

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Benefits Advice Team Decommission

Reference: EIA000355

Date: 06/02/2024



[Redacted]	EIA000355
[Redacted]	06/02/2024
[Redacted]	Benefits Advice Team Decommission
[Redacted]	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>

[Redacted]



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

	Winston Mckenzie
	David Kinnair



[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

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, DWf etc (any neg



[Redacted]

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 qualitative 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(ulity



<p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>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 qualitative or independent data to identify how the cessation of the BAT will affect this group in detail.</p> <p>There is insufficient qualitative or independent data to identify in more detail how this will affect this group in particular</p>
<p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Signposting can also be used to mitigate the impact / decommissioning of the Benefit Advice Team</p>

<p>[Redacted]</p>	
<p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>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 qualitative or independent data to identify how this will affect this group in particular</p> <p>There is insufficient qualitative or independent data to identify in more detail how this will affect this group in particular</p>







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




[REDACTED]	Yes
[REDACTED]	["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"]





	<p>The Benefits Advise Team if abolished can impact based on religion or beliefs as identified in the Equality Act 2010, this is because the team will no longer be in operation to offer visits, support or advice to anyone who identifies with this group .</p> <p>There is insufficient qualitative or independent data to identify in more detail how this will affect this group in particular</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Signposting can also be used to mitigate the impact / decommissioning of the Benefit Advice Team</p>

	
	<p>Yes</p>



	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Signposting can also be used to mitigate the impact / decommissioning of the Benefit Advice Team</p>
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	<p>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</p>
	<p>Winston Mckenzie</p>

