

## Title: Financial Assistance Policy for the Better Care Fund – Equality Impact Assessment



### Introduction

Under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, it is a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide Disabled Facilities Grants to eligible residents. In formulating this policy reference has been made to The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 and Better Care Fund guidance.

The aim of the policy is to outline the assistance available to residents to carry out adaptations, improvements and repairs to their homes. This includes the provision of Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), Accessible Homes Grants, Healthy Homes Grants, Home Improvement Loans and Warm Up Grants.

The policy is being revised in order to ensure that vulnerable individuals remain safe in their homes and allow the Council to broaden its ability to provide assistance to those who fall out of the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant system, provide financial assistance to undertake preventive measures reducing hospital admissions and demand for social care and reduce delayed hospital discharges by working in collaboration with health services to provide funding to remove housing related obstacles preventing discharge

The impact of the proposed Financial Assistance Policy is one of providing a greater level of financial and other interventions by the Council for those with a disability, are vulnerable or have a specific health condition. The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 makes it clear assistance is primarily based on need of the individual, although the health and safety concerns of carers and other family members are also considered.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with Devon County Council and other district local authorities to bring about a consistent countywide approach.

**Lead officer:** Simon Lane, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager

**Stakeholders:** Residents, Carers, Elected Members, Commissioned Services, Landlords, Housing Associations, NHS providers and Devon County Council

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the policy has a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

**High impact** – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

**Medium impact** –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

**Low impact** – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Target group / area Race and ethnicity</b> (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)	There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on race and ethnicity.		
<b>Disability</b> (as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)		It is envisaged the Financial Assistance Policy will have a positive impact on this protected characteristic through provision of adaptations and home improvements for disabled persons.	
<b>Gender</b>	There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this group of individuals.		
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this group of individuals.		

	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Religion and belief</b>	There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on their beliefs or religion.		
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)	There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on their sexual orientation.		
<b>Age</b> (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).		It is envisaged the Financial Assistance Policy will have a positive impact on this protected characteristic through provision of adaptations and home improvements for elderly residents.	
<b>Areas of deprivation</b>		Residents of Exeter; in particular, the vulnerable population including elderly and disabled persons (according to the eligibility criteria outlined within the policy). Warm up grants are aimed at those living in fuel poverty, so therefore is likely to have a positive impact on areas of deprivation.	
<b>Human Rights</b>	There is no evidence that this will impact on any human rights.		

	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> (consider both the wider determinants of health such as education, housing, employment, environment, crime and transport, as well as the possible impacts on lifestyles and the effect there may be on health and care services)		It is envisaged that the Financial Assistance Policy will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those eligible for a grant as it will enable them to remain in their homes and not reliant on other care services.	