

Table 1: FOIA requests to all Directors of English Adult Social Care Services & FOIA lead officers				
Subject: The public sector equality duties and the impact of adult social care funding cuts on BME service-users				
		Question answered ¹		Document provided ²
		Yes	No	
1	Did your Department conduct a race, disability or general equality impact assessments (EqIAs) before the Adult Social Care Committee (ASC) or relevant council decision making body ³ decided the ASC revenue budget for the voluntary and community organisations for 2011/12?			
	<p>Response: The Council made a proposed reduction of £200k to the funding for the adults social care revenue budget for voluntary and community sector contracts for 2011/12. Furthermore, there has been a proposed reduction of £710k for 2012/13, rising to £845k for 2013/14 & 2014/15. The proposed reduction for 2011/12 was not implemented, as it was decided that a complete review of adults social care voluntary sector contracts would be undertaken to reflect a general move away from traditional commissioned services, and a move towards increased use of Personal Budgets whereby service users would be in a position to decide what to buy, including services on offer from the voluntary and community sector. The review of voluntary and community sector contracts has not yet taken place.</p> <p>The situation is somewhat more complex than one of either growth or reduction in contract values, given the increasing use of Personal Budgets.</p> <p>In practice, the existing adults social care voluntary and community sector contracts have been extended to 31st March 2013, pending a planned formal review of the services provided under these contracts. It is recognised that adult social care services provided by the voluntary and independent sectors will need to be reviewed to ensure that they remain consistent with adults social care priorities and can deliver the needs and aspirations of personal budget-holders. It is intended that a full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken for each aspect of proposed change arising from the current Adult Social Care Transformation programme and therefore that an Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the forthcoming review process for adults social care voluntary and community sector contracts.</p>	√		Not requested

¹ To speed up our analysis and follow-up, **you are asked to state whether you have or have not been able to answer the question in this column.**

² Under the heading '**document provided**' If documentary evidence has been requested and provided state 'yes', if no document has been provided state 'no'.

³ We note that some financial decisions may be made by Council Cabinets hence the use of the term other decision-making body.

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2	If the answer to question 1 is yes, did the EqIA or EqIAs assess whether any proposed cuts would have an adverse impact on: a) BME VCS organisations; and/or b) BME service users (including carers) of adult social care services. c) If any adverse impact was identified was any mitigating action proposed?			
	Response: Please see our response to your question 1 above.	√		Not requested
3	If the answer to question 1 is yes, please provide a copy of the final report of the Adult and Social Care (ASC) Committee or relevant council decision making body together with the EqIA(s) Please also provide the minutes of the meeting that show how the EqIA (s) was/were taken into account by the decision-making body or committee and how any possible adverse impact was or was not mitigated.			
	Response: Please see our response to your question 1 above. As explained, the intended reduction for 2011/12 and the notional reductions identified in the agreed budget for 2012/13, 2013/14 & 2014/15 preceded the formal review of voluntary and community sector contracts, and this review has not yet taken place. There is therefore no specific Equality Impact Assessment which assessed the impact of budget proposals on BME VCS organisations or service users, as such information would be gathered via the planned formal review process. To this extent, this is therefore a Refusal Notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, because in accordance with Section 1.1 of the Act this information is not held.	√		Not held
4	Does your Department collect data on how many BME VCS organisations it funds by way of revenue grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements?			
	Response: Yes. Each BME VCS organisation funded features on an overall list of voluntary and community sector organisations funded.	√		Not requested
5	Does your Department maintain the annual revenue budgetary information on the Department's actual revenue spend on funding VCS organisations by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements?			
	Response: Yes.	√		Not requested

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6	What was your Department's approved funding by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements to VCS organisations in: a) 2010/11; and/or b) 2011/12?			
	Response: a) £5.6 million in 2010/2011, and b) £5.4 million in 2011/2012. N.B. The £200k reduction for 2011/2012 has not been implemented.	√		Not requested
7	How many VCS organisations did your Department fund by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements in: a) 2010/11; and b) 2011/12?			
	Response: : In both 2010-11 and 2011-12, 64 voluntary and community sector organisations were funded (this figure includes 7 VCS infrastructure contracts/agreements)	√		Not requested
8	How many BME VCS organisations did your Department fund by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements in: a) 2010/11; and b) 2011/12?			
	Response: In both 2010-11 and 2011-12, 16 BME voluntary and community sector organisations were funded.	√		Not requested
9	What was the revenue funding allocated to BME VCS organisations by your Department by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements in: a) 2010/11; and b) 2011/2012? Please provide the relevant committee reports for 2010/11 and 2011/12.			
	Response: In both 2010-11 and 2011-12, £888,000 revenue funding was allocated to BME VCS organisations. The council does not practice base-budgeting. Its budgets are built via incremental budgeting, with generally only specific areas under consideration for particular growth or savings featuring in committee/Council/Cabinet reports. Information showing the revenue funding allocated to BME VCS organisations does not feature in such reports for either 2010-11 or 2011-12. To the extent that this information is not held, this is a Refusal Notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, because in accordance with Section 1.1 of the Act this information is not held.	√		Not held
10	Did your Department fund any generalist VCS organisations to provide services specifically designed to meet the needs of BME communities in: a) 2010/11; and b) 2011/2012? Please provide the relevant committee reports for 2010/11 and 2011/12.			
	Response: Yes, in both 2010-11 and 2011-12. As explained in our response to your question 10, the council does not practice base-budgeting. Its budgets are built via incremental	√		Not held

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	budgeting, with generally only specific areas under consideration for particular growth or savings featuring in committee/Council/Cabinet reports. Information, showing the revenue funding allocated to generalist VCS organisations to provide services specifically designed to meet the needs of BME communities, does not feature in such reports for either 2010-11 or 2011-12. To the extent that this information is not held, this is a Refusal Notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, because in accordance with Section 1.1 of the Act this information is not held.			
11	How many generalist VCS organisations did your Department fund by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements to provide services specifically designed to meet the needs of BME communities in: a) 2010/11; and b) 2011/2012?			
	Response: In both 2010-11 and 2011-12, we funded one organisation to provide two services specifically designed to meet the needs of BME communities.	√		Not requested
12	What was the revenue funding allocated by your Department by way of grants, service agreements, contracts or other funding agreements to generalist VCS organisations to specifically meet the needs of BME communities in: a) 2010/11; and b) 2011/2012? Please provide the relevant committee reports for 2010/11 and 2011/12.			
	Response: In both 2010-11 and 2011-12, the revenue funding allocated to the organisation providing the two services was £325,900. As explained in our response to your question 9 above the council does not practice base-budgeting. Its budgets are built via incremental budgeting, with generally only specific areas under consideration for particular growth or savings featuring in committee/Council/Cabinet reports. Information showing the revenue funding allocated to generalist VCS organisations to specifically meet the needs of BME communities does not feature in such reports for either 2010-11 or 2011-12. To the extent that this information is not held, this is a Refusal Notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, because in accordance with Section 1.1 of the Act this information is not held.	√		Not held