

Equality Impact Assessment – Summary Report

Department: Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs	Date: 23 December 2009
Completing Officer's Name: Jan Turner	
Policy, Strategy, Service or Plan that was Impact Assessed: Big Lottery LEAD Project	
Summary of findings: The LEAD project aims to improve the physical capacity in five libraries in Hampshire to attract a wider cross section of users and create facilities for adult learning and community activities. The project will be delivered in areas where there is a current lack of local adult learning provision, a concentration of demographic deprivation and low educational attainment. Four of these libraries are in the borough of Havant (Havant, Waterlooville, Leigh Park and Hayling Island) and the fifth is in the town of Aldershot. The LEAD project will engage with adults and families who are not normal library users, and who may be deterred from going back into a school environment to continue their learning. The libraries will be refurbished with relaxed learning spaces to create a friendly, neutral environment to enable people to improve their life skills, leading to greater opportunities in life. The LEAD project will deliver benefits to the some of the poorest areas in Hampshire. The project will also encourage greater community involvement with a volunteer programme. The refurbishment of the libraries will also encourage existing visitors to the LEAD libraries (over 1,000,000 visits per annum) to make better use of the facilities and engage in further learning. All the LEAD libraries will have Community Management Panels which give people in the local community a bigger voice in the delivery of services. The Community Management Panels, one for each of the libraries, will continue to provide valuable feedback on the services, which in turn will provide opportunities for further improvement and development. There will also be evaluations of the courses which will help ensure that the content remains relevant. Ideally there will be succession planning so the opportunities for learning do not end when the project does.	

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Summary of Recommendations:

Identify future developments using feedback from the Community Management Panels and from the courses.

Ensure consideration is given to future funding so that targeted learning can be continue to be delivered beyond the end of the programme in 2012.

The completed impact assessment needs to be published. Please send this to the relevant person in your department to ensure that it is up-loaded onto your departmental website.