

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Benefits Advice Team Decommission

Reference: EIAOO0355

Date: 06/02/2024





EIA000355
06/02/2024
Benefits Advice Team Decommission
The Benefit Advice Team (BAT) comprises of a team of
three who work across Birmingham to provide a home
visiting function for benefit take up. The team
concentrates on disability related benefit take up and
works with vulnerable clients to assist with benefit issues
and concerns. The BAT team assist with the initial
applications, mandatory reconsiderations and also support
clients who need to attend tribunals. The team is funded
by the Benefit Service but delivers outcomes for three
Service areas via Service Level Agreement Contracts that
cover three specific areas: Carers, Community Mental
Health Trust and Homelessness services although there are
a number of organisations and agencies that also refer to
the team. The team has also assisted with additional
enquires which covers a range of benefit issues, regarding
eligibility, criteria and the claim process and offers home
visit support to complete applications. They also advise and
support many organisations with enquiries about benefits
which ensure that they provide an integrated approach and a successful outcome for the clients. The team works
a successful outcome for the clients. The team works
Society The Stroke Association and Community Montal
Society, The Stroke Association and Community Mental
teams. The take up of these benefits has supported
individuals to be able to stay in their homes with care and
support, and not be moved into care. Supported in
independent living reduces hospitalisation, gives additional
income, more affordability, more personal choice and
avoids homelessness. Overarching timeline for The
proposed disbandment of the Benefits Advise Team
functionality will have an influence on most of the
protected characteristics, however we cannot tell if it is
disproportionate for protected characteristics as very little,
or no data is available. The BAT is impartial to all users of
the service and offer assistance and support to anyone
requesting their help regardless of their protected
characteristics.





["Adults Social Care"]
Revenues and Benefits
Benefits
Yes

Winston Mckenzie	
David Kinnair	





The Benefits Advise Team if abolished will impact all age groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. However, we do not have sufficient qualitive or independent data to identify how this will affect this group in particular.

There is some evidence in the data available that shows a high level of applicants applying for BAT assistance are of pension age (in receipt of pension credit, Attendance Allowance or SRP) as well as working age applicants (UC/PIP/ESA).

There is insufficient qualitive or independent data to identify in more detail how this will affect this group in particular

There is no comprehensive data available from the application/visiting process or unless a full impact assessment is carried out for this characteristic, therefore we cannot identify specific mitigation for specific individuals/requirements.

However, there is a general level of mitigation if the role and services provided by the Benefits advice team is delivered by other organisations such as CAB, DWRce(any nec





The Benefits Advise Team if abolished will impact all disability groups identified in the Equality Act 2010, that may apply for BAT assistance or support. However, we do not have sufficient qualitive or objective data to identify how this will affect this group. There is evidence in the data available that shows a level of applicants applying for BA(ulty





The Benefits Advise Team if abolished will impact Male, Female & non-binary groups correspondingly as identified in the Equality Act 2010. However, we do not have sufficient qualitive or independent data to identify how the cessation of the BAT will affect this group in detail.  There is insufficient qualitive or independent data to identify in more detail how this will affect this group in particular
There is no comprehensive data available from the application/visiting process or unless a full impact assessment is carried out for this characteristic, therefore we cannot identify specific mitigation for specific individuals/requirements.
However, there is a general level of mitigation if the role and services provided by the Benefits advice team is delivered by other organisations such as CAB, DWP, Debt advice services, financial institutions, landlords, family members or carers, or self-assistance via online platforms.
Signposting can also be used to mitigate the impact / decommissioning of the Benefit Advice Team

Yes
The Benefits Advice Team if abolished will impact any person subject to gender reassignment as identified in the Equality Act 2010, as the scheme will no longer be in operation. However, we do not have sufficient qualitive or independent data to identify how this will affect this group in particular
There is insufficient qualitive or independent data to identify in more detail how this will affect this group in particular







There is no comprehe application/visiting proassessment is carried assessment identify specific applications.

There is no comprehensive data available from the application/visiting process or unless a full impact assessment is carried out for this characteristic, therefore we cannot identify specific mitigation for specific individuals/requirements.

However, there is a general level of mitigation if the role and services provided by the Benefits advice team is delivered by other organisations such as CAB, DWP, Debt advice services, financial institutions, landlords, family members or carers, or self-assistance via online platforms.

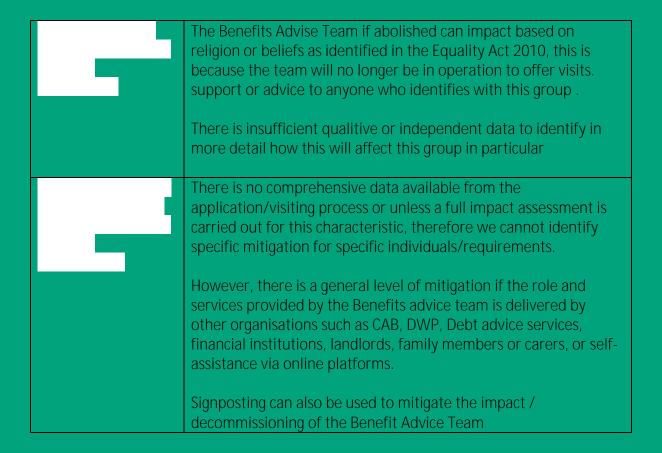
Signposting can also be used to mitigate the impact / decommissioning of the Benefit Advice Team



Yes
["Western and Southern Europe","Central and Eastern
Europe", "Roma", "Gypsy or Irish Traveller", "Irish", "Latin
American", "Arab", "Other Black", "Black British", "Caribbean", "White
British", "Other
White", "Bangladeshi", "Chinese", "Indian", "Pakistani", "African", "Other
Asian"]



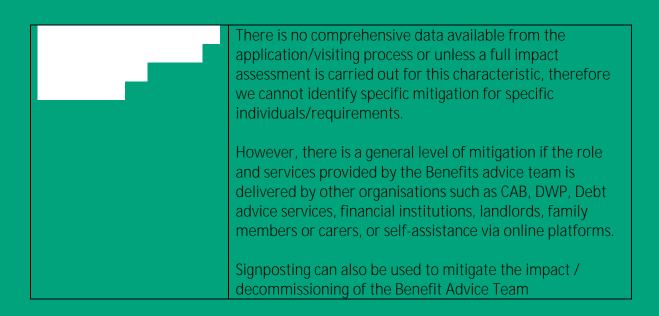




	Yes
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As the BAT team will be permanently decommissioned and no longer form part of the Benefits Service Structure there is no value in undertaking any further evaluation or monitoring of its function once approval is given
Winston Mckenzie

