

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service, and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration. In all appropriate instances we will need to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration impact assessment.

This form:

- can be used to prompt discussion when carrying out your impact assessment
- should be completed either during the assessment process or following completion of the assessment
- should include a brief explanation where a section is not applicable

<b>Directorate: Communities, Housing and Environments</b>	<b>Service area: Safer Stronger Communities - LASBT</b>
<b>Lead person: Claire Smith</b>	<b>Contact number: 01133786428</b>
<b>Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration impact assessment: 9/6/23</b>	

**1. Title: Public Space Protection Order**

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**
                 
  **Service / Function**
                 
  **Other**

**If other, please specify**  
 Service Improvement – Leeds City Council is proposing to renew an existing Public Space Protection Order across the Inner North West area of Leeds and this will have a duration of three years. The order will curb behaviours associated with the anti-social behaviour, unauthorised events that cause noise nuisance, urinating/defecating in public, possessing open containers of alcohol where the possession of alcohol is or is likely to cause ASB, use of intoxicating substances such as “psychoactives” in a public place, verbal abuse including that of a sexual nature towards females, household waste being left on streets.

The proposal also includes provisions for groups of 2 or more people causing ASB to be directed to leave the area for 24 hours.

**2. Members of the assessment team:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist</b>
John McKimmings	LASBT	Team Manager
Daniel Spellman	LASBT	Team Supervisor
Kevin Shillito	LCC Legal Services	Section Head
Kevin Brighton	Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team	Service Development & Improvement Manager

Claire Smith	Safer Stronger Communities Team	Head of Service – Safer Neighbourhoods & ASB
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### 3. Summary of strategy, policy, service, or function that was assessed:

Leeds City Council is proposing to introduce a Public Space Protection Order within the “restricted” area.

The Public Space Protection Order will make provision to prohibit a number of anti-social and nuisance behaviours linked to anti-social behaviour, unauthorised events that cause noise nuisance, urinating/defecating in public, possessing open containers of alcohol where the possession of alcohol is or is likely to cause ASB, use of intoxicating substances such as “psychoactives” in a public place, verbal abuse including that of a sexual nature towards females and household waste being left on streets which are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life to the community.

The proposed order will cover only the Inner North West of Leeds, affecting Headingley & Hyde Park; Little London & Woodhouse (part) and Weetwood (part) electoral wards

Anti-social behaviour impacts North West Leeds communities in many ways and as such a PSPO was enacted in July 2020 to address community concerns around several specific issues affecting public spaces. The PSPO was put in place for a fixed period of 3 years and is now due for renewal. Within the life of the existing PSPO, a number of behaviours have changed and there have been emerging trends which cause concern for those living in, working in, and visiting the proposed restricted area, which would remain unchanged from the existing PSPO. The behaviours that have caused greatest concern are:

- Nuisance caused by unauthorised events in public spaces such as parks, and on streets
- Groups of people engaging in anti-social behaviour in a public space
- Groups of people obstructing or blocking public pavements and roads in a public space
- Insulting behaviour, including that of a sexual nature towards females in a public space
- People urinating or defecating in public spaces
- Anti-social behaviour linked to consumption of alcohol in public spaces
- Anti-Social behaviour linked to consumption of psychoactive substances in public spaces

**Please Note:** The legislation defines a public space as ‘*any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.*’

It is anticipated that associated proactive publicity and education around the terms of the Public Spaces Protection Order will set some “ground rules” outlining what is not acceptable in the ‘restricted area.’ Statutory notification publicity will be both generic web based, and ‘focused’ in areas where it may have the most impact This Public Spaces Protection Order is designed to discourage people from acting or engaging in nuisance and anti-social behaviour; and it is further anticipated that community cohesion will be enhanced following proactive use of Public Spaces Protection Order publicity and powers.

Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team and West Yorkshire Police will continue to work with support and diversionary agencies and other agencies within established multi agency crime reduction partnerships. The PSPO is designed to work alongside other behaviour change and education initiatives rather than just act as an enforcement process. Safer Stronger Communities, Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team and West Yorkshire Police have agreed the proposed terms and the PSPO ‘restricted area.’ Equally these have been consulted with the general public, business forums, residents group, Chief Constable and the Deputy West Yorkshire Mayor.

The statutory public consultation process has been adhered to by means of an online public survey, promoted through social media and via the Leeds Citizens Panel as well as via residents groups, neighbourhood watch schemes, local universities, and local business forums.

Before introducing a PSPO the council must decide if it passes the legal test. For this, the behaviour being restricted must

- Be having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- Be persistent or continuing in nature; and
- Be unreasonable ·
- Justify the restrictions imposed

Safer Leeds has considered evidence and anecdotal supporting information and is satisfied that the test has been met.

The detrimental behaviours which this Public Spaces Protection Order aims to tackle are: anti-social behaviour, unauthorised events that cause noise nuisance, urinating/defecating in public, possessing open containers of alcohol where the possession of alcohol is or is likely to cause ASB, use of intoxicating substances such as “psychoactives” in a public place, verbal abuse including that of a sexual nature towards females and household waste being left on streets.

Terms were agreed by Legal Services as an appropriate response to the detrimental behaviours this proposed PSPO aims to tackle.

**4. Scope of the equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration impact assessment**  
(Complete - 4a. if you are assessing a strategy, policy, or plan and 4b. if you are assessing a service, function, or event)

<b>4a. Strategy, policy, or plan</b> (Please tick the appropriate box below)	
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes and the supporting guidance	
A specific section within the strategy, policy, or plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please provide detail:</b>	

<b>4b. Service, function, event</b> please tick the appropriate box below	
The whole service (Including service provision and employment)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific part of the service (Including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service)	X
Procuring of a service (By contract or grant)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please provide detail: Service improvement designed to combat certain behaviours as part of the strategy to reduce and prevent anti-social behaviour in all its forms.</b>	

<p><b>5. Fact finding – what do we already know</b>          Make a note here of all information you will be using to carry out this assessment. This could include previous consultation, involvement, research, results from perception surveys, equality monitoring and customer/ staff feedback.</p> <p>(Priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration related information)</p> <p><b>Consultation and Engagement</b></p> <p>Safer Stronger Communities has carried out extensive engagement and consultation with community safety partner agencies, Leeds City Council Ward Members, West Yorkshire Police (including the Chief Constable), and the Deputy West Yorkshire Mayor for Crime and Policing. All of whom support the proposed PSPO.</p>
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It is recognised that the PSPO consultation could be of interest to many sections of the community, including public and special interest groups. Accordingly, Safer Stronger Communities Team have consulted widely. The public consultation survey (on [www.leeds.gov.uk/pspo](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/pspo)) promoted through LCC and West Yorkshire Police social media links and through the Leeds Citizens Panel, generated a response of 340 respondents from across the restricted area. To support an understanding of community concerns each prohibition was separately consulted upon within the survey. The prohibitions were on average supported by over 89.3% of respondents.

**Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information**

**Please provide detail:**

No

**Action required:**

N/a

**6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested**

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:**

The statutory consultation survey was web based and this commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and ran until 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The consultation was publicised using social media, and through local initiatives by Leeds City Council staff.

The consultation was promoted by local ward members and publicised to special interest partners such as local business forums, local pub watch scheme, the local Universities and Students Union. Local residents groups and neighbourhood watch schemes also publicised the consultation to their members.

**Action required:**

n/a

**7. Who may be affected by this activity?**

please tick all relevant and significant equality characteristics, stakeholders and barriers that apply to your strategy, policy, service, or function

**Equality characteristics**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carers             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex (male or female) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                           |  |  |

(Other can include – marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being)

Please specify:

**Stakeholders**

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Services users | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employees | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Unions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partners       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members   | <input type="checkbox"/> Suppliers    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify      |   |                                       |

**Potential barriers**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built environment  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location of premises and services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information and communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer care                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timing                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Stereotypes and assumptions                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost               | <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation and involvement                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial exclusion           | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and training                      |

x

**specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services, or function**

**Please specify**

- Resource availability to effectively enforce the order and manage customer expectations.
- Displacement of some activity on to private land.
- Cost to services providing additional resources to hotspot areas in order to enforce. Increased legal costs.
- No costs for signage as this is a renewal of a PSPO

**8. Positive and negative impact**

Think about what you are assessing (scope), the fact-finding information, the potential positive and negative impact on equality characteristics, stakeholders, and the effect of the barriers

**8a. Positive impact:**

1. Reduced levels of nuisance and anti-social behaviour associated with
  - Unauthorised events that cause nuisance
  - Urinating/defecating in public
  - Possessing open containers of alcohol where the possession of alcohol is, or is likely to cause ASB
  - Use of intoxicating substances such as “psychoactives” in a public space
  - Verbal abuse including that of a sexual nature towards females
  - Household waste being left on the streets
2. Safer conditions for road users and pedestrians, including those with disabilities.
3. A more pleasant environment where there is a reduction in women, girls and those identifying as female feeling unsafe due to sexual harassment
4. Improvement to the quality of life for all residents, workers and visitors across the communities affected by this behaviour.
5. Safer communities and improved community cohesion
6. Reduced complaints and dissatisfaction from customers.
7. Reduced calls for service to both West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council.

**Action required:**

None at this stage

<p><b>8b. Negative impact:</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The prohibition around blocking pavements and roads could be seen as negative by licensed premises and their customers.</li> <li>2. Some of the measures proposed, could be seen as the Council “cracking down” on what has been seen as a “rite of passage” or a “legitimate” pastime. i.e. Otley Run pub crawl, gatherings on parks etc.</li> <li>3. Dispersal power could cause some concerns due to misunderstanding.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Action required:</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The prohibition around blocking pavements and roads:</b> This causes distinct road and public safety issues for all. A lot of issues are caused by poorly managed queuing systems at venues, as well as behaviour outside the control of the licensed premises. Specific inputs will be delivered to venues via Licensing and Pub watch schemes. This prohibition would aim to tackle obstruction that makes the area unsafe for road users and pedestrians, as well as offer venues assistance in managing their queues more effectively. Police and Council Officers will be fully briefed on this and use the current legislative framework which defines what an “obstruction” is.</li> <li>2. <b>Some of the measures proposed, could be seen as the Council “cracking down” on what has been seen as a “rite of passage” or a “legitimate” pastime.</b> It is important to ensure that the general public understand the difference between legitimate pastime and anti-social behaviour. The prohibitions clearly target specific nuisance and anti-social behaviour which in no way are legitimised by “tradition” such as “the otley run” or a misconception that this is a “student area.” The restricted zone is incredibly diverse and many many residents from all backgrounds suffer from a number of antisocial behaviours. As part of the launch of the PSPO, and periodically throughout its life, there will be comms and education campaigns around ASB and expectations. These will be widely publicised through extensive partnership comms networks.</li> <li>3. <b>Dispersal power could cause some concerns due to misunderstanding.</b> This aspect of the PSPO was highly approved during consultation, however, specific comms and education will be required as above. Officers will use the process used in existing police powers relating to dispersal when asking someone to leave the area. This could be done for the whole area or parts thereof. Officers will be mindful of where a person lives or works, and the legislation uses the term “without reasonable excuse,” which would include things such as residence, work, study, medical etc</li> <li>4. <b>General:</b> All breaches of PSPO are dealt with using the “Four E’s” approach, which expects officers to engage, educate and encourage prior to taking enforcement measures. This will bring to light any misunderstandings, genuine mistakes or legitimate reasons relating to breaches.</li> <li>5. <b>All Breaches of PSPO</b> whether detected by LCC or Police staff will be enforced by LCC LASBT in terms of issuing fines or seeking prosecution. This allows for greater checks and balances. The process uses a gravity matrix to guide staff on the appropriate course of action. LCC also have to ensure that the evidence is sufficient to successfully prosecute, and that it is in the public interest to do so.</li> </ol>



**9. Will this activity promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?**

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:** Safer communities, increasing cohesion and improve relationships between communities, Police and the Council as the order begins to take effect and have a positive impact on the quality of life across communities.

**Action required:**

None

**10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (For example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)**

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:** Again, greater cohesion across communities as a result feeling safer in the knowledge that the Police and Council are taking positive collective action against a common problem affecting everyone in the communities across the prescribed area. The order will be publicised across neighbourhoods

**Action required:**

Widescale publicity of the order using all "online" media options, LCC and WYP website.

**11. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another? (For example, where your activity or decision is aimed at adults could it have an impact on children and young people)**

Yes

No

**Please provide detail:** The order simply targets persons who are acting in an anti-social manner, that causes a nuisance and / or anti-social behaviour and subsequently has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of others in communities.

**Action required:**

None

**12. Equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration action plan**

(Insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person
Widescale publicity of the order using all “online” media options, LCC and WYP website. Full Press Release.	Implementation		LCC Corporate Comms and partnership
Carry out regular periodic monitoring of the impact of the proposed order across all aspects over the three-year life of the order before it is reviewed in 2026, during which time it can be varied or discharged.	Quarterly	Check for use of powers in relation to all prohibitions. KIN surveys	LASBT Manager/WYP
Education via messaging on ASB and expectations relating to the PSPO  Education on the PSPO via Community drop-ins, pop up stalls and targeted leaflet drops.	Quarterly		LASBT Manager/WYP  LASBT Community Co-Ordinator/WYP/Universities partnership

**13. Governance, ownership, and approval**

State here who has approved the actions and outcomes from the equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration impact assessment

Name	Job title	Date
Claire Smith	Head of Safer Neighbourhoods and ASB	12/6/23
<b>Date impact assessment completed</b>		<b>12/6/23</b>

**14. Monitoring progress for equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration actions (please tick)**

- As part of Service Planning performance monitoring
- As part of Project monitoring
- Update report will be agreed and provided to the appropriate board  
Please specify which board
- Other (please specify)

**15. Publishing**

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions**, or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality impact assessment should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality impact assessments that are not to be published should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk) for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached assessment was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent: 12/6/23
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent: