

Equality & Health Impact Assessment (EHIA)

Title of activity:	To implement Havering's Early Years Directory and Funding Agreement 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2030
Lead officer:	Pooneeta Mahadeo, School Organisation Manager, Starting Well
Approved by:	Trevor Cook, Assistant Director Education
Version Number	V0.1
Version Number Date and Key Changes Made	V0.1 30/12/2024 to reflect the new changes to the offers for working parents

Did you seek advice from the Corporate Policy & Legal? Please note that the Corporate Policy & Legal and Public Health teams require at least <u>5 working days</u> to provide advice on EHIAs.	No
Did you seek advice from the Public Health team?	No
Does the EHIA contain any confidential or exempt information that would prevent you publishing it on the Council's website? See Publishing Checklist.	No

Please note that EHIAs are **public** documents and unless they contain confidential or sensitive commercial information must be made available on the Council's <u>EqHIA</u> webpage.

Please submit the completed form via e-mail to READI@havering.gov.uk thank you.

1. Equality Health Impact Assessment Checklist

Please complete the following checklist to determine whether or not you will need to complete an EHIA and ensure you keep this section for your audit trail. If you have any questions, please contact READI@havering.gov.uk for advice from either the Corporate Diversity or Public Health teams. Please refer to this Guidance on how to complete this form.

About your activity

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1	Title of activity	To implement Havering's Early Years Directory and Funding Agreement 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2030
2	Type of activity	Policy
3	Scope of activity	This policy refers to what should be included in agreements between local authorities and providers (provider agreements) and refers to early years provision free of charge (sections 7 and 7A of the Childcare Act 2006) and free childcare (section 2 of the Childcare Act 2016) as the 'free entitlement(s)' or 'free hours' or a 'free place'. The model agreement applies to the 15 hour entitlement for the most disadvantaged two-year olds, 15 hours from nine months to two years for working parents up to 31 August 2025, from 1 September 2025 working parents will be able to claim an additional 15 hours which will equate up to 30 hours a week. The 15 hour entitlement for parents of three- and four-year olds (the universal entitlement) and the 30 hours entitlement for working parents of three-and four-year – olds (the extended entitlement). The extended entitlement to 30 hours free provision – an additional 15 hours for working parents of three-and four-year olds (on top of the universal entitlement of 15 hours a week for all three and four year olds). Eligibility for the additional hours will be determined by HMRC;
		how local authorities should pay providers to deliver free entitlement places; and
		 requirement on local authorities to publish information about childcare in their area including the free entitlements.
		Havering's Early years directory and funding agreement builds on the guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) and is intended to enable providers and the Local Authority to understand their respective roles and to ensure that the Early Years Free early education delivers the best outcomes for children and their families. Havering, the Local Authority has a

		from nine mo	onths onward e of high qua	ds up to fo ality provis	ursery education ur year olds in a ion in order to n parents'
		financial arra	ingements fo	or making	I to explain the payments to e free places that
		The report so note the outo	comes of the		net members to and Funding
		Engagement Reference G early years p	roup, with e	•	Provider professional and
		Early educa	tion and chi	<u>ldcare - G</u>	<u>OV.UK</u>
4a	Are you changing, introducing a new, or removing a service, policy, strategy or function?	Yes	If the answ		
4b	Does this activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon people from different backgrounds?	Yes	questions is 'YES', please continue to question 5. If the answer to all of the questions (4a, 4b)		
4c	Does the activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon any factors which determine people's health and wellbeing?	Yes	Please use the Screening tool before you answer this question.	If you answer 'YES', please continue to question 5.	& 4c) is ' NO ', please go to question 6 .
5	If you answered YES:	Please comp document. F			
6	If you answered NO:	does not requ	uire an ÉHIA allenged unde	. This is es er the Equa	ny your activity sential, in case the ality Act 2010. udit trail.

Completed by:	Pooneeta Mahadeo, School Organisation Manager, Starting Well
Date:	30/12/2024

2. The EHIA – How will the strategy, policy, plan, procedure and/or service impact on people?

Background/context:

The Council has a statutory duty to secure early years provision free of charge and secure sufficient childcare for working parents, early years providers will not be able to deliver early education and childcare places for 15 hours from nine months to two years for working parents up to 31 August 2025, from 1 September 2025 working parents will be able to claim up to 30 hours a week from 9 months onwards, 2, 3 and four year olds to enable parents to take up, or remain in, work, or undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work. The purpose of the funding agreement is to set the expectations between the local authority and an early education and childcare provider for delivery of the free early education and childcare entitlements.

KEY LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Local Authority:

- Must secure a free entitlement place for every eligible child in their area
- Should work in partnership with Providers to agree how to deliver free entitlement places.
- Should be clear about their role and the support on offer locally to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) as well as their expectations of providers.
- Must contribute to the safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and young people in their area.
- Must clearly publish a list of traded service elements which may be applicable to early education and childcare delivery.

KEY PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Provider agrees to use any early education and childcare payment received from the Local Authority for the delivery of the free early education and childcare provision in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in below:

The Provider shall during the Agreement period provide:

- Childcare
- Early Education places for 9 months onwards to four year olds children depending on their eligibility from within the administrative boundary London Borough of Havering in accordance with this Agreement. ("Services")
- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding to improve the education they provide. This is now applicable to all children assessing the early education entitlements depending on their eligibility.
- The provider must have arrangements in place to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These arrangements should include a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND. Providers should utilise the SEN inclusion fund and Disability Access Fund to deliver effective support, whilst making information available about their SEND offer to parents.

Who will be affected by the activity?

- All parents/carers of pupils resident in Havering
- All pupils attending a Havering early years provision
- All early years providers
- Havering residents especially those who are residents near an early years provision
- Housing Developers and those seeking planning permission for residential property

*Expand box as required

Protected C	Shara	cteristic - Age: Consider the full range of age groups	
If there is an imp	pact on	under 18s, how have you / will you ensure their views are gained to inform decision making?	
Please tick (<u> </u>	Overall impact:	
the relevant l	box:		
Positive	~	This aligns with key priorities in our corporate plan such as "We support residents of all ages to live socially connected, independent	
Neutral		and healthy lives. We engage with individuals, families and our partners to help residents reach their full potential"	
Negative		For Early Years Children we plan to use the childcare capital expansion funding for the remodeling of existing space within primary schools and early years provisions to deliver new provision. All of the above will positively impact on the quality of Early Year care available within the borough, having a knock on effect to the parents of those children. The expansions to the borough will provide new job opportunities, positively impacting on adults of a working age, giving a boost to the local economy. *Expand box as required	

Evidence:

The Children and Young People Education Place Planning Plan highlights that 'In Havering, we have seen an increase of 52% in the number of births between calendar years 2002 to 2016. This includes a 19% increase in the birth rate from 2012 to 2016. However since the birth rate peaked in 2016, we have seen a year on year reduction in the birth rate in Havering, with the birth rate decreasing by 11% between 2016 to 2021.'

The Plan details how the Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023 -27 will ensure sufficiency of early years places for years to come.

*Expand box as required

Sources used: -

- 2021-based BPO Projections
- Providers who are delivering funded early education and childcare (EE&C) places
- Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023-27
- Based on 2024/25 Projections

Protected Characteristic - Disability: Consider the full range of disabilities; including physical, mental, sensory, progressive conditions and learning difficulties. Also consider neurodivergent conditions e.g. dyslexia and autism.

Please tick (the relevant b	,	Overall impact:
the relevant t	JUX.	
Positive	~	The expanded entitlement to early years places will positively impact those with SEND and their families, to meet increasing demand and to build
Neutral		inclusion within the community. Making appropriate local provision available is positive for children with special educational needs.
Negative		*Expand box as required

Evidence:

Children's needs can change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school.

We are projecting an increase in the number of pupils with SEND from Early Years and we expect this to continue in the future with the highest growing need category being in Communication and Interaction needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH).

*Expand box as required

Sources used:

- Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023-27
- Havering High Needs Strategy 2027 2022

*Expand box as required

Protected Characteristic – Sex / gender: Consider both men and women		
Please tick (Overall impact:
the relevant l	box:	
Positive	✓	The overall impact on is positive for both men and women. As early years provision are run by a mixture of both men and women.
Neutral		provident are run by a mixture of bear men and wellien.
Negative		*Expand box as required

Evidence:

All early years provisions are co-educational.

*Expand box as required

Sources used:

- Early Education and Childcare Directory and Funding Agreement
- Early year census

Protected C	Protected Characteristic – Ethnicity / race / nationalities: Consider the impact on		
different min	different minority ethnic groups and nationalities		
,	Please tick (🗸) the relevant box: Overall impact:		
Positive	The overall impact on this protected characteristic is neutral. National		
1 OSILIVE	legislation determines that education establishments including early years		

Neutral	✓	provision cannot discriminate on ethnicity or racial grounds.
Negative		*Expand box as required

Evidence:

According to the Census 2021, London remains the most ethnically diverse region of England and saw an 8.1% percentage point decrease in people who identified as White British from 44.9% in 2011 to 36.8% in 2021. Havering also followed this trend with a 16.8% percentage point decrease from 83.3% in 2011 to 66.5% in 2021. Havering and Bromley are the least diverse London Boroughs with both having a White British population of 66.5%. This compares with 74.4% for England, but is significantly higher than the 36.8% figure for London.

However, all our education provision is fully inclusive. Ethnicity or race is not a factor when considering the commissioning of early years provision.

*Expand box as required

Sources used:

- Early year census
- School Census data

*Expand box as required

Protected C	Protected Characteristic – Religion / faith: Consider people from different religions of		
beliefs, inclu	beliefs, including those with no religion or belief		
Please tick (()	Overall impact:	
the relevant l	box:	The overall impact on people from different religions or beliefs including those	
Positive	~	with no religion or belief is positive. National legislation determines that early years cannot discriminate on religion grounds.	
Neutral			
Negative		*Expand box as required	

Protected Characteristic Policion / faith: Consider people from different religions or

Evidence:

The diversity across Havering is further demonstrated by the varying early years provisions and governance structure within Havering.

*Expand box as required

Sources used:

- Early Education and Childcare Directory and Funding Agreement
- Early year census ethnicity data

Protected Characteristic - Sexual orientation: Consider people who are heterosexual,		
lesbian, gay	or bis	sexual
Please tick (<u>()</u>	Overall impact:
the relevant k	box:	-
Positive		The overall impact on this protected characteristic is neutral. All our early years provisions are fully inclusive.
Neutral	~	

Negative		*Expand box as required
Evidence:		
		s not considered as a factor when commissioning early years provision or in f sufficiency of provision.
		*Expand box as required
Sources u	sed:	
• [Early ye	ar census
		*Expand box as required

Protected (Protected Characteristic - Gender reassignment: Consider people who are seeking,					
undergoing	undergoing or have received gender reassignment surgery, as well as people whose					
gender ider	gender identity is different from their gender at birth					
Please tick (V)	Overall impact:				
the relevant	box:	·				
Positive The overall impact on this protected characteristic is neutral. All our early years provisions are fully inclusive.						
Neutral	~					
Negative		*Expand box as required				
Evidence:						
Gender reassignment is not considered as a factor when commissioning early years provision or in the determination of sufficiency of provision.						
		*Expand box as required				

Protected Characteristic – Marriage / civil partnership: Consider people in a marriage
or civil partnership

or civil partn	ersnij	snip				
Please tick (✓) the relevant box:		Overall impact:				
Positive		The overall impact on this protected characteristic is neutral. All our early years provisions are fully inclusive.				
Neutral	✓					
Negative		*Expand box as required				

Evidence:

Sources used:

Early year census

Marriage/civil partnership is not considered as a factor when commissioning early years provision or in the determination of sufficiency of provision.

*Expand box as required

Sources used:

Early year census

*Expand box as required

Protected Characteristic - Pregnancy, maternity and paternity: Consider those who					
are pregnant and those who are taking maternity or paternity leave					
Please tick (✓) the relevant box:	Overall impact:				
	The overall impact on this protected characteristic is positive. All our early years provisions are fully inclusive.				
	Ensuring there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for early years, places				
Negative	across the borough will enable us fulfil our statutory duty. However, our ability to meet demand for early years and childcare places has a future impact on those who are currently pregnant, on maternity or paternity leave. *Expand box as required				

Evidence:

With the expanded entitlement of early years places this will have a positive impact on this protected characteristic as working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years old are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week from September 2024. From September 2025, they will be entitled to up to 30 hours per week.

*Expand box as required

Sources used:

- Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023 27
- Early Years Marketing
- Information about the early years and childcare offers for new parent via Children Centres

*Expand box as required

Socio-ecor	Socio-economic status: Consider those who are from low income or financially excluded				
background	ls				
Please tick (✓)		Overall impact:			
the relevant box:					
Positive	~	The overall impact on individuals from low-income or financially excluded backgrounds is positive. The provision of places for disadvantaged two-year-			
Neutral		olds, which the majority of our providers offer, plays a significant role in supporting this protected characteristic. This targeted approach ensures that children from financially vulnerable families have access to early education			
Negative		and childcare, fostering inclusivity and reducing barriers to their development and future opportunities.			
		*Expand box as required			
l					

Evidence:

The uptake of disadvantaged two-year-old places, offered by the majority of our providers, remains strong. This demonstrates the commitment of providers to supporting vulnerable families and ensuring access to high-quality early education for children who need it most.

Sources used:

- Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023-27
- Early year census
- Department of Working Pension 2 year old data
- Online application form on <u>www.havering.gov.uk/fsd</u>
- Marketing for parents postcards, text message alerts, email alerts

Health & Wellbeing Impact:						
Consider both short and long-term impacts of the activity on a person's physical and mental health, particularly for disadvantaged, vulnerable or at-risk groups. Can health and wellbeing be positively promoted through this activity?						
	Please tick () all Overall impact:					
the relevant boxes that ap	ply:	The overall impact on health and wellbeing is positive.				
Positive 🗸		Aside from the many benefits accessing a good education can have on the whole child there is also a wider positive impact on the community; socially,				
Neutral		economically (by providing job opportunities) and through providing access to services/ facilities/ amenities.				
		*Expand box as required				
Negative		Do you consider that a more in-depth HIA is required as a result of this brief assessment? Please tick (✓) the relevant box				
		Yes □ No ✓				
Evidence:						
Havering Children's Services vision is clear: we are here to enable all children and families in the borough to lead happy, healthy lives, where all children get a good start in life and live in a borough where families and communities look after themselves and each other. *Expand box as required.						
•	ad ha _l	ppy, healthy lives, where all children get a good start in life and live in a ilies and communities look after themselves and each other.				
•	ad ha _l re fam	ppy, healthy lives, where all children get a good start in life and live in a				
Sources us	ad hap re fam ed:	ppy, healthy lives, where all children get a good start in life and live in a ilies and communities look after themselves and each other.				

3. Health & Wellbeing Screening Tool

Will the activity / service / policy / procedure affect any of the following characteristics? Please tick/check the boxes below

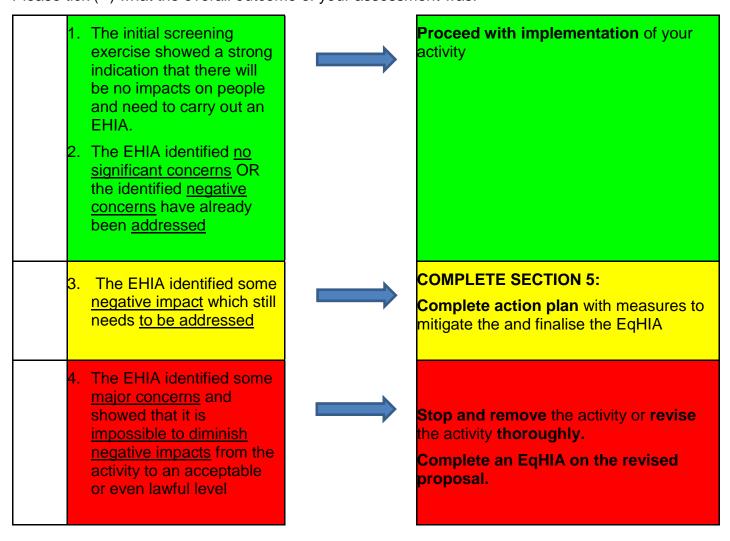
The following are a range of considerations that might help you to complete the assessment.

Lifestyle YES ⊠ NO x	Personal circumstances YES NO	Access to services/facilities/amenities YES NO
Diet	Structure and cohesion of family unit	to Employment opportunities
🔀 Exercise and physical activity	∴ Parenting ∴ Par	
☐ Smoking	☐ Childhood development	to Housing
Exposure to passive smoking	∠ Life skills	to Shops (to supply basic needs)
☐ Alcohol intake	Personal safety	to Community facilities
Dependency on prescription drugs		to Public transport
☐ Illicit drug and substance use	☐ Working conditions	□ to Education
Risky Sexual behaviour	∠ Level of income, including benefits	to Training and skills development
Other health-related behaviours, such	□ Level of disposable income	to Healthcare
as tooth-brushing, bathing, and wound	☐ Housing tenure	□ to Social services
care	☐ Housing conditions	
	⊠ Educational attainment	to Respite care
	Skills levels including literacy and numeracy	to Leisure and recreation services and facilities
Social Factors YES 🛛 NO 🗌	Economic Factors YES NO	Environmental Factors YES NO
Social contact	Creation of wealth	Air quality
Social support	□ Distribution of wealth □ Distr	☐ Water quality
☐ Neighbourliness	Retention of wealth in local area/economy	Soil quality/Level of contamination/Odour
Participation in the community	☐ Distribution of income	Noise levels
Membership of community groups	Business activity	☐ Vibration
Reputation of community/area	☐ Job creation	☐ Hazards
Participation in public affairs	Availability of employment opportunities	Land use
Level of crime and disorder	Quality of employment opportunities	Natural habitats
Fear of crime and disorder	Availability of education opportunities	Biodiversity
Level of antisocial behaviour	Quality of education opportunities	Landscape, including green and open spaces
Fear of antisocial behaviour	Availability of training and skills development opportunities	Townscape, including civic areas and public realm
☐ Discrimination	Quality of training and skills development opportunities	☐ Use/consumption of natural resources
Fear of discrimination	☐ Technological development	Energy use: CO2/other greenhouse gas emissions
☐ Public safety measures	Amount of traffic congestion	☐ Solid waste management
☐ Road safety measures		Public transport infrastructure

4. Outcome of the Assessment

The EHIA assessment is intended to be used as an improvement tool to make sure the activity maximises the positive impacts and eliminates or minimises the negative impacts. The possible outcomes of the assessment are listed below and what the next steps to take are:

Please tick (✓) what the overall outcome of your assessment was:



5. Action Plan

The real value of completing an EqHIA comes from identifying the actions that can be taken to eliminate/minimise **negative** impacts and enhance/optimise positive impacts. In this section you should list the specific actions that set out how you will mitigate or reduce any **negative** equality and/or health & wellbeing impacts, identified in this assessment. Please ensure that your action plan is: more than just a list of proposals and good intentions; if required, will amend the scope and direction of the change; sets ambitious yet achievable outcomes and timescales; and is clear about resource implications.

Protected characteristic / health & wellbeing impact	Identified Negative or Positive impact	Recommended actions to mitigate Negative impact* or further promote Positive impact	Outcomes and monitoring**	Timescale	Lead officer
Age, Sex/gender, Religion/faith, Disability, Socio-economic status, Pregnancy, maternity, paternity, Health and Wellbeing	Positive	Continue to monitor and review the Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023 -27 will ensure sufficiency of early years places for years to come.	To ensure sufficiency of early years places for years to come	2026/27	Pooneeta Mahadeo
Ethnicity / race / nationalities, Sexual orientation, Gender reassignment, Marriage / civil partnership	Neutral	Continue to monitor and review at present these protected characteristic are is not considered as a factor when commissioning early years provision or in the determination of sufficiency of provision	To ensure we continue to monitor and review at these protected characteristic	2026/27	Pooneeta Mahadeo

Add further rows as necessary

^{*} You should include details of any future consultations and any actions to be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts.

^{**} Monitoring: You should state how the impact (positive or negative) will be monitored; what outcome measures will be used; the known (or likely) data source for outcome measurements; how regularly it will be monitored; and who will be monitoring it (if this is different from the lead officer).

6. Review

In this section you should identify how frequently the EqHIA will be reviewed; the date for next review; and who will be reviewing it.

Review:

The EHIA will be reviewed in line with updates to implement Havering's Early Years Directory and Funding Agreement 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2030

Scheduled date of review: December 2027

Lead Officer conducting the review: Pooneeta Mahadeo, School Organisation Manager,

Starting Well.

*Expand box as required

Please submit the completed form via e-mail to READI@havering.gov.uk thank you.