


EQUALITY ANALYSIS QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

Name of 'proposal' and how has it been implemented (proposal can be a policy, service, function, strategy, project, procedure, restructure/savings proposal)	Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2014/2015
Directorate / Service	CLC, Safer Communities, Consumer and Business Regulations
Lead Officer	David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations
Signed Off By (inc date)	Andy Bamber
Summary – to be completed at the end of completing the QA (using Appendix A) (Please provide a summary of the findings of the Quality Assurance checklist. What has happened as a result of the QA? For example, based on the QA a Full EA will be undertaken or, based on the QA a Full EA will not be undertaken as due regard to the nine protected groups is embedded in the proposal and the proposal has low relevance to equalities)	<p>Example</p> <p> Proceed with implementation</p> <p>As a result of performing the QA checklist, the policy, project or function does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> and no further actions are recommended at this stage.</p>

Stage	Checklist Area / Question	Yes / No / Unsure	Comment (If the answer is no/unsure, please ask the question to the SPP Service Manager or nominated equality lead to clarify)
1	Overview of Proposal		
a	Are the outcomes of the proposals clear?	Yes	This proposal sets out the Council's annual plan for effective enforcement of food safety legislation. It aims to ensure that food in the Borough is produced and sold under hygienic

			<p>conditions, without risk to health and is of the quality expected by consumers.</p>
<p>b</p>	<p>Is it clear who will be or is likely to be affected by what is being proposed (inc service users and staff)? Is there information about the equality profile of those affected?</p>	<p>Partial</p>	<p>A service in relation to food hygiene and food standards is provided primarily through the programmed inspection of food businesses and by responding to service requests including comments on planning and licensing applications.</p> <p>We currently have 85% of our food premises broadly compliant, which increased from 83% last year. In the forthcoming year it is expected that this may drop initially before improvements being sustained due to the changes to the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme implementation. Food businesses are now rated on their due inspection and not re-rated as a matter of course until their next inspection unless they request one. This effectively means that poorly performing premises will be left with a low score until their next due inspection. A predictive analysis on the effect this procedure will have on the B/C percentage would have put the year 13/14 at 72.7% rather than 85%.</p> <p>All residents in the Borough and visitors to the Borough will be positively affected by this proposal through securing food safety in the Borough. All food related businesses in the Borough benefit as reputations are maintained and potential Business risks are minimised by engagement with the service.</p> <p>Whilst the profile of food law enforcement or compliance against equality strands is not known the service is configured to engage effectively with businesses reflective of the Boroughs diverse population. Over half of Tower Hamlets' population are from non-white British ethnic groups.</p> <p>The data picture is further complicated by the fact that the service engages with companies who may be owned by people in different equality strands from those who operate</p>

			<p>the business premises in the Borough.</p> <p>The Development and Renewal (D&R) directorate have corporate lead responsibility for Business related data capture and are currently reviewing the technical implications in developing an equalities strand of their business data base.</p>
2	Monitoring / Collecting Evidence / Data and Consultation		
a	Is there reliable qualitative and quantitative data to support claims made about impacts?	NA	There is reliable data regarding the profile of residents who live and work in the Borough. There are basic assumptions made regarding equalities engagement based on this data. However, as explained above there is currently no data available to the Council on protected characteristics specific to borough businesses and no clear way of securing this accurately. This is a problem faced by all Local Authorities. D&R are reviewing this issue.
	Is there sufficient evidence of local/regional/national research that can inform the analysis?	No	
b	Has a reasonable attempt been made to ensure relevant knowledge and expertise (people, teams and partners) have been involved in the analysis?	Yes	
c	Is there clear evidence of consultation with stakeholders and users from groups affected by the proposal?	NA	This is a Technical Plan the format of which is guided by the FSA.
3	Assessing Impact and Analysis		
a	Are there clear links between the sources of evidence (information, data etc) and the interpretation of impact amongst the nine protected characteristics?	NA	
b	Is there a clear understanding of the way in which proposals applied in the same way can have unequal impact on different groups?	Yes	The key issues specific to this service relate to communication and education. Depending on protected characteristics of any specific business operative or owner the balance of effort specific to each varies. A range of targeted initiatives outlined in the plan address these issues

			within their design and application in the field.
4	Mitigation and Improvement Action Plan		
a	Is there an agreed action plan?	NA	There is no action plan to mitigate the impact on a particular group by the enforcement. However, the service undertakes a wide range of advice/training activities and food safety promotion for businesses in the Borough, which have helped them understand food safety and regulations and act accordingly.
b	Have alternative options been explored	NA	If the Council take no action the FSA have the power to remove food safety responsibilities and engage another authority to deliver the service.
5	Quality Assurance and Monitoring		
a	Are there arrangements in place to review or audit the implementation of the proposal?	Yes	The service, including the numbers of inspection ratings for food hygiene and food standards, has been monitored. Some of the monitoring results are included in a following year's annual Food Law Enforcement Service Plan.
b	Is it clear how the progress will be monitored to track impact across the protected characteristics??	NA	
6	Reporting Outcomes and Action Plan		
a	Does the executive summary contain sufficient information on the key findings arising from the assessment?	Yes	The summary identifies that the percentage of broadly compliant food premises in the Borough may drop initially before improvements being sustained due to the change to the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme implementation. The Council (D&R) was planning to develop a business equality data collection system, following the research study on the ownership and management characteristics of Tower Hamlets businesses. When available this will inform the Service on the key equalities characteristics of Tower Hamlets Businesses.