

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Environment
Service Area	Parks
Service/policy/function being assessed	Encourage use of parks by people who face barriers to accessing parks
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Richmond upon Thames
Staff involved	Yvonne Kelleher & Frances Bennett (Consultant)
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager	Clare O'Connor 30 th October 2019

SUMMARY

Richmond Council has a commitment to continually improve its parks and open spaces making them accessible to all users including people and families with children who are visually impaired

1. Background

We are seeking to understand how people with sight impairments and their families currently use parks, and what the barriers are to making a visit. We are also interested in understanding what would improve the quality of the experience of their visit and what they would like to do once they get there. Improvements such as clear signage, unobstructed pathways and multi-sensory displays will benefit all park visitors, but we are seeking to understand how these can be designed to include people with visual impairments but we want to understand if they have any additional needs that should be addressed. The findings can be incorporated into the development of future Friendly Parks for All projects and be used to develop facilities in Kneller Gardens Friendly Park.

2. Analysis of need and impact

Protected group	Findings
Age	<p>Population data The borough has a total population of 200 703 (2019 DataRich) Of these</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 301 1188 (15.4%) are aged over 65. • 45 791 (23%) are aged 0-17 years <p>Findings There are a significant proportion of the population of the borough with age protected characteristics who would benefit from improvements to parks which could include clear signage, unobstructed pathways and multi-sensory displays.</p>
Disability	<p>Population data The RNIB sight loss data tool estimates that in Richmond the percentage of people living with sight loss compared to overall population is 2.82% (3.43% for 2030). This translates into a total for the borough is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5680 people who suffer from visual impairment • 285 people who are blind.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number will rise to 7290 in 2030. • In Richmond there are over 3180 (2018) people aged 65+ who suffer from sight loss or blindness. • 580 people who have visual impairment or sight loss also have an additional disability. 70 blind people have an additional disability. • 120 Children (aged 0-25) in the borough are blind or partially sighted • 59 of these have additional educational needs.(2019) <p>Findings The proposed consultation aims understand how people with sight impairments/ the blind and their families currently use parks, and what the barriers are to visits. We are also interested in understanding what would improve the quality of the experience of their visit and what they would like to do once they get there. Although lower than the national average there is a significant proportion of people living in the borough who have sight loss or are blind. The number of residents is set to rise over the next 10 years.</p>
Gender	<p>Population data 96,973 Male population (2018) and 102,446 Female population (2018) (2019 DataRich)</p> <p>Findings No specific issues raised</p>
Ethnicity	<p>Population data 31,626 (16%) of the population is Black, Asian or Mixed Ethnicity (2019 DataRich)</p> <p>Findings No specific issues raised</p>
Religion of belief	<p>Population data Buddhist 0.8%, Christian 55.3%, Hindu 1.6%, Jewish 0.8%, Muslim 3.3%, Sikh 0.8%, Other religion 0.5% No religion 28.4% (2019 DataRich)</p> <p>Findings No specific issues raised</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Population data Borough-level data on Gender Reassignment is sparse (DataRich, 2019)</p> <p>Findings No specific issues raised</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Population data Married 47% of population, Separated 2%, Divorced 8%, same sex civil partnership 0.4% Single 37%, widowed 5% (DataRich 2019)</p> <p>Findings No specific issues raised</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>Population data Borough-level data on Sexual Orientation is sparse (DataRich, 2019)</p> <p>Findings No specific issues raised</p>

3. Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	<p>We are seeking to understand how people with sight impairments and their families currently use parks, and what the barriers are to visits to parks. The findings will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks. This will encourage positive engagement by this group which currently consists of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3180 (2018) people aged 65+ who suffer from sight loss or blindness. • 120 Children (aged 0-25) in the borough are blind or partially sighted • 1,260 working age people living with sight loss (18-64) (2018) 	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>
Disability	<p>The consultation will help us understand how people with disability use parks in the borough and what the barriers are to use of them. The outcomes of the consultation will be used to improve access for people with visual impairments/blind. This will encourage positive engagement by this group which currently (2018) consists of 5680 people who suffer from visual impairment and 285 people who are blind.</p>	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>
Gender	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB data sets which shows gender of people with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact on one gender over another. The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks. This will encourage positive engagement by this group.</p>	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>
Ethnicity	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB which shows</p>	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to</p>

	<p>ethnicity of people with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact on any one ethnicity over another.</p> <p>The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks.</p> <p>This will encourage positive engagement by this group.</p>	<p>understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>
Religion of belief	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB which shows religion or belief of people with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact on one religion/belief group over another.</p> <p>The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks.</p> <p>This will encourage positive engagement by this group.</p>	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB which shows gender reassignment data for people with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact.</p> <p>The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks.</p> <p>This will encourage positive engagement by this group.</p>	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB which shows partnership data for people with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact. However from research we know that most people with serious sight problems will visit with sighted friends and family and they should be able to enjoy all the facilities together. <u>RNIB Designing gardens and nature trails: factsheet (2015)</u></p> <p>The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks.</p>	<p>Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.</p>

	This will encourage positive engagement by this group.	
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB which data for pregnant women with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact.</p> <p>From research RNIB Designing gardens and nature trails: factsheet (2015) we know that most people with serious sight problems will visit with sighted friends and family and they should be able to enjoy all the facilities together, this will include mothers with young children and babies.</p> <p>There are currently 90 children aged 0-16 in the borough (2018) who could potentially benefit from improvements to parks through this consultation.</p> <p>The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks.</p> <p>This will encourage positive engagement by this group.</p>	Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.
Sexual orientation	<p>There is currently no data available via DataRich or RNIB which shows sexual orientation data for people with visual impairment/blind, so it is unclear if there will be any positive impact.</p> <p>The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks.</p> <p>This will encourage positive engagement by this group.</p>	Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further.
Summary	Although lower than the national average there are a significant number of people affected by sight loss or blindness who live in the borough. The Friendly Parks for All project seeks to encourage positive engagement in borough parks by all members of the community. We are seeking to understand the needs and barriers to engagement by this group in order to incorporate their needs	Currently no negative impacts have been identified. We shall seek to understand any comments outlining negative impacts made during consultation and investigate them further with a view to mitigating against them in any future recommendations for the design of Friendly Parks for All.

	<p>and minimise where possible the barriers. The findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the design of future Friendly Parks for All parks. This will encourage positive engagement by people with visual impairment/blind. We will use the learning from the consultation to model Kneller Gardens as a park suitable for this group of users.</p>	
--	--	--

4. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
<p>To work with the team at Achieving for Children who work with families of children with visual impairment / blind to understand the needs of the group. A background paper for the project was produced.</p>	Frances Bennett/Yvonne Kelleher	November 2019
<p>To carry out a public consultation to understand the needs and barriers of people with visual impairments / blind and their families and to request recommendations or feedback from respondents who have visual impairments /blind, their families and friends, support workers or local charities.</p> <p>The EINA will be updated with any equality considerations raised by the above.</p> <p>Any concerns raised by residents will be addressed.</p>	Frances Bennett/Yvonne Kelleher	Spring 2020
<p>Learnings from the consultation will be included in the audit document used to assess “Friendly Parks” to ensure that they are suitable for people who are visually impaired/blind.</p>		

5. Consultation. (optional section– as appropriate)

<p>A public consultation is to be undertaken from [date] to understand the needs and barriers of people with visual impairments / blind and their families and to request recommendations or feedback from respondents who have visual impairments /blind, their families and friends, support workers or local charities.</p>
--