

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Name of policy, function or service

**Health and Well-being benefits from Welsh Woodlands and Trees
Policy Position**

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

This policy, written by FCW, has been developed on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Its purpose is to define WAGs position on health and well-being benefits from Welsh woodlands and trees, as a response to their *Woodlands for Wales* strategy document (2009). It sets out the evidence and suggested agenda for action for all those concerned with the use of woodlands to improve the health and well-being of people in Wales.

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

The target audiences for this Policy Position are woodland owners and managers, public, private and third sector health and social care providers, relevant grant giving bodies and other support organisations. Beneficiaries will be:

- Communities and individuals across Wales from the opportunities provided to improve their health and well-being through access to woodlands and trees.
- Health and social care providers – by improving the health and well-being of people in Wales pressures on these providers will reduce.

Information and Data (evidence) used

A full EqIA has been undertaken for the Woodlands for Wales strategy. The results of this can be accessed here: [Woodlands for Wales - WAG Equality Impact Assessment](#).

In addition to the evidence collated in that exercise, new and emerging evidence has been collated from the *Equality Issues in Wales: a research review* undertaken by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2009. This evidence, along with spatial mapping using the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation data, forms the basis for this screening. The evidence from the *Equality Issues in Wales* publication is reproduced as an appendix to the Health and Well-being policy position.

This policy position has been sent out for consultation to external bodies representing the six strands of diversity, (as recommended by WAG) and other interested stakeholders across Wales. Comments and additional evidence received

were considered and where appropriate incorporated in the final policy position.

Summary of Impact

The majority of impacts will be positive for all sections of communities in Wales. The use of a spatial framework will identify locations of greatest need.

At present there is insufficient data to fully assess the short or long term impacts on individuals or groups of beneficiaries at the local level, but national data (see above) provides evidence for action.

There is limited evidence relating to religion and no evidence relating to sexual orientation in the context of this policy. However in both instances no negative impact is envisaged.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Monitoring will take place through the Woodlands for Wales Action plan monitoring procedures

FCW will continue to fund public opinion and public access surveys related to forestry and the use of woodlands and forests.

Further Information

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