

Forestry Commission Equality Impact Assessment Publishing Template

Step 10

Name of policy, function or service

Woods for Health Strategy

- Key theme 5, Access & Health of the Scottish Forestry Survey 2006

Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service

The Woods for Health strategy aims to increase the contribution woodlands and forests can make to improve the health of Scotland's people.

- Make access to woodlands easier for all sectors of society
- Use woodland access to help improve physical and mental health in Scotland
- Provide a greater range of ways for people to enjoy woodlands

Woods for health was published in 2007 and the strategy has been refreshed in 2009. It aims to increase the contribution woodlands and forests can make to improve the health of Scotland's people.

It's 4 objectives are to: -

- Contribute to health improvement and narrowing the health gap in Scotland
- Increase focus on health inequalities, mental health & wellbeing, children's health and equality and diversity
- Make access to woodlands easier for all sectors of society
- Provide a greater range of ways for people to enjoy woodlands

Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?

- The general population in Scotland
- Under represented groups and equality and diversity groups
- Deprived communities and areas of multiple deprivation in urban areas across Scotland

Information and Data (evidence) used

- 2001 Census report
- All Forestry Survey 2003-2007
- Visitor survey's Forest Enterprise Scotland
- Public Opinion of Scottish Forestry Survey 2007 and 2009
- Preferences of Minority Ethnic and Faith Communities summary sheet April 2009
- Enhance the forest sector's contribution to equal access for disabled people to recreation. Research findings March 2009

Summary of Impact

The Woods for Health strategy will have a positive effect for the following groups: Race, Gender, Disability, Religion or Belief and Age. It will have no impact on Sexual Orientation.

Monitoring/Evaluation

- An annual review process will be established to monitor progress against the strategy Action Plan and to ensure that target and indicators are being met.

Further Information

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