

Appendix 2

Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool

Policy/Service under development/review:	Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Policy
What changes are being made to the policy/service?	<p>The new policy supersedes previous policy and sets out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy replaces the three legacy Councils policy on grants into one BCP policy to ensure an equitable service is delivered to all residents across the BCP area. • Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole did not have discretionary funding powers set out in their legacy policy and Christchurch under Dorset County Council had some discretionary arrangements in place. The new policy sets out the new discretionary financial assistance over and above mandatory assistance offered to eligible residents to adapt their property. • The wholly owned company Seascope South Limited will now be promoted by the Grants Team to deliver works under the scheme. Seascope have previously only operated in the Bournemouth and latterly the Christchurch area but will now be extended to deliver in Poole to provide applicants with the benefit of a quality inhouse service. All applicants still retain choice and can opt for an external contractor with the Grants Team support. <p>All applicants are assessed by Adults or Children’s Social Care/SEND and recommendations on the necessary and appropriate adaptations are made to the Grants Team. In the case of adult applicants, they are means tested using a mandatory framework to determine the amount of grant they are eligible for and any contribution they will be required to make towards the costs.</p>
Service Unit:	Housing
Persons present in the conversation and their role/experience in the service:	Teresa Stanley – Principal OT Adult Social Care Ruth Morgan – Children’s Occupational Health Team Manager Tracey Kybert – Housing, Health & Social Care Manager
Conversation dates:	July 2021
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<p>The new policy will be introduced for residents in the BCP area who are determined through assessment by the Council to require adaptations to their property.</p> <p>Stakeholders of the service are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Social Care
Do different groups have different needs or experiences in relation to the policy/service?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For some groups access to information or ability to request assessment for services may be compromised. Some residents in the past would not have proceeded with adaptations owing to having to source financial contributions over and above the grant amount.
Will the policy or service change affect any of these service users?	Yes, as part of the communications plan for the new policy and service more isolated parts of the community will be accounted for. The provision for discretionary funding will ensure more residents will receive the adaptations they need.
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<p>All residents can contact the Council to request services because of identified need which may include grant funding for adaptations in the home. The protected and relevant equality factors have been considered below.</p> <p>Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proportionately higher number of older people will benefit from a grant because of their deteriorating health conditions and increasing needs. <p>Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant legislation sets out the definition of a disability for the purposes of applying for a grant. The Council assessment process under The Children's Act 1989 and the Care Act 2014 determines those who are in need of adaptations. Improving access for disabled people in their home improves their ability to live and remain active within their local communities. People with disabilities within the community who will be disproportionately reflected in lower income households will benefit from the new discretionary funding available. <p>Socio-Economic Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory means testing recognises receipt of certain Benefits which ensures applicants are eligible for the full grant contribution required to fund their required adaptations. This ensures the households that are most in need receive funding to cover the costs for their adaptations. The new discretionary funding means there will be an increase in applicants who will now be able to proceed whereas in the past they would not owing to having to source financial contributions over and above the grant amount. <p>Race</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some residents where English is not their first language will benefit from the support the Council will provide to support people with applications

What are the negative impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	There is no known negative impact, as a result, of this policy.
Will the policy or service change affect employees?	Yes, this will ensure all staff have clarity and confidence in providing guidance to applicants with one new policy in place across the BCP area.
Will the policy or service change affect the wider community?	Applicants will benefit from adaptations to maintain their independence and access the community from their property
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by the policy/service change?	Communications plan for the launch of the new grant scheme will ensure information is accessible both online and in hard copy and targeted in key universal places such as GP practices. Support with applications available for applicants
Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>The new grant scheme set out in the DFG policy will improve the condition and access of applicant's homes.</p> <p>The benefits of the new policy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access for disabled people in their home improves their ability to live and remain active within their local communities. • Ensures the households that are most in need receive funding to cover the costs for their adaptations. • An increase in applicants who will now be able to proceed with a grant. • The Council will provide support to applicants <p>There is no known negative impact, as a result, of this policy however there are some identified areas which may lead to an inequity of access which will be mitigated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a communications plan for the launch of the new grant scheme which will ensure information is accessible both online and in hard copy and targeted in key universal places such as GP practices. • support with applications available for applicants <p>In addition, as the Discretionary Funding Panel is developed a further EIA will be carried out to ensure equalities forms part of the consideration process.</p>

For any questions on this, please contact the Policy and Performance Team by emailing performance@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Could use data on previous grant awards to demonstrate how the new policy and process will work.