Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

What is being reviewed?	Business Case for the Future of Care Technology within Adult Social Care– going to Cabinet for approval on 26th October
What changes are being made?	A diagnostic review and options appraisal was carried out by PA Consulting and Hampshire County Council on the future of care technology within adult social care at BCP Council.
	The recommended option is for a full-service transformation, providing a single care technology offer across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole at the forefront of adult social care services.
	Full-service transformation would enhance and expand the care technology offer to older adults and broaden the offer to include younger adults with learning disabilities and people with mental health needs.
	Currently the care technology offer is limited, with pendant alarms and falls detectors being the majority of equipment issued, mainly to older adults. A transformed service would make use of the full range of potential technologies in the market, including wearable smart devices. These devices collect data on people's health and wellbeing which can help predict the likelihood of a fall and prevent it from happening in the first place. It would also include multifunctional GPS devices with in-built falls detectors that connect to family members or a control centre at the touch of a button, to give people confidence to go out into their local community. It also includes apps, to assist people with learning disabilities to plan their day and access their community independently.
	Full-service transformation would mainstream care technology across adult social care and encourage practitioners to choose it as the first offer for a wider range of people's needs. Each person would be assessed using a strengths-based approach with the care technology being offered tailored to their desired outcomes. Mental Capacity Assessments and Best Interest Decisions would continue to be carried out as appropriate.
	Care technology can prevent, reduce or delay the need for costly long-term care and can enable people to live more independently at home for longer. It supports people's wellbeing and gives them control over their care.
Service Unit:	Adult Social Care Commissioning
Participants in the conversation:	Emma Senior – Commissioning Manager for Prevention and Wellbeing, Debbi Platt – Service Unit Equality Champion, Zena

	Dighton – Head of Strategic Commissioning, Long Term Conditions
Conversation date/s:	12/09/22, 27/09/22
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	Client base: Adult social care eligible service users living in their own homes or supported living. The current adult social care non-residential client base is 2788 people (1540 females and 1248 males) Key stakeholders: During the options appraisal, a project board was set up consisting of key stakeholders. They agreed the critical success factors of the future care technology service and scored each of the three options against these factors. Members of the project board are: Jonathan O'Connell (Interim Director of ASC Commissioning) Zena Dighton (Head of Strategic Commissioning, Long Term Conditions) Betty Butlin (Director of Operations ASC Services) Lorraine Mealings (Director of Housing) Anna Fresolone (Finance Manager) Amy Hurst (Principle Social Worker) Kate Baker (Assistive Technology Lead) Tim Branson (Head of Service, Access and Carers Services) Andrea Barnes (Head of Telecare) Adrian Hale (Smart Place Strategy and Programming Lead) Jill Johnson (Strategic Procurement Manager) Other key stakeholders will be the adult social care practitioners offering care technology and unpaid carers of people receiving the technology.
Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	**Age** Currently, residents aged 75 and over account for 75% of requests made to ASC services each year. 2021 Census figures show that the population of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole has grown by 5.7% since 2011, with the largest increase being in 70–74 year olds at 39.6%. The table below shows the number of current non-residential clients in each age category:

Adult Social Care non-residential client base	Aged 65+	Aged 65+ %	Aged 25-64	Aged 25-64 %	Aged 18-24	Aged 18-24 %
	1498	53.6%	1123	40.2%	173	6.2%

	A fully transformed care technology service would increase the offer to both younger and older adults within all needs and service areas.
	Disability
	People with physical disabilities may be restricted in activities of daily living and in accessing their community. Giving them increased and wider access to care technology could enable them to increase their independence and improve their wellbeing.
	People with complex learning disabilities often have large packages of care in place and can be heavily reliant on carers. An increased access to care technology could enable them to live more fulfilled lives by taking greater control over their daily activities and becoming more independent.
	For people with sight and hearing problems there is technology designed to support them, including wearable devices that use braille and vibrate rather than make sounds to alert the user.
	Religion and culture
	In some religions and cultures, it is expected that family members take care of relatives, rather than having paid carers come into the home. Care technology can help family members to care for their relatives while reducing or preventing the need for external help.
	Marriage/civil partnership and carers
	Caring for partners, family members, friends or neighbours can put strain on relationships and utilising care technology can relieve pressure on carers and allow them to support the cared for person without always having to be with them.
	Other protected groups have been considered and no differences have been identified that this stage. However, if the agreed option of service transformation is agreed at cabinet, further work will take place to look at how the new service will be delivered, and equality impacts will be assessed again.
Will this change affect any service users?	Yes, if full-service transformation is implemented, when current service users receive their annual reviews, their practitioners will look at whether care technology could meet their desired outcomes and improve their wellbeing and/or increase their independence
[If the answer to any of the questions above is 'don't know' then you need to gather more evidence. The best way to do this is to use forms 2 and 3. *Please delete prompts before publishing]*	

What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	More people with protected characteristics will have access to care technology that could prevent, reduce or delay the need for costly long term care support, increase their independence and well-being, and enable them to live more fulfilled lives More carers will be able to live lives of their own whilst knowing their cared for person is safe.
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	No negative impacts have been identified at this stage. Transforming the service will increase access to care technology for people with protected characteristics. Each person will have their needs and desired outcomes assessed and will only be offered care technology that would be suitable for them. Capacity assessments and best interest decisions will also be carried out when necessary, in line with the Care Act 2014.
Will the change affect employees?	Yes, the care technology service will go through a sustained programme of culture change. Staffing resources will increase to meet new levels of demand and staff will receive full training.
Will the change affect the wider community?	A full-service transformation of the care technology service will also include self-service options, enabling a wider number of people to benefit
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	No negative impacts have been identified at this stage; therefore, no mitigating actions are planned. If the agreed option of service transformation is agreed at cabinet, further work will take place to look at how the new service will be delivered, and equality impacts will be assessed again.
Summary of Equality Implications:	A full-service transformation of care technology will enhance and expand the offer to more people, including younger and older adults with learning disabilities, long term conditions and mental health needs. More people with protected characteristics will have access to care technology that could prevent, reduce or delay the need for costly long term care support, increase their independence and well-being, and enable them to live more fulfilled lives More carers will be able to live lives of their own whilst knowing their cared for person is safe.