✓					
Transport	✓					
Recycling	✓					
Food production	✓					
<b>Social and Economic Factors</b>						
Employment		✓				
Income		✓				
Poverty		✓				
Education, skills and training		✓				
Housing	✓					
Crime		✓				
Work environment	✓					

(continued overleaf)

Project, policy or programme: COUNCIL POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE						
	Positive	No impact	Negative	Not sure	Comments	Recommendations
	Please tick the appropriate box					
<b>Factors that impact a person's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing</b>						
Nutrition and diet		✓				
Physical activity		✓				
Alcohol		✓				
Drugs		✓				
Risk taking behaviour		✓				
Smoking		✓				
Loneliness and isolation		✓				
<b>Access to services, spaces or social opportunities that impact health</b>						
Communication methods	✓					
Active travel	✓					
Access to leisure		✓				
Access to culture		✓				
Access to green spaces	✓					