Name of the activity being assessed	Strengthening Communities - Volunteering in Lancashire					
Directorate / Department	Localities and Prevention	Service	Neighbourhood Services	Assessment lead	Heather Taylor	
Is this a new or existing activity?	<ul><li>☑ New</li><li>☐ Existing</li></ul>	Responsi assessme	ble manager / director for the	Sayyed Osman		
Date EIA started	07/07/2016	Implemen	ntation date of the activity	01/04/2017		

# SECTION 1 - ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITY

How was the need for this activity identified?	This project has been identified by a need to streamline a number of pilot projects currently ongoing or completed across the county. According to the ONS annual population survey 2016, in the year 2015 Lancashire had a lower percentage of people economically active and a greater number of people claiming out of work benefits compared with Great Britain as a whole. It is our aim to reduce these levels where possible, whilst also engaging with individuals to participate in activities and provide them with life skills.								
	The programme fills a gap and adds value to existing and other planned provision, providing a much needed route towards active participation for the most disadvantaged. There is independent evidence that this approach works. (Volunteering for Stronger Communities Evaluation, Sheffield Hallam University).								
What is the activity looking to achieve?	Using an asset-based approach the programme will provide those furthest from the labour market with meaningful volunteering apportunities, helping them onto a pathway towards work. We will support individuals to build personal resilience and gain practical skills thereby reducing barriers to participation, increasing the opportunities available to them, and providing long-term solutions that will keep them out of costly statutory intervention. We will do this by introducing disadvantaged and marginalised and individuals to volunteering, providing them with realistic pathways to employability through mentoring, tailored, accredited and non-accredited training, and access to volunteer placements in the voluntary, public and private sectors.								
	Results Indicator	Reference	Number						
	Participants in education or training on leaving	ESF CR02	112						
	Participants in employment including self-employment 6 months after leaving	ESFCR06	114						
	Unemployed participants into employment (including self-employment on leaving	R1 (R4)	49						
	Inactive participants into employment or job search on leaving	R2	73						

What are the aims and	Participants with childcare needs receiving childcare support	R5	24	
objectives?	Target beneficiaries include:			1
	Long term unemployed			
	Economically inactive			
	Over 50 years of age			
	BME backgrounds			
	Disabilities			
	Physical or mental health problems			
	Women			
	Resident in disadvantaged areas			
	Overcoming drug or alcohol abuse			
	Care leavers			
	<ul> <li>Care leavers</li> <li>Caring responsibilities for children or other adults</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Lacking basic skills.</li> </ul>			
	Prisoners on release			
	<ul> <li>Those serving community sentences</li> <li>A number of pilot projects have been coordinated through</li> </ul>	out the region. The	oso all occurred in rospo	ones to pood and included:
	A pan-Lancashire network of <b>Council for Voluntary S</b>		•	
	nationally accredited Volunteer Centres in Blackpool, Wy			
	and, West Lancashire. Their existing provision complement		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	draw into a cohesive model as proposed here:	one and capports	and programme, and pr	criace valuable experience to
	Brokerage - matching residents to 2000 plus volu	nteerina opportuni	ties.	
	Volunteer training			
	Good Practice Development			
	Developing Volunteering Opportunities			
	2 Soveroping voluntooning opportunities			
	Strategic Linkages:-			
Services currently	Early Help/Police/Criminality: links with the Community	Step Down mode	el, Prisons and the Crim	ninal Justice system volunteer
provided (if applicable)	projects supporting ex-offenders and people in recovery fi			,
	Health and Social Care: working closely with NHS ar			partners on volunteering on
	prescription and social prescribing models.	•		
	Further and Higher Education: working closely with furth	ner education colle	eges and universities	
	Big Lottery Opt In:			
	LACVS is a partner to the Building Better Opportunities Pr	rojects:		
	P1 – Age of Opportunity			
	P2 – Invest in Youth			
	P3 – Disadvantaged Groups			
	Lancashire CVS's are offering volunteer support to those			led bid for Digital Inclusion to
	play a central role in recruiting, training and supporting vo	lunteer digital char	mpions roles.	
	Community Adult Learning Teams			

☐ Decommissioning

□ Commissioning

☐ Other [please state here]

☐ Budget changes

☐ Change to existing activity

Type of activity

#### Who else will be involved in undertaking the equality analysis and impact assessment?

Please identify additional sources of information you have used to complete the EIA, e.g. reports; journals; legislation etc.

- European Structural and Investment Funds: Full Application Form Guidance <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/482379/ESIF-GN-2-004\_ESIF\_Full\_Application\_Form\_Guidance\_v2.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/482379/ESIF-GN-2-004\_ESIF\_Full\_Application\_Form\_Guidance\_v2.pdf</a>
- Equality Human Rights Commission (EHRC) <a href="https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en">https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en</a>
- Volunteering for Stronger Communities Evaluation, Sheffield Hallam University <a href="http://www4.shu.ac.uk/research/cresr/sites/shu.ac.uk/files/volunteering-stronger-communities.pdf">http://www4.shu.ac.uk/research/cresr/sites/shu.ac.uk/files/volunteering-stronger-communities.pdf</a>

### Who are you consulting with? How are you consulting with them? (Please insert any information around surveys and consultations undertaken)

A project working group is made up of key delivery partners who have been meeting weekly in the run up to the application submission date. This is made up of:

- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire County Council
- Blackpool Council
- Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Services
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

A workshop has also taken place with wider delivery partners 18.4.16

Regular updates to strategic partners through Early Action Board have also taken place and discussion and feedback encouraged.

In addition to the above, we have also used lessons learned from previous projects as a form of consultation and based on the outcome of the funding bid will look to consult with service users at the first stage.

	Service users	⊠ Yes	□ No	☐ Indirectly	Different service (streamlined) means new level of service and support that was not previously available.			
	Members of staff		□ No	☐ Indirectly	New jobs created.			
Who does the activity impact	General public	☐ Yes	□ No		Sustainability of co	mmunities.		
upon?*	Carers or families	☐ Yes	□ No					
	Partner organisations	⊠ Yes	□ No	☐ Indirectly	Project is Lancashire wide and involves a number of partners, all of whom will benefit from this new streamlined service.			
Does the activity impact		⊠ Age	□ Disability	⊠ Gender	☐ Marriage &			
positively or negatively on	Positive impact	△ Agc	△ Disability	reassignment	Civil Partnership	& maternity	groups	
any of the protected characteristics as stated within the Equality Act (2010)?*		⊠ Race	⊠ Religion or belief	⊠ Sex	⊠ Sexual orientation	□ Deprived communities	□ Carers	
		⊠ Age	☐ Disability	☐ Gender	☐ Marriage &	☐ Pregnancy	□ Vulnerable	
	Negative impact	△ Age	□ Disability	reassignment	Civil Partnership	& maternity	groups	
The groups in blue are not		☐ Race	☐ Religion	□ Sex	☐ Sexual	☐ Deprived	☐ Carers	

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Cou	ncil					EIA	version [1.1]	
protected characteristics			or belief		orientation	communities		
(please refer to p. 3 of the guidance notes)	5	□ Age	☐ Disability	☐ Gender reassignment	☐ Marriage & Civil Partnership	☐ Pregnancy & maternity	☐ Vulnerable groups	
	Don't know	☐ Race	☐ Religion or belief	□ Sex	☐ Sexual orientation	☐ Deprived communities	☐ Carers	
*If no impact is identified on any	•		full EIA may r	ot be required. Pl	ease contact your	departmental Co	rporate	
Equality & Diversity representati	ve for further information	า.						
Does the activity contribute tow A public authority must have	-	•			uty? Refer to p.3 or	f the guidance for	more information	
DUTY		DOES 1	THE ACTIVITY	MEET THIS DUTY	Y? EXPLAIN			
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act (i.e. the activity removes or minimises disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristic)			The aim of this project is to use an asset based approach Lancashire wide to remove and minimise disadvantage. Our target cohort all fall into the 9 protected characteristics and this will ensure that with increased support available any current disadvantages will be minimised or removed.					
Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (i.e. the activity takes steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the			We are looking to advance the opportunities of those furthest away from the labour market, in order to do this we will offer wrap around support throughout that journey. Every individual engaged with the programme will have a needs assessment to ensure the right training and volunteering activities are sourced, and that the right support is put in place to help every individual reach their potential.					
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (i.e. the function encourages people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low)			Good relations will be developed within the cohort; people from a number of different backgrounds will be assessing training opportunities together. Volunteering opportunities will offer the space to develop relations with people who may not have protected characteristics. This project is deliberately constructed to draw together otherwise isolated or alienated members of the community, or ,enable members of different communities to reach out to one another and acquire greater understanding of one another, or, support fragmented communities in acquiring stronger identity and purpose.					
	Τ							
ASSESSMENT	Is a full EIA required?	⊠ Yes						
Please explain how you have read negates or mitigates any possible	•	ck of nega	tive impacts m	ust be justified with	evidence and clear	reasons, highlight	how the activity	

Despite this EIA to this point showing that there is a lack of negative impact, we are well aware that much of the target cohorts belong to protected groups. Therefore, we feel that a full EIA would be beneficial in understanding these specific needs and also understanding the current barriers these groups are facing which we are attempting to remove or minimise.

## **SECTION 3 – ANALYSIS OF IMPACT**

Does the activity have the **potential** to:

- positively impact (benefit) any of the groups?
- **negatively** impact/exclude/discriminate against any group?
- **disproportionately** impact any of the groups?

Explain how this was identified – through evidence/consultation.

Any negative impacts that are identified within the analysis need to be captured within the action plan in Section 4

N.B. Marriage & Civil Partnership is only a protected characteristic in terms of work-related activities and NOT service provision

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	Don't know	Reasons for positive and/or negative impact Please include all the evidence you have considered as part of your analysis	Action No.
Age	$\boxtimes$			Data taken from the Annual Population Survey January 2016 – December 2016 shows that 62.5% of Lancashire residents aged 50+ are economically inactive. This is slightly higher than the regional figure significantly higher that the figure for Great Britain. In response, project will specifically target over 50's, with 16% of the total cohort being over 50. This will help improve the employment prospects of anyone over the age of 50. However, it must also be mentioned that a proportion of these people are retired and do not wish to re-enter employment.	1
				According to 2011 census data around 30% of Blackburn with Darwen residents aged 16-24 are economically inactive. Currently young people are not a target group of this project despite evidence showing that they have high unemployment levels within Lancashire.	2
				Figures from the 2011 census show that 7,052,177 identify as having a long term health problem or disability in the North West of England. At a more local level, 58,890 people in Lancashire claim ESA (Employment Support Allowance), incapacity benefits or disability benefits.	3
				Disabled people will constitute 25% of the cohort, offering greater provision to the project than any other protected characteristic.	
Disability				We will be working within existing premises that are DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant. In addition to this we will be using a peripatetic approach in order to tailor provision to the individual requirements of the learner. This outreach support service will ensure that not only is provision available to disabled people but also access to this provision.	
				Extensive confidence building activities will be available to make sure attendees are ready to access all opportunities; this will be particularly helpful to those with mental health illnesses.	

Gender reassignment  Marriage & Civil Partnership  Pregnancy & Maternity			Whilst we will not be providing targeted support at this group, this service will be available to someone regardless of gender reassignment status.  The role of a mentor is to access the specific needs of an individual and as a result of this make relevant recommendations and referrals.  N/A  This project would be accessible to anyone regardless of whether they are pregnant, however, their participation would depend personally of what stage of the pregnancy they are at and whether they feel they are able to be involved.  In order to support with this flexibility will be employed wherever possible.	4
Race			Lancashire has a diverse population in comparison to other areas of the UK. Often the ethnicity of residents produces very different results when looking at employment levels. For example the unemployment rate of white individuals in the North West is 4.7%, this rate increases drastically to 9.5% for Ethnic Minorities.  Lancashire wide the cohort for BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) is 12%. However, different authorities within Lancashire have differing levels of BME communities; in reflection of this we will target higher BME areas with increased cohort percentages.  Targets across the county will reflect the communities they serve.	5
Religion or Belief	×		We are aware that due to the ethnic and cultural diversity across the county there are also a large number of prevalent Religions and Beliefs which can have a number of impacts on the project and also individuals attending.  By targeting BME communities we know we are targeting different religions and beliefs, accommodations will be made for these different faiths and beliefs and as is the case with Pregnancy and Maternity flexibility will be employed as much as possible.  Faith room facilities will be also be made available at all sites.	6
Sex	×		2015 ONS population estimates for Lancashire show a split of 587,700 Males (49.3%) and 603,900 (50.7%) females, this is much the same for Blackburn with Darwen which has 73,200 (49.9%) males and 73,700 (50.2%) females.  The gender split will be reflected in the cohort split, which will be 51% Female 49% Male, this guideline has been suggested by ESIF. Though this percentage is slightly different it is not expected to make a significant difference when the areas demographics are taken into account.	
Sexual orientation			Individuals will be able to access and participate in this programme regardless of their sexual orientation and this should not impact on their ability to achieve.	

Vulnerable Groups			As earlier mentioned the role of a mentor is to access the specific needs of an individual and as a result of this make relevant recommendations and referrals.  It is anticipated that a number of vulnerable groups will seek to access this service. With the provision of close one to one support, mentoring, confidence building, skill development and the opportunity to volunteer, it is expected the impacts will be overwhelmingly positive on this group.  Where specific needs may need to be met we anticipate that the flexibility of this programme should take steps to meeting these.  The design of this initiative provides a local presence in some of the most deprived areas of West, East and Central Lancashire which will ensure that workers can be rooted in local communities.	
Deprived Communities			Six of the Local Authorities Blackpool (12), Blackburn with Darwen (13), Burnley (16), Hyndburn (24), Pendle (31) and Preston (46) all had rankings within the 50 most deprived in the Index of Multiple Deprivation.  There is a strong link between deprived communities and low employment rate, especially in terms of economic deprivation. Blackburn with Darwen has 20,597 households with no adult in work.  By employing a peripatetic outreach approach we will be improving the accessibility of this group to the services that are available, which will in turn potentially increase participation levels.	7
Carers	×		Carers are not one of the target groups but we know that many carers are economically inactive. We have links with our local carers organisations and will ensure that they understand the referral pathways into the project and how the programme can benefit their users.	
Other [please state]			N/A	

Does the activity raise any issues for community cohesion?  Does the activity contribute positively towards community cohesion?	No, people from a number of different backgrounds will be a part of this project and will engage with one another in all aspects of the project and wider social situations.
Does the activity raise any issues in relation to human rights as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998?	No
Does the activity support / aggravate existing departmental and/or corporate risk?	Is the activity on the departmental risk register? If it is not, should it be?  No

## **CONCLUSIONS OF THE ANALYSIS**

Action following completion of the impact assessment							
It is important that the correct option is chosen depending on the findings of the analysis. The action plan must be completed as required.							
$\ \square$ No major change in the activity	☐ Adjust activity	□ Continue with activity	☐ Stop and reconsider activity				
Please explain how you have reache	d your conclusion						
people with protected groups from acce	essing and entering employme	positive across the board. Much of this project ent. As a result, our action plan will reflect these racteristics an equitable and fair opportunity.					

## **ACTION PLAN**

Action No.	What is the negative / adverse impact identified?	Actions required to reduce / mitigate / eliminate the negative impact	Resources required	Responsible officer(s)	Target completion date
1	62.5% of Lancashire residents aged 50+ are economically inactive	16% of the cohort will be made up by over 50's, this targeted support will ensure that more people from this group can access the services they required.	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019
2	30% of Blackburn with Darwen residents aged 16-24 are economically inactive	Potentially target a large cohort of younger people also and offer the same support as to that of over 50's	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019
3	Figures from the 2011 census show that 7,052,177 identify as having a long term health problem or disability in the North West of England. 58,890 people in Lancashire claim ESA (Employment Support Allowance), incapacity benefits or disability benefits.	Ensure that all venues are DDA compliant  Offer extra support where and if required  Employ a peripatetic approach, ensuring flexibility for those who require it	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019
4	Participation would depend personally of what stage of the pregnancy they are at and whether they feel they are able to be involved	Potential for deferred entry for those who may wish to start the course later. Strict enrolment not required, attendees can start and finish as they see fit for their personal circumstances.  Employ a peripatetic approach, ensuring flexibility for those who require it i.e. childcare arrangements	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019
5	The unemployment rate of white individuals in the North West is 4.7%, this rate increases drastically to 9.5% for Ethnic Minorities.	Target BME communities  Alter target figures to reflect the communities they serve	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019
6	Large number of prevalent Religions and Beliefs which can have a number of impacts on the project and also individuals attending	Awareness of religions and ensure that the project is flexible to these e.g. Friday afternoon jum'ah for Muslims  Ensure that faith rooms are available at venues to accommodate for people who may need to	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019

					<del>,                                    </del>
		pray			
7	Blackburn with Darwen has 20,597 households with no adult in work	Employ a peripatetic approach, ensuring flexibility for those who require it i.e. taking the project into the community for those who cannot afford travel	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	Dec 2019
	Actions to	ensure all those involved in the programme can for	ulfil their equality commitments		
8	All partners to sign up to the project's Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Policy and Implementation plan		none	Project Manager	April 2017
9	All staff involved in the project will undertake Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities training specifically in relation to this project as part of their induction training and a rolling programme thereafter for any new staff		Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	April 2017 and ongoing rolling programme
10	Welcome to the Programme Booklet to be produced for all participants, outlining the programme's Equality responsibilities	Include how participants will learn about the importance of good relations	Detailed resources required will be worked up at final stage application	Project Manager	April 2017
11	Annual monitoring report produced and any significant under-representation to be flagged to project manager and acted upon	Staff to be monitored by characteristics		MIS officer	annually
12	A report against performance and equality will be produced annually and shared with all staff			Project Manager	annually
13	Equality to be standing item in reports and agenda, minutes of quarterly update meetings	Governance Board Partner performance meetings Accountable Body – BwD Management Accountability Framework BwD Corporate Equality and Diversity Group		Project Manager	Quarterly
14	Staff appraisals and monthly 1:1 performance meetings to include progress against equality measures included in the EIA			Project Manager	Monthly

#### **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The responsibility for establishing and maintaining the monitoring arrangements of the EIA action plan lies with the service completing the EIA. These arrangements should be built into the performance management framework.

Monitoring arrangements for the completion of EIAs will be undertaken by the Corporate Equality & Diversity Group and the oversight of the action plans will be undertaken by the Management Accountability Framework.

undertaken by the Management Accountability Framework.	
If applicable, where will the EIA Action Plan be monitored?	e.g. via Service Management Team; Service Leadership Team; Programme Area Meetings  Responsibility of the project manager.
How often will the EIA Action Plan be reviewed?	e.g. quarterly as part of the MAF process  Quarterly
When will the EIA be reviewed?	It should be reviewed at least every 3 years to meet legislative requirements  Review annually
Who is responsible for carrying out this review?	Responsibility of the project manager

SIGNATURE OF EIA LEAD OFFICER	HB Yay bor
DATE COMPLETED	08/07/2016

SIGNATURE OF DEPARTMENTAL E&D LEAD	5.01Dham
DATE SIGNED	11/07/2016

SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR	Dom
DATE SIGNED	07/02/2017
This signature signifies the acceptan	ce of the responsibility and ownership of the EIA and the associated Action Plan (if applicable)