



1. Changes since the last version

Version:	2.0
Information Asset Owner:	Head of Service Delivery
Author:	GC Community & Business Safety
Approval:	Fire Authority
Date:	17 October 2018

This version has been placed on to the updated and approved service document template, the content has been refreshed and amended to reflect current governance and wider strategies.

Please note that as Service Documents are frequently updated, if you print a document, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Always check the intranet for the latest version.

2. Index

- [1. Document changes](#)
- [2. Index](#)
- [3. Purpose and scope](#)
- [4. Roles and responsibilities](#)
- [5. Legislative Requirements](#)
- [6. Our Vision](#)
- [7. Our Aim](#)
- [8. The Challenge](#)
- [9. Our Values](#)
- [10. Our Principles](#)
- [11. Our Priorities](#)
- [12. Measuring Success](#)
- [13. Prevention Strategy Framework](#)
- [14. Consultation/publication/communication](#)
- [15. Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

3. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a focus on the Service Delivery Directorate's priorities over the next five years, to ensure Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) can deliver the most effective response to the risks and challenges set out in the Authority's Public Safety Plan.

4. Roles and responsibilities

Fire Authority - Ensuring public safety, strengthening collaboration, driving transformation and enhancing effectiveness.



Chief Fire Officer- Responsible for leading the Service on its continued journey of improvement in the Service's governance, performance and financial management.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer- Responsible for Service Delivery, Corporate Development and Planning arrangements.

Head of Service Delivery- Responsible for effective Prevention, Protection and Response activities.

Managers- Responsible for the day to day management and delivery of fire and rescue service activities.

All employees- collectively responsible for upholding the expected values, behaviours and objectives of the Authority.

5. Legislative Requirements

BMKFA discharge all their functions under a backdrop of some key pieces of legislation. This legislation establishes our duties and obligations to provide an effective and efficient fire and rescue service.

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

This is our core legislation, establishing our legal powers and responsibilities as a Fire Authority. The Secretary of State prepares the Fire and Rescue National Framework under Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to establish a set of key priorities, objectives and direction for fire authorities to follow.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004

This legislation establishes Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) as a Category 1 responder agency, with specific responsibilities to plan for and respond to defined "emergencies" alongside other agencies. To effectively achieve this we are active members of the Thames Valley Local Resilience (TVLRF) Forum, who collectively plan for a multi-agency response to a full range of incidents across the area.

Policing and Crime Act 2017

The police, fire and rescue and emergency ambulance services now have a duty to collaborate. This Act provides us with a tangible legal framework to increase the scope of collaborative work and keep our communities safer.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The key areas of this act, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Sex Offender Orders, Parenting Orders, granting local authorities more responsibilities with regards to strategies for reducing crime and disorder, and the introduction of specific laws.



The Care Act 2014

This Act Places a general duty on all Local Authorities to promote the wellbeing of all individuals.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

Following the GDPR coming in to force, May 2018, new responsibilities have been placed on BMKFA in relation to the information held and how it is managed. This includes information on employees, other organisations and members of the public.

6. Our Vision

Our Vision is to ensure Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are the safest places in England in which to live, work and travel.

7. Our Aim

Our aim is to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of the community, by identifying those groups who are at greatest risk and effectively work with partners, to help prevent fires and other incidents occurring and safeguarding those who are most vulnerable.

8. The Challenge

Our Public Safety Plan describes the internal and external factors that will influence our risk and demand challenges into the future.

Our Corporate Plan shows how we will meet the challenges we face and our commitment to delivering consistent improvement and taking a fresh look at how we deliver our services in line with those identified risks and demand.

Our Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Plan identify the financial resources required, projected into the future based on the delivery of specific aims and objectives as set out in the Public Safety Plan and Corporate Plan.

Together these plans establish a responsibility to deliver strategies which meet these challenges and help us to achieve our aim and vision.

9. Our Values

We will work with all groups to target and reduce risk and will pro-actively seek opportunities to collaborate with our partners.

We will treat everyone fairly and with respect, challenging any prejudice or discrimination and respecting people's right to privacy and protecting any personal information we hold.

We place value on diversity within our Service and the communities we serve.



We will create opportunities to develop and learn, encourage innovation and creativity, work honestly to develop trust and will strive for excellence in all that we do.

We will accept responsibility and accountability for our performance and actions, being answerable to those we serve.

10. Our Principles

The Authority will aim to;

Ensure that all employees are aware of the vision, values and behaviours expected within the workplace

Improve the Authority's performance through building the skills of a diverse workforce that reflect the community

Ensure employees have an understanding of how the Service operates, in order to be as effective as possible within their role

11. Our Priorities

Our priorities are always to prevent incidents that cause harm from happening and to render humanitarian services. We will do all we can to protect homes, public buildings and businesses from the effects of fire.

Our duty is also to ensure that wherever required, we provide a timely and proportionate emergency response to incidents, ensuring we are there to save life, mitigate damage and help safeguard our environment.

To achieve these priorities, we will identify and assess the full range of foreseeable risks within our area, from across a spectrum of local and national influences, and give our employees the tools they need to succeed in ensuring these risks are assessed and managed in the most effective, efficient and safest way.

We will align and integrate our Prevention, Protection and Response strategies, ensuring they complement each other towards achieving our vision.

12. Measuring Success

Our Prevention Strategy will be continually measured on the following criteria:

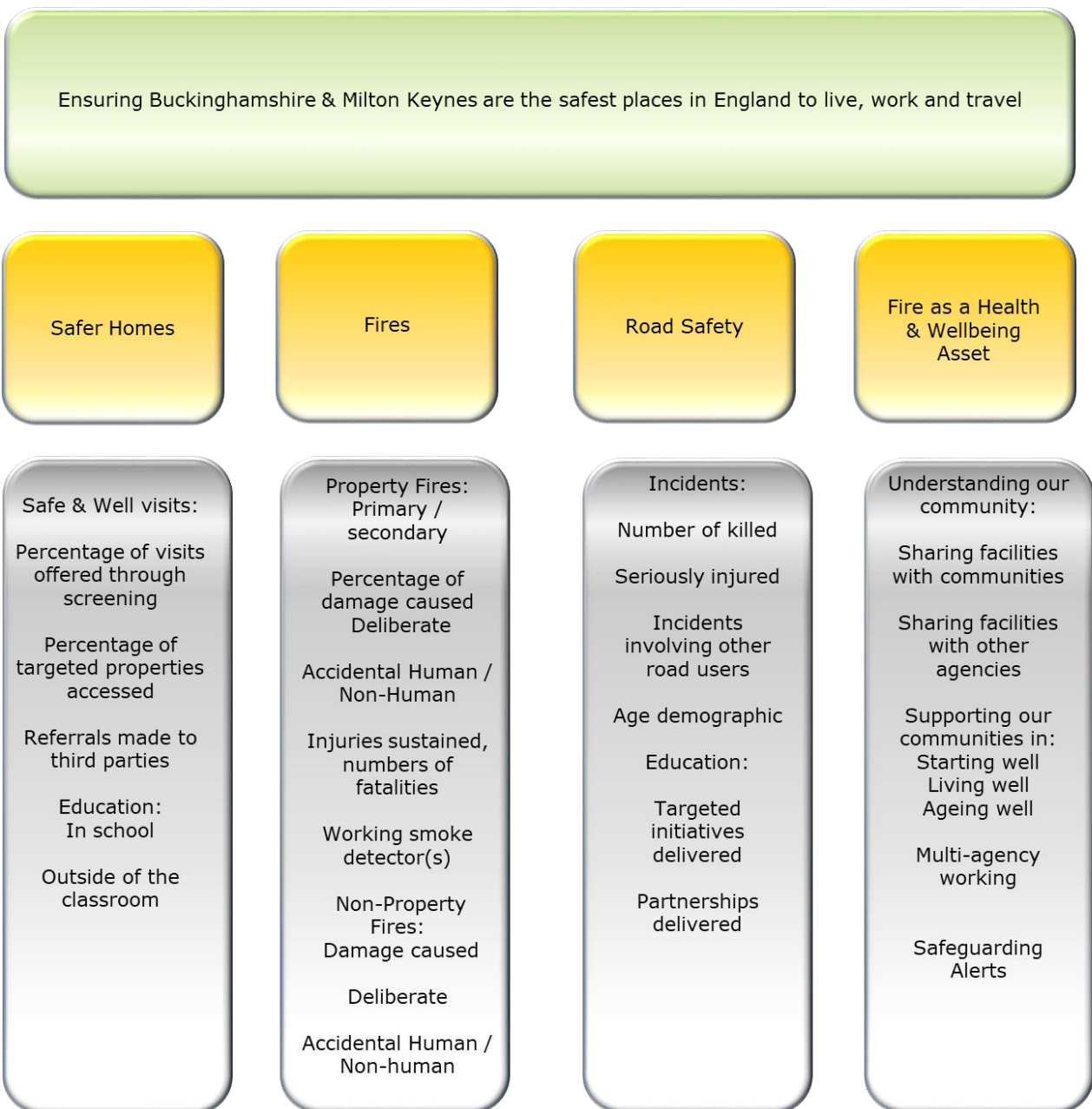
- how effective we are at preventing fires and other emergencies
- how well we use data and information to understand our current and future risks, taking account of national risks and trends



- how well we use our resources, optimising the contribution to well-being of our people
- how well we understand our community
- how well we secure an affordable way of delivering the management of risk of fire, emergencies and other risks now and in the future

13. Prevention Strategy framework

Our Prevention Strategy framework focuses on four key pillars:





Safer Homes

We will improve safety, health, and well-being and reduce the impact which fire and other incidents have on people living in their homes.

- concentrating on those individuals and communities who are most vulnerable: the elderly, those at risk of social isolation and substance misuse
- improving the understanding of the risks to our communities
- educating the community to enable them to be equipped to make safe preventative action against risks
- promoting engagement with partners to reduce the incidence of inappropriate lifestyle choices that result in increased vulnerability
- applying the lessons learnt from fire investigations and recommendations from the Preventing Future Deaths Reports (Regulation 28)
- reducing the number of deliberate fires (arson)
- lobbying for greater use of sprinklers, especially in social housing and areas where the most vulnerable reside, including high rise buildings
- improving electrical safety
- working with partners to improve safety within social housing

Our Home Safety Activities

- **Safe and Well** – Following the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) framework, Safe and Well visits have replaced the traditional home safety check. These will be carried out either by operational fire crews or community safety co-ordinators. These visits are available to those assessed as being at greatest risk from fire or who are deemed as more vulnerable from a number of other societal or health and well-being risks. Safe & Well visits will, where necessary continue to include the fitting of smoke alarms and the provision of fire safety information and advice, incorporating guidance and where appropriate referral to a number of support services or agencies.
- **NFCC Monthly Campaign Toolkits** – By supporting the NFCC annual Fire Kills themes, we will offer communities advice through various channels to raise their awareness to the risks from fire and the simple measures they can take themselves to prevent fires and protect their homes. These monthly themes will be coordinated by the Central



Prevention Team and planned across the year by each station, reflecting local risk, need and trend.

- **Local Home Safety Initiatives** - The service will actively target specific “at risk” groups, utilising data such as; Acorn, Exeter and Mosaic. Multi-agency partnerships will proactively assist us to access “hard to reach” groups to ensure that our message of safety and health and wellbeing can get to those who need it most. Any initiatives designed to address these risks will be evaluated for efficacy and enable learning for further development.

Our Community Safety Activities

- **Community Initiatives** - We will work with effective partners to deliver programmes to reduce antisocial behaviour and improve wider social well-being in the community through education for young people and youth diversion programmes when capacity permits.
We have successful education programmes which tackle these and we are recognised as a highly valued partner with other forms of preventing anti-social behaviour. The unique nature of the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) allows us to work with challenging young people on cognitive therapy programmes which help them recognise the consequences of their own behaviour. We support young people in addressing other behaviours such as aggression, vandalism, anti-social alcohol and substance misuse, the dangers that take place on the roads and our own Firesetter Intervention Scheme. This offers help and support predominantly to children and young people involved in fire play and starting fires, and on occasion, where appropriate, work with adults who have been convicted of arson or other fire-related crime.
- **Multi-Agency Working** - Co-operation and mutual assistance between the Police and FRS in the investigation of a deliberate fire is not new, but the ethos of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 embodies the multi-agency approach to tackling crime and disorder. It provides opportunities for the Police and FRS to develop local initiatives and programmes with a range of partners, including the County, District Councils and Unitary Authorities.

Work will also take place at a local level with station attendance at multi-agency partnership meetings to support community well-being, safety and healthy living.

- **Education** - To work with effective partners on education programmes which reduce risks to people from accidental and deliberate fires and other emergency incidents.



We believe educating residents of all ages and backgrounds is an investment in the safety of communities in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. We focus our education programmes on embedding responsible behaviour in people and helping them to make positive decisions about their own safety and of those around them.

We aim to deliver a range of programmes for children and young people. To meet these aims we will work proactively with partner agencies, ensuring the welfare of children and young people is at the core of what we do.

Integral to BFRS education strategy is supporting and working with the Safety Centre – Hazard Alley, a facility using twelve different interactive scenarios to deliver practical, interactive, education to children in Years 2-6 (ages 6-11) in safety, citizenship and life skills.

Our overall strategy for children and young people is to deliver our safety packages across the Key Stages, from Early Years to Key Stage 5 and beyond:

- to provide appropriate safety education to young people at selected intervals during their school years
- to address those parts of our Service area that experience higher levels of arson and fire-related antisocial behaviour
- to support the work of The Safety Centre in Milton Keynes ensuring that it remains up to date and relevant to deliver modern scenarios in an ever evolving community

We will deliver safety skills to children and young adults who are engaged in groups such as Scouts, Guides, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Duke of Cambridge Scheme, youth clubs and other community groups. This includes those that are not currently engaged in full time education or from a special educational needs setting (SEND), tailoring educational support to their specific needs.

We will work with partners to deliver focussed programmes, such as: the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Princes Trust, EMBERS, Team Fire Hose, Firefit, or START. Empowering these groups and individuals and creating a possible pathway to: build self-esteem, re-engage in education, seek work experience and gain employment and access to apprenticeships.

- **Local Campaigns and Events** - These will be promoted to benefit the safety and well-being of our communities in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. We will engage with a variety of local community groups to



provide fire safety messages and support partners at events such as the 'National No Smoking Day'.

- **Water Safety** - Statistics show nearly half of people who accidentally drown in the UK never intended to enter the water. Figures state that over 250 people lost their lives through accidental drowning in 2017, with a disproportionate amount of these being male (over 200).

Working with partners such as NFCC, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS), the Parks Trust and the Canal and River Trust, we will take part in education activities promoting awareness of the dangers associated when near water.

We will support the NFCC annual drowning prevention and water safety week 'Be Water Aware'.

Local activities will target known seasonal risk areas, such as; canals, lakes, rivers and weirs.

We will target those groups identified as most at risk, such as runners and walkers, young adult drinkers and those away from home.

We will provide familiarisation and training where appropriate in the use of publicly available safety devices such as throw lines and buoyancy rings.

Fires

We will reduce cost and detrimental impact of fires and other incidents on communities and community facilities by:

- improving our understanding of the risks to our community facilities
- educating the community to enable them to be equipped to take safe preventative action against risks
- promoting effective engagement with communities and partner agencies to ensure effective collaborative working
- applying the lessons learnt from fire investigations
- reducing the number of deliberate fires (arson), hoax or malicious calls
- lobbying for greater use of sprinklers especially in schools, sheltered housing and high rise buildings. This includes the consideration of match funding sprinklers, within a new build or retrofitting in existing premises



Road Safety

We are all road users regardless of our mode of transportation and we are all exposed to the risk of using our roads. Road safety can only be achieved effectively by addressing the main three factors: Education, Enforcement and Engineering.

Great Britain as a whole and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes on a local level have seen substantial and sustained reductions in the number of road casualties, especially killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties, since the early 1990s, despite the number of licensed vehicles growing by about a fifth nationwide.

According to the Department for Transport (DfT), this significant progress in casualty reduction is due to several factors, including advanced vehicle safety, enhanced road safety engineering, improved driver training, better road safety education, improvements in post-accident care as well as a continued reduction in free-flow traffic speeds. Working in greater partnership under the South Central Road Safety Board, with the Police, Ambulance Service, Highways Agency, Local – District – County Councils and sharing of data we can improve the safety of everyone travelling by road. Building relationships and sharing good practice with neighbouring FRS.

- we will improve our understanding of the risks to our most vulnerable road users, regardless of their mode of transport
- prevent incidents from happening
- educate road users
- offer training and skills to mitigate the effects when an incident does occur
- work with partners to understand how they can influence road safety

Fire-fighters are seen as very positive role models and they have an important part to play in educating children in road safety and giving them skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

We will support road safety education in schools; specifically we support the work of the Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) schemes the local authorities operate in both Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

We will focus on the most vulnerable road users and inconsiderate driver behaviours across our area.

Specific road users include:

- car drivers, particularly those in the 17 – 24 age group
- occupational road users
- older drivers



- car passengers, particularly those in the 15 – 18 age group
- motorcyclists, including young moped and scooter riders
- cyclists
- foot commuters
- horse Riders

Inconsiderate driver behaviours include:

- distraction (mobile phone use)
- non-wearing of seatbelts
- careless and dangerous driving
- Tiredness
- drink and drug driving
- inappropriate speed

Our Road Safety Activities

- continue to work with and support our road safety partners, particularly the Road Safety Teams from Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council and Thames Valley Police road safety teams
- deliver specific road safety initiatives in support of national and local road safety campaigns, including the BRAKE Road Safety Week, the NFCC National Road Safety Week and Walk to School week
- the Road Safety Officer will continue to facilitate the Learn & Live and Safe Drive, Stay Alive programs for schools with children in Years 12 and 13 (ages 16-18)
- provide facilities and support for our partners to deliver road safety education and training. Speed awareness, Drink drive, Biker down
- coordinate and deliver 'Biker Down' to vulnerable road users, not only motorcyclists, but also pedal cyclists and horse riders



Fire as a Health and Welfare Asset

Partnership and collaboration are an important means of delivering improved outcomes for communities and citizens in all areas of the public sector. The FRS should be a partner of choice for other public services, agencies, charities and businesses working to:

- develop facilitating groups to assist those in the community to overcome negative lifestyle choices, such as hoarding.
- work with the NHS on falls prevention activities
- support the NHS with its national blood donor campaign
- develop a network of Carers Champions
- develop service premises to make them appropriate venues for use by community groups and other agencies
- safeguard the most vulnerable
- developing a network of Dementia Friends and Champions
- become a friends against Scams organisation by developing Scams Champions
- work with trading standards to support those who are most vulnerable, with activities such as fitting dummy CCTV cameras to deter potential scammers

Safeguarding

The Care Act 2014 sets out statutory responsibility for the integration of care and support between health and local authorities. Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility for safeguarding, in partnership with the health service they have a duty to promote wellbeing within local communities.

As a Combined Fire Authority, the Act does not place this statutory duty on BMKFA. However, we see Safeguarding as an essential tool and will ensure that all personnel understand their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the Safe and Wellbeing of our communities. Creating a strong multi-agency framework for safeguarding, enabling access to mainstream community safety measures and clarifying the interface between safeguarding and quality of service provision.

We will achieve this through:



- relevant training at each level of staff, including ELearning, face to face and Continued Professional Development (CPD) workshops
- having a clear safeguarding policy statement and procedure
- supporting front line staff in identifying safeguarding concerns and making referrals
- effective internal recording mechanisms, complying with the Data Protection Act 2018 and (GDPR)
- financially supporting both Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Safeguarding Boards for adults and children
- representation at Safeguarding Board meetings and other subgroups as required
- participation in Risk Assessment Multiagency Panels (RAMP)
- attendance at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

CONTEST

The Government has updated and strengthened its CONTEST strategy, which reflects the findings of a fundamental review of all aspects of counter-terrorism, to ensure that the UK has the best response to the heightened threat in coming years. The review found CONTEST to be well-organised and comprehensive and that the approach should be updated within the tried and tested strategic framework of four 'P' work strands:

- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

This strategy supports the Prevent work strand, aiming to safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Training and education, professional curiosity and Building stronger partnerships with communities, civil society groups, public sector institutions and industry will assist and improve Prevent delivery.



14. Consultation/Publication/Communication

Development of this strategy is supported by engagement with:

The Protection Team

Joint Consultation Forum

Leadership Group

Our partners and key stakeholders through the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum.

Following approval at the Combined Fire Authority, the strategy is published on the BFRS Document Management System with an externally facing version published on the Bucks Fire website.



15. Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

A) The impact table

Are there any possible impacts which need further investigation? To complete the table tick ✓ the likely impact.

Impact Table						
Impact on people (protected groups and "others")	External Individuals			Authority Employees		
	Positive	Negative	None	Positive	Negative	None
People						
Gender			✓			✓
Race			✓			✓
Age			✓			✓
Religion/Belief			✓			✓
Sexual Orientation			✓			✓
Gender Reassignment			✓			✓
Pregnancy / Maternity			✓			✓
Marriage/Civil Partnership			✓			✓
Disability			✓			✓
Place						
Strengthen Community Cohesion			✓			✓
Tackling Poverty / Promoting Social			✓			✓
Privacy			✓			✓
Health			✓			✓



Environment			✓			✓
--------------------	--	--	---	--	--	---

If you have a tick in any negative box you need to consider why and include this in your risk assessment.

B) Privacy impact assessment screening questions

These questions are intended to help Authority staff involved with new projects and / or processes (or significantly changed processes) decide whether an Impact Assessment is necessary. Answering 'yes' to any of these questions is an indication that an Impact Assessment would be a beneficial exercise.

Privacy Screening Questions		
Question	Yes/ No?	Comment
Will the project involve the collection of new information about individuals?	Yes	When carrying out investigations in to breaches of the Fire Safety Order, other members of staff or organisations may be interviewed.
Will the project compel individuals to provide information about themselves that they have not had to previously?	No	
Will information about individuals be disclosed to organisations or people who have not previously had routine access to the information?	No	
Are you using information about individuals for a purpose it is not currently used for, or in a way it is not currently used?	No	
Does the project involve you using new technology which might be perceived as being privacy intrusive? For example, the use of biometrics or facial recognition.	No	
Will the project result in you making decisions or taking action against individuals in ways which can have a significant impact on them?	No	



Is the information about individuals of a kind particularly likely to raise privacy concerns or expectations? For example, health records, criminal records or other information that people would consider to be particularly private.	No	
Will the project require you to contact individuals in ways which they may find intrusive?	No	

People Screening Questions		
Question:	Yes/No:	Comment
Will the project you are undertaking affect any of the following factors explicitly? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Race - Disability - Gender - Religion/Belief - Sexuality - Age - Gender Reassignment - Pregnancy / Maternity - Marriage / Civil Partnerships 	No	
Could the progression of your project have a negative effect on a particular person/group of persons within the organisation or externally?	No	
Does the progression of your project affect the status of any person/s within the organisation or externally?	No	
Will any person/s within the organisation or externally be negatively impacted, with respect to their personal status, by the completion of your project?	No	



Is there any new technology within your project that will negatively impact the wellbeing of a person/s within the organisation or externally.	No	
Is there any aspect of a person/s status that will negatively impact your project?	No	
Is there any risk that your project could fail to comply with all relative people laws, e.g. the Equalities Act 2010?	No	
If your project requires you to employ new members of staff, is there likely to be any people based prejudice within the recruitment process?	N/A	

Did you answer yes to any of the screening questions?

- If so, it is recommended that you carry out a full Impact Assessment.
- If you answered YES to questions in both sections, it is recommended that you carry out a full IIA – see Service Document Template for more information.