

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer

Organisation prepared for:	South Somerset District Council		
Version:	1.0	Date Completed:	16/09/2022

Description of what is being Equality Impact Assessed:

Public Space Protection Orders: Yeovil: Street Drinking and Begging.

Evidence

What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the [Office of National Statistics](#), [Somerset Intelligence Partnership](#), [Somerset’s Joint Strategic Needs Analysis \(JSNA\)](#), Staff and/ or [area profiles](#), should be detailed here

Mental Health Foundation. Cheers Report. Available at <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/cheers-understanding-relationship-between-alcohol-and-mental-health>

Shelter Scotland Street begging Research (Edinburgh) 2019
https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1712291/Shelter_Scotland_Street_Begging_Final_Report_Jan_2019.pdf/nocache

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why

Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service
 South Somerset District Council Housing Service
 Pathways

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	□	☒	□
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are likely to breach the proposed PSPOs are more likely to be suffering from mental health issues. • Alcohol problems are more common among people with more severe mental health problems. This does not necessarily mean that alcohol causes severe mental illness. Evidence shows that people who consume high amounts of alcohol are vulnerable to increased risk of developing mental health problems and alcohol consumption can be a contributing factor to some mental health problems, such as depression • Recent research into the causes behind street begging shows that there was a very high incidence of mental health issues (80.6%) with the street begging population of Edinburgh. 	☒	□	□

Gender reassignment	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race and ethnicity	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	•	□	⊗	□
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Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Any breaches of both the proposed PSPOs will be supported by “real” evidence. In this case body worn video footage supported by witness statements. As part of the public interest test of any case, proportionality must be considered including the capacity of the suspect. The suspect should be made aware, in clear and simple terms, what is required of them in order to avoid breaching the requirements of the PSPO. Via this process officers will ensure that any mental health issues are taken into account as part of the evidence gathering phase of any investigation. Police officers and Police Community Support Officers receive detailed training in how to interact with members of the public who may be suffering of mental health issues.	05/09/2020	Paul Huntington (PDH)	PDH will be reviewing evidence submitted on a case by case basis	□
Warning letters will signpost people to local drugs and alcohol services (SDAS), homeless services, local support charities (for example Gateway and Pathways). Should cases escalate, for example individuals repeatability breaching the PSPOs, any possible mental health issues will be taken into account before formal enforcement action is taken.	05/09/2020	PDH	PDH will be responsible for supervising enforcement response	□

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

Completed by (Officer name and role):	Paul Huntington: Specialist Environmental Health
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Date:	
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Manager/Director Sign off (Name and position)	
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Date:	
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Equality Lead sign off (Name):	
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Date:	
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To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
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Review date:	
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