

**LB Bromley Equality Impact Assessment
Transforming Community Equipment Services
ACS 11054**

Start Date	May 2011	Project End Date	September 2011	EIA Type	Policy Review
Name					
Job Title		Roles & Responsibilities within EIA Team			
Silvio Giannotta		Commissioning Officer		Consultation Lead	
Lorna Blackwood		AD, C & P Division		Project Group Member	
Robert Denman		Procurement Officer		Project Group Member	
Alison Thrower		Project Manager		Project Group Member	
Stage 1 Scoping and Defining					
Explanation					
(1) What are the aims and objectives of the policy where changes are to be made?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To externalise the existing ICES store and transfer all Community Equipment Services to Medequip Assistive Technology Ltd., using the London Consortium Framework agreement led by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. To implement a retail model for the provision of simple aids to daily living, giving people greater choice and control over the equipment they use. 			
(2) How does the policy fit with the Council's wider objectives?		The proposed changes support the Corporate Operating Principles of Delivering Value for Money and Supporting Independence, by encouraging citizens to take more responsibility of their own lives and achieving excellent value for money by joining the London Consortium Framework and generating significant savings.			
(3) What would have been the expected outcomes of these policy changes?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savings generated by externalising ICES, and vacating the in-house store The Retail model will support access to information and services, enabling people eligible for statutory services as well as those who self-fund to make informed decisions about how they need to be supported in terms of equipment 			
(4) Do the proposed policy changes have the potential to directly or indirectly discriminate against a particular group?		RACE	AGE	GENDER	
		No	No	No	
		DISABILITY	RELIGION	SEXUAL ORIENTATION	

	No	No	No
Stage 2 Information Gathering			
Explanation			
(1) What type of information have you used to help you make a judgement about these policy changes?	<p>Department Health Guidance – Equality Impact Assessment - TCEWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Health conducted an Equality Assessment into the potential impact the retail model could have on people, and whether it would adversely impact on any particular group. <p>There are approximately 6000 Bromley residents recorded on the CareFirst database as having a Critical or Substantial assessed need. (Source: BOXI/Public Folders/ACS Managers/General/AllClients With FACs banding).</p> <p>Based on benchmarking information from 13 London Boroughs with an established Retail Model, approximately 59 monthly prescriptions are issued, therefore a limited number of people will be impacted by the implementation of a retail model, and for some this will be a positive change as it provides them with greater choice and control over the equipment they choose which can suit their preference,</p>		
(2) Have you been able to use any consultation data to help make these decisions? If yes what?	<p>No consultation was required, as the proposed changes will not change the current service provided to eligible users, as the new provider will be required to meet all existing service requirements.</p> <p>With the implementation of the Retail Model, individuals will be given the choice as to whether they receive a prescription, this will ensure those who are unable to access the local accredited retailers continue to be supplied with equipment via the London Consortium Framework Agreement.</p>		
Stage 3 Making a Judgement			
Explanation			
(1) From the evidence outlined above is there any adverse or negative impacts identified for any particular	<p>Impact of the proposed changes</p> <p>Closure of the in house ICES store and the transfer of services to Medequip will not have an adverse impact on any particular client group, as there is no change in service provided.</p>		

Stage 3 Making a Judgement	Explanation
group?	<p>Medequip already provide a service to 15 other London Authorities and the service requirements will remain unchanged.</p> <p>Medequip have vast knowledge in providing services to a diverse populations, as they currently supply other London Borough such as Brent which is one of the most culturally diverse boroughs in London, where ethnic groups make up the majority of the population at 54.7%.</p> <p>The Retail Model Some groups have different health and social care needs than others. Although community equipment is available to all groups, the range of needs and complexity of solutions may vary with age. For example, many older people will often benefit from a number of relatively inexpensive items to ensure they maintain a level of independence at home. In the case of young disabled people and children their needs change rapidly as they grow and the equipment required is often more complex and specific to their needs, enabling them to attend school or work.</p> <p>Though different groups may have different requirements in terms of their health and social care support there is no evidence that particular groups are specifically excluded from services. The needs assessment will continue to be conducted by health or social care professionals who determined whether a particular piece of equipment is required, however the only change will be to the supplier of equipment.</p>
(2) If there is an adverse impact can this be justified?	<p>As there is no change in service provided, there will be no adverse impact on any particular group.</p> <p>With the Retail Model, individuals can choose whether or not to receive a prescription.</p>
(3) What actions could be taken or have been taken to eliminate a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving people the choice as to whether they wish to receive a prescription • Robust performance monitoring through the London Consortium Operational Board, will

Stage 3 Making a Judgement		Explanation		
negative or adverse impact?		ensure that any performance issues with the contractor as highlighted and resolved swiftly.		
(4) Is there any positive impact?		<p>Joining the consortium will allow standardisation of equipment catalogues across 15 London Boroughs, greater joint working and sharing of good practice which may have a positive impact on service users.</p> <p>As mentioned above, implementing the Retail Model will enable users to have greater choice and control over the equipment they purchase, it also allows them to top up the value of their prescription accessing a wider range of items to suit their personal preferences (e.g. different colours)</p>		
Key Area	Action/ Target	Lead	Milestone	Resources
Retail Model	To ensure there is no adverse impact on any particular group, only those who wish to receive to receive a prescription for a simple aid to daily living will do so.	Alison Thrower	Number of prescriptions issued	Occupation Therapy teams.
How will the impact of the changes be monitored?				
State how?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular performance monitoring reports will ensure any issues are highlighted. The Consortium operations board regularly meets to address any performance issues with the service and address these directly with the contractor. 		