

## Equality Impact Assessment

### Section 1: About the proposal

<b>Title of Proposal</b>
Formalising the escort criteria for patients travelling to mainland hospitals. (Islay & Jura)

<b>Intended outcome of proposal</b>
To introduce formal criteria for patients requesting an escort to secondary care appointments – ensuring the HSCP only funds the travel costs of an escort when this is necessary.

<b>Description of proposal</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing clear and concise criteria for escorts accompanying patients to mainland hospitals.</li> <li>• Reducing/eliminating current inequalities, due currently to the subjective interpretation of when an escort is required.</li> <li>• Reducing any delay in booking travel for an escort, when need is not clear – currently GPs are asked to confirm if an escort is needed or not on medical grounds.</li> </ul>

<b>HSCP Strategic Priorities to which the proposal contributes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support unpaid carers, to reduce the impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Efficiently and effectively manage all resources to deliver Best Value</li> </ul>

<b>Lead officer details</b>	
Name of lead officer	<b>Caroline Cherry</b>
Job title	<b>Head of Service</b>
Department	<b>Older Adults and Community Hospitals</b>
<b>Appropriate officer details</b>	
Name of appropriate officer	<b>Alan Beresford</b>
Job title	<b>Interim Area Manager</b>
Department	<b>Islay Hospital</b>

Sign-off of EIA	<b>Caroline Cherry</b>
Date of sign-off	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021</b>

<b>Who will deliver the proposal?</b>
Islay Hospital Admin department – there is no longer a dedicated patient transport department.

## Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EIA

<b>Consultation / engagement</b>
<p>Previous Consultation with regard to travel arrangements is highlighted below. The proposal does not impact on the fundamental agreement in this consultation. From 07/03/2016: <b><i>“Following the day of consultation on 25th February 2016 by Head of PR &amp; Engagement NHS Highland in relation to patient transport for Islay and Jura, the following has been agreed with immediate effect: People will not be expected to travel to medical appointments by ferry/bus as this is considered to be unreasonable. Therefore people who are not able to drive or be driven on the mainland will be able to access travel by plane. All people who have a medical need to fly will continue to do so. The patient transport team on Islay are also making other enquiries which should lead to further improvements in the way patient transport is dealt with on Islay and Jura in the future. This development is supported by the LPG and will be monitored in the coming months.”</i></b></p>

<b>Data</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 month data collection project in 2005. Findings of this are not available locally.</li> <li>• 12-18 month review / (possible) engagement in 2016/2017. Findings of this are not available locally.</li> <li>• For the 2018/2019 financial year, escort costs to the patient travel budget were £126,549 - 31% of the total spend.</li> <li>• For 2019/2020 financial year, escort costs to the patient travel budget were £105,374 - 27% of the total spend.</li> </ul>

<b>Other information</b>
<p>Patients attending mainland hospital appointments, who are not eligible for an escort, can choose to self-fund a companion travelling with them.</p>

<b>Gaps in evidence</b>
<p>None</p>

## Section 3: Impact of proposal

### Impact on service users:

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
<b>Protected characteristics:</b>				
Age		√		
Disability			√	
Ethnicity		√		
Sex		√		
Gender reassignment		√		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		√		
Pregnancy and Maternity		√		
Religion		√		
Sexual Orientation		√		
<b>Fairer Scotland Duty:</b>				
Mainland rural population		N/A		
Island populations		√		
Low income		√		
Low wealth		√		
Material deprivation		√		
Area deprivation		√		
Socio-economic background		√		
Communities of place		√		
Communities of interest		√		

**Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc.):**

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
<b>Protected characteristics:</b>				
Age		√		
Disability			√	
Ethnicity		√		
Sex		√		
Gender reassignment		√		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		√		
Pregnancy and Maternity		√		
Religion		√		
Sexual Orientation		√		
<b>Fairer Scotland Duty:</b>				
Mainland rural population		N/A		
Island populations		√		
Low income		√		
Low wealth		√		
Material deprivation		√		
Area deprivation		√		
Socio-economic background		√		
Communities of place		√		
Communities of interest		√		

<b>If any 'don't knows have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?</b>
N/A

<b>How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?</b>
N/A

**Section 4: Interdependencies**

<b>Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the HSCP?</b>	Minimal. For other localities, patients do not have the option of choosing a preferred transport option – i.e. flight or ferry.
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<b>Details of knock-on effects identified</b>
N/A

**Section 5: Monitoring and review**

<b>Monitoring and review</b>
Escort criteria will continue to be reviewed, and updated, each quarter based on service user and service deliverer feedback.