

## Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

<b>What is being reviewed?</b>	A pilot scheme to trial 4no. School Streets in the BCP Council area.
<b>What changes are being made?</b>	Between late January/early February and July 2022, we are proposing to trial a School Street at four local schools. A School Street is where the road directly outside a school is closed to motor vehicles for short periods at drop off and pick up times. The aim is to improve safety, air quality, and the general atmosphere at the school gate, as well as to nudge people into considering walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school.
<b>Service Unit:</b>	Transport and Engineering
<b>Participants in the conversation:</b>	Beth-Barker-Stock – Senior Cycling and Walking Officer Richard Barnes - Strategic Public Transport Manager Emma Cocksedge – Sustrans Delivery Coordinator
<b>Conversation date/s:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> November, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?</b>	<p>People who walk (with or without mobility aids), wheel, scoot or cycle to one of the four pilot schools in the BCP Council area – including people who may do so in the future.</p> <p>People who drive to one of the four pilot schools in the BCP Council area – including people who may choose not to do so in the future.</p> <p>The affected Schools – including staff, pupils, and visitors.</p> <p>Residents who live on the School Streets, or on nearby surrounding streets.</p> <p>BCP Council officers and Councillors - when making decisions or forming policies relating to, affecting, or affected by, transport and travel and also education within the conurbation.</p> <p>Organisations on the statutory consultation list for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) including the emergency services – Police, Fire, Ambulances, Taxi associations/operators and DOTS Disability - community interest company. Local Chambers of Commerce and Trade. BH Active Travel Forum Dorset Local Access Forum</p>

**Do different groups have different needs or experiences?**

**Age** – Children are the people most likely to benefit from this proposal. Children are more susceptible to lung damage from vehicle pollutants in the air, and therefore reducing the amount of traffic at the school gate, where children are likely to congregate, will be beneficial to their long-term health. Many children do not meet the government's recommendations for physical activity, which can adversely affect physical and mental wellbeing. Improving opportunities for them to walk, scoot and cycle as part of their daily routine could help address this. Physical activity is also believed to have a positive impact on children's ability to concentrate at school and is associated with better educational attainment.

Older people who need to drive in the area may be affected if they feel restricted in when and how they can travel – this could be residents of the School Street or grandparents who have childcare responsibilities. We will put in place measures to ensure that residents and any Blue Badge holders are able to enter/leave the School Street at all times.

**Disability** – Disabled people are less likely to have access to a car than non-disabled people (Future of Mobility – Evidence Review 2019). Certain disabilities may also make people more susceptible from lung damage or conditions caused/exacerbated by vehicle pollutants. Improving transport options for people that can't drive will be a benefit to those people whose disability does not preclude them from walking (including with a mobility aid) or cycling (including with a non-standard cycle). Removing the majority of vehicles from the street will also reduce parking including pavement parking which is endemic in some areas. Pavement parking particularly impacts blind and visually impaired people and users of wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Disabled drivers who need to enter the School Street will be permitted to do so. Experience from previous sustainable travel schemes has shown that disabled people based on consultation responses are much less likely to support such initiatives, although School Streets are a new initiative for BCP Council.

**Gender** – According to the National Travel Survey England 2020, Women are more likely to do the majority of school runs than men, and therefore will be more likely to be impacted. They will benefit from the improved road safety and air quality, but some women may have to change their usual routine if they usually drive their children to school and park in the School Street.

**Race** – Individual School Streets schemes are unlikely to disproportionately affect people with respect to Race. However, more broadly, initiatives which promote travel alternatives to the car are likely to have a positive impact. Ethnicity is a factor in car use, with all people from all ethnicities far less likely to have access to a car than white people. People from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to live in areas which suffer from a lack of public transport options, and therefore walking and cycling can be a good option for these communities, if safe and

	<p>direct infrastructure is provided. Better access to free/cheap transport is likely to improve access to employment, education, leisure and social opportunities.</p> <p><b>Sexual Orientation</b> – Individual School Streets schemes are unlikely to disproportionately affect people with respect to Sexual Orientation. However, more broadly, initiatives which promote travel alternatives to the car are likely to have a positive impact. People who identify as one of ‘All other sexual orientations’ are less likely to drive compared to heterosexuals. LGBT+ people are more likely to suffer with mental ill health, loneliness and inactivity that the general population. Therefore improving opportunities for people to walk and cycle as part of their daily routine could help address this.</p> <p><b>Deprivation</b> – People living in the most deprived areas are significantly less likely to drive than less-deprived areas. However they are more likely to suffer the effects of car use – for example through air pollution, noise pollution and road danger. By improving conditions for walking and cycling, residents from more deprived backgrounds will benefit from more choice over how they travel, and more equalised access to education and other opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Will this change affect any service users?</b></p>	<p>The proposed changes will affect anyone who currently travels on or through the particular School Streets during the hours that the streets are proposed to be closed. Many people whose travel is not connected with travel to the particular school are likely to already if they can, avoid travelling through areas with high school traffic at the relevant times of the day.</p>
<p><b>What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?</b></p>	<p>There will be a positive benefit, to varying degrees, of trialling School Streets, in particular to many of the groups as listed above. The main benefits will be improved road safety and perception of safety, improved air quality, a calmer, more relaxed atmosphere, and enabling/encouraging more children and their families to travel in an active way.</p> <p>More broadly, walking and cycling has the potential to improve access to essential services and facilities; education; employment; social contact and leisure – and the School Streets initiative helps BCP Council introduce and integrate active travel into our communities.</p> <p>School Streets are part of wider local and national transport policy to encourage sustainable transport. By improving means to travel around without the need for a car a more inclusive environment is created. There are benefits accordingly for many protected groups including young and old, BME and ‘Other White’ ethnicities, different religious groups and those without religion.</p>

<p><b>What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?</b></p>	<p>Negative impacts could include adding time to people's journeys for those who usually drive and park in the School Street – some of these people may be from Protected Characteristic groups and may fall outside of mitigation measures put in place.</p> <p>Based on the known profile of people that are more likely to drive and have access to a car, some groups may view they are impacted to a greater extent - middle aged, some disabled, 'White British', Christians and heterosexual people.</p>
<p><b>Will the change affect employees?</b></p>	<p>This could affect employees who have children at the affected schools, or who live on the affected streets.</p>
<p><b>Will the change affect the wider community?</b></p>	<p>The proposed changes are believed to have positive effect on the wider community, by reducing traffic and parking issues, and improving air quality.</p> <p>Where motorists usually use the streets concerned as part of their usual route, specifically at the start and end of the school day their journey could be affected.</p>
<p><b>What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?</b></p>	<p>The School Streets closure points will be manned by trained stewards, who will manage any required entry by exempt drivers – for example residents, carers of residents, or Blue Badge holders.</p> <p>Discussions will be had with the schools in advance to ensure that any other exemptions are considered and managed also – for example if there are disabled children arriving by minibus.</p> <p>Sustrans officers, funded by BCP Council via central Government funding, have been working with the School Streets schools to engage with the children and teach them about road safety, scooter skills, planning walking routes to school etc. They will continue to support the Council, the schools, and families throughout the pilot schemes. This will help mitigate concerns that families or residents might have, and help facilitate modal shift.</p> <p>A full public consultation will be carried out in parallel with the implementation of the School Streets trials, as is procedure with Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders. However, a public engagement exercise is currently underway with parents/carers and residents.</p> <p>Following this engagement, responses will be evaluated by protected groups. This will highlight any impacts which have not been identified in the screening tool and enable final arrangements at each of the School Streets to be adjusted as appropriate. The consultation will help inform Officers and Members when making a decision on whether or not to make the pilot schemes permanent, when the trials end in July.</p> <p>The mileage of road space as part of the trial is very small compared to the total highway network. Many may already avoid areas surrounding schools if their journey is not linked to the school in question. As a result, it is not envisaged that there will be</p>

	<p>any substantial wider network implications. A positive impact could arise if school streets result in reduced car trips to the trial schools. As part of the trial any changes to wider journey patterns will become evident and form part of the evaluation whether to make permanent.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Equality Implications:</b></p>	<p>The School Streets pilot schemes will have an overall <b>positive</b> impact on people from protected characteristic groups, to varying degrees.</p> <p>Both nationally and locally, the transport network has for many years been dominated by the private motorcar. Whilst the car undoubtedly brings advantages to many people in terms of mobility and convenience, its dominance has tended to be to the detriment of other transport modes, including walking and cycling. This has had a disproportionate effect on people who don't drive – which is more likely to be older people, people from low-income households, disabled people, people from a black or ethnic minority background, women, and of course, children. Many of these people are also the most likely to be adversely affected by air pollution and road danger. Certain groups in our population are more likely to be involved in and impacted by traffic accidents including school aged children. All of these things are of particular concern outside many of our local schools.</p> <p>The aim of School Streets is to reduce road danger and air pollution, whilst encouraging and enabling travel to school by means other than driving. Rebalancing our streets will benefit everyone – including those who have no choice but to travel by car.</p>