Stage 1: Equality Impact Assessment

1. What are the main aims purpose and outcomes of the Policy and how do these fit with the wider aims of the organization?

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Maidstone Borough Council's position and its obligations for ensuring data quality. It is also to raise awareness and adherence to data quality standards across the organisation. It is applicable to all staff including those that enter, process and handle data.

The scope of this policy covers all data which Maidstone Council uses to monitor its own, partners, service providers and commissioners performance to council, cabinet, government agencies and local people.

The policy directly relates to the council's corporate value of integrity and high standards of corporate governance.

2. How do these aims affect our duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

There is no impact on the above aims.

3. What aspects of the policy including how it is delivered or accessed could contribute to inequality?

None.

4. Will the policy have an impact (positive or negative) upon the lives of people, including particular communities and groups who have protected characteristics? What evidence do you have for this?

No impacts.

The risk in not identifying and addressing weaknesses in data quality, or the arrangements that underpin data collection and reporting activities, is that information may be misleading, decision making may be flawed, resources may be wasted, poor performing services may not be improved, and policy may be ill founded.

If the answer to the second question has identified potential impacts and you have answered yes to any of the remaining questions then you should carry out a full EQIA set out as stage 2 below.