

Equality Impact Assessment

See the leaflet *How to make an Equality Impact Assessment* for help to complete this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708 or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further assistance.

The Council is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact any changes in any policy or procedures (or the creation of a new policy or procedure) will have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and to foster good relationships. Therefore, a timely Equality Impact Assessment should be made before any decision is taken on any relevant change (i.e. that affects people with protected equality characteristics).

I Details

I.1. What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog control throughout the County.

I.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

The legal basis for the Council's original Dog Control Orders has been superseded by newer legislation which means that it is necessary to replace these with new Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control.

The 2013 Dog Control Orders related to the prevention of dog fouling, exclusion of dogs from certain sensitive areas such as playing fields, sports facilities with seasonal restrictions on certain bathing beaches and the requirement for dogs on leads under the direction of an authorised officer.

I.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal

I.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?

01/04/2021 – first version.

2) Action

2.1 Who are the partners it will be necessary to work with to undertake this assessment?

People of Gwynedd
Council Staff
The Police
Keep Wales Tidy (Blue Flag)
North Wales Society for the Blind
Assistance Dogs UK
Dogs Trust
Kennel Club
Access Forum

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characteristics?

The Authority must carry out a public consultation on the Proposed Order, which will need to be in place for 28 days following the Welsh Parliamentary election on 6 May 2021.

2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

To be completed following the consultation.

2.4 On the basis of what other evidence do you operate?

- The number of complaints about the impact of dog fouling has been increasing locally and such concerns are being reflected in the national media.
- The impact of the current pandemic has contributed to a worsening of the current situation. More dogs are being walked more often and a significant increase in dog ownership has been widely reported.
- Some groups, such as children, the visually impaired and wheelchair users may be more susceptible to accidental contact with dog fouling and the pathogens it may contain.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

The outcome of the consultation will be added to the evidence in 2.4

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must give due attention to the impact any changes will have on people with the following equality characteristics. What impact will the new policy/service or the changes in the policy or service have on people with equality characteristics? You are welcome to add other characteristics if you wish.

Characteristics	What type of impact? *	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including ethnicity)	-	No impact identified
The Welsh language	-	No impact identified
Disability	Positive	Pathogens from dog faeces can exacerbate certain health conditions. The proposed Order contains appropriate exemptions for dog owners with disabilities.
Gender	-	No impact identified
Age	Positive	A clean and safe play environment
Sexual orientation	-	No impact identified
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	-	No impact identified
Gender reassignment	-	No impact identified
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive	A clean and safe environment
Marriage and civil partnership	-	No impact identified

* Delete as required

3.2 The Council has a duty under the Equalities Act 2010 to contribute positively to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in its activities in the fields of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must give due attention to the way any change affects these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?	In what way? What is the evidence?
Abolishing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	None	No impact identified
Promoting equal opportunities	Yes	Equal opportunities for children to have a suitable place to play, and for wheelchair users.
Encouraging good relationships	None	No impact identified
Socio-Economic Duty	Yes	A clean and safe environment benefits the economy.

* Delete as required

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty? What is the reason for this?

Positive health effects identified, especially for children. It will be necessary to see whether the consultation highlights other positive effects.

4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty? What is the reason for this?

No significant negative impact has been identified but more information will be provided from the consultation.

4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	
Adapt the policy to delete any barriers	
Suspend and delete the policy as the detrimental impacts are too big	
Continue with the policy as any detrimental impact can be justified	
Proceed with the consultation to gather more information	X

4.4 If you continue with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

We will proceed with the consultation and assess what negative effects are identified

4.5 If you are not taking any further action to delete or reduce the negative impacts, explain why here.

It is premature to identify any effects.

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

We will identify the steps to be taken following the consultation