

# Equality Impact Assessment Summary

<b>Name of policy, function or service</b>
West Central Treefest Partnership

<b>Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service</b>
<p>The Treefest Partnership Programme is part of the Active Woods and Woods for Health promotional campaigns that in Central Scotland that aims to raise awareness about tree, woodlands and the benefits that these can bring to communities. Central Scotland Conservancy engages in partnership working with different organisations and groups in order to deliver community focused festivals celebrating and promoting the use of woodland, particularly local woods, for fresh air, relaxation and exercise.</p> <p>The events are used as a vehicle to promote the work that FCS carries out on the National Forest Estate and the wider partnership working on WIAT woodland. The Community Officers, the Education Officer and facilitators will work with the “Friends of” groups and local children to organise activities within the local woods.</p> <p>The Treefest partnership(s) aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build on the work carried out by dedicated Community Officers</li> <li>• To promote the Active Woods and Woods for Health messages</li> <li>• To increase awareness of local woods</li> <li>• To increase use of local woods</li> <li>• To increase awareness of FCS and forestry in general.</li> </ul>

<b>Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?</b>
<p>The general public- families and children that come along to the events organised in partnership with other organisations. In particular these events represent a promotional vehicle for the various “Friends of...” groups that have an opportunity to promote the good work that they carry out and encourage more volunteers to join in.</p> <p>The priority areas for target are urban areas within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley with high SIMD, BME communities and young people.</p>

<b>Information and Data (evidence) used</b>
<p><b>Reference from the Scottish Government website “High level summary of equality statistics: Key trends for Scotland (November 2006)” that is based on data collected during the Census in 2001:</b></p> <p>Scottish population counts for 5,062,011. 52% of Scotland’s population are female. Scotland’s male and female population is expected to rise until 2021 and then slowly decline by 2031. The age and gender of migrants remains relatively constant from year to year and the pattern of migration is similar for men and women.</p> <p>The size of minority ethnic population was just over 100,000 or 2.0% of the total</p>

population of Scotland. Pakistani were the largest minority ethnic group, following by Chinese and Indians. This compares to just over 60,000 in 1991 (or 1.3%). While the Scottish population increased by 1.3% over this time, the minority ethnic population increased by 62.3%. In this analysis we are making the assumption that the ethnic minority population continued to increase, therefore the rationale to fully engage with this audience.

For both males and females, minority ethnic groups have a younger age distribution than white ethnic groups. The Mixed ethnic group has the youngest age structure: 44% are under the age of 16 years. The White Irish population has the highest proportion of people of pensionable age and over (27%).

The number of people reporting both a disability and long-term illness (4% according to the Scottish Household Survey 2005) increases with age, more sharply for older age groups. There is very little difference in the proportion of males and females who report a disability and/or long term illness in 2003 and 2005. According to the 2001 Census, the four white ethnic groups have a higher rate of limiting long-term illness than minority ethnic groups (all ages). However since the evidence of limiting long-term illness increases with age and since the age structure is remarkably difference for different ethnic groups, this statement may not be completely accurate.

In terms of religion and belief (Census 2001): Christian 65.09%; Church of Scotland 42.40%; Roman Catholic 15.88%; Other Christian (6.81%; Islam 0.84%; Buddhists, Sikhs and Jews all 0.13% and Hindus 0.11%.

In terms of the Treefest programme and the Health Agenda, we have gathered some National and local data for Race, Disabled People, Gender and Age:

The Scottish Health Survey states the 67% of women and 56% of men (16-74), 26% of boys and 37% of girls (2-15) are not active enough for their health.

The recent Greenspace Scotland omnibus survey of perceptions and attitudes shows that 90% of people strongly agree that greenspace should be a good place to relax and unwind and 91% that they should be safe places for physical activity. However only 56% agrees that their local greenspace is a good place to relax and only 60% agrees that their local greenspace is safe.

The Scottish Public Opinion of Forestry Survey shows that 32% of people are positive about the standard of management of their local woodlands and forests. 42% were positive about the recreational provision in woodland in their local area.

Analysis of census and other statistical data reveals that Scotland's South Asian population is mainly Pakistani, with a large minority of Indian people and a small minority of Bangladeshis. As a whole, South Asians are concentrated in the inner cities, and are less affluent than the general population. They experience lower pay, more unemployment and

more self-employment. They are concentrated in owner-occupied housing, some of which is low quality, lacks amenity, and is overcrowded. Households are larger, and include more children and more extended families. There is a relatively small population of older people, and more older men than older women. Ill health is a major restriction on quality of life, limiting activity, producing mental distress, and increasing needs for support.

In addition to the above data FCS has gathered qualitative data (talking to people at events or as a follow up) in terms of satisfaction of customers in relation to the function served. In general people attended events across Central Scotland were happy with the organisation and location of events and with the activities and displays provided. Some offered some positive feedback for further development. Most attendees agreed that they would come back in the future if similar events were organised.

**Summary of Impact**

Overall positive- In the long term it is proposed to increase the use of woodlands as connecting places (from home to schools or to work) and as destination for a fun day out with the families or for physical activities (running, cycling, walking).

Use of woodlands and other green spaces for recreation and physical exercise will improve the health of communities.

**Monitoring/Evaluation**

We intend to carry out assessment of Treefest events in summer 2009, taking into consideration all six strands of diversity. This will be done through questionnaires to be collected at the Glasgow Mela and during outreach work with minority groups on the running up to the Mela.

Annual assessments of events will be carried out.

**Further Information**

Available from Central Scotland Conservancy.