

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TITLE OF POLICY/PROCEDURE:	Local Policing Summaries
NAME OF AUDITOR:	Paul Rowan
FIN OF AUDITOR:	13386
DATE COMPLETED:	29/07/08

SECTION ONE – INITIAL ASSESSMENT TO BE COMPLETED BY (OR ON BEHALF OF) POLICY / PROCEDURE OWNER

Identify the aims and projected outcomes of the policy / procedure.

The Home Office has made production of an annual Local Policing Summary mandatory for all Police Authorities in England and Wales. In Surrey's case, the document is intended to inform Surrey residents of the developments in policing in the county and build awareness of the force and authority.

Editions are produced for each division, North, East and West, and copies are distributed to every household in the county each year.

SPA aims to produce a useful document that meets Home Office requirements at the lowest possible cost to the Surrey taxpayer. This year's edition was produced and distributed at an approximate cost of £62,000 for 480,000 copies.

Which individuals and organisations are likely to have an interest in or are likely to be affected by the policy / procedure?

The Surrey Public
Surrey Police Authority
Surrey Police
Key stakeholders

SECTION 2 – IMPACT ON DIVERSITY

This policy / procedure must work towards eliminating discrimination, promoting equal opportunity and promoting good relations between the community and Surrey Police Authority.

Is there any reason why this policy / procedure would not achieve this? Please explain your justification below.

Please select: NO

The LPS is designed to build community relations with the police by informing residents of the key developments of the past and coming year, both from the perspective of SPA and Surrey Police.

One aim is to encourage wider involvement with the activities of the police and police authority.

Is there any potential implication for differential / adverse impact on people based on the following. Please indicate no impact / low / medium / high

Gender	No impact
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Sexuality	No impact
Disability	Medium Impact
Age	
• Young people (up to age 17)	No impact
• Older people (aged 50 and over)	No impact
Religion	No impact
Race	Medium impact

Is there any evidence that this policy / procedure will have an intentional impact, internally or externally, on people based on their:

Gender	No impact
Sexuality	No impact
Disability	No impact
Age	
• Young people (up to age 17)	No impact
• Older people (aged 50 and over)	No impact
Religion	No impact
Race	No impact

If you have answered 'YES' to any of the above questions, please explain the evidence / reasoning behind your answers below:

Given that this is a printed publication, there is a recognised issue concerning the ability of visually impaired people to access the information.

The other issue common to printed publications is that of accessibility to non-English speakers.

SECTION THREE – CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION

Is there any evidence or reason to believe that some minority groups could be differently affected, either personally or negatively? (e.g. lower participation or success rates)

Please select: YES

Please specify the reasoning / evidence behind your decision, including evidence of any consultation that has taken place.

The accessibility to visually impaired people has been addressed and we are pleased to offer audio transcriptions of the document upon request. The Audio Transcription service is cost effective at around £125 per edition.

Foreign language translations are a more difficult proposition, mainly because of the high cost set against low demand. There is a decision to be made on the point at which the benefit would be outweighed by the cost.

Is there likely to be any public concern that functions / policies are being operated in a discriminatory manner (e.g. expressed in media / research papers etc)

Please select: YES

Please specify the reasoning / evidence behind your decision, including evidence of any consultation that has taken place.

If it is decided in future that the cost of translation is prohibitively high, there may well be public concern.

Is there any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity?

Please select: YES

Please specify the reasoning / evidence behind your decision including evidence of any consultation that has taken place.

New areas for discussion in the Local Policing Summary have been identified following comments received on the most recent edition.

In particular, it is proposed for future editions that more emphasis be put on LGBT issues, and also on diversity activity in general.

What monitoring arrangements have been established for this policy or procedure?

Production of the summary is overseen by a joint SPA/Surrey Police panel. This panel monitors the content, production & distribution of the document.

The production format and distribution methods are also subject to approval by SPA.

If the policy / procedure discriminates against certain groups, can it be justified because of the overall objectives?

Please select: YES

If you have selected YES, please provide evidence of your reasoning below.

The only deciding factor in the debate over whether or not to produce foreign language translations is the consideration of value for public money, which is an overarching concern in producing the document.

Three Surrey residents have requested this year's summary in 3 different languages – Urdu, Spanish and Chinese. The approximate cost for this translation is £2550.

It is reasonable to argue that, if only one copy in a particular language is requested, the cost of approximately £850 per copy would be difficult to justify, particularly given that the main English language version costs only 12.8p per

copy to produce.

List those who were consulted in carrying out this assessment.

Paul Rowan, Communications Officer, Surrey Police Authority
Katie Kempen, Partnerships Policy Officer, Surrey Police Authority
Ruth Marshall, Head of Internal Communications, Surrey Police

List any changes that will be made as a result of this assessment / consultation

A review over the value for money aspect of foreign language translation will be undertaken and alternative approaches to providing the content to Surrey residents who need it will be explored.

Select the method of publication for this assessment.

SPA Website