

Diversity impact assessment

TITLE
Disabled facilities grant and financial assistance policy
DATE
13 July 2023
LEAD OFFICER
Mark Breathwick
1. Summary description of the proposed change
<p>What is the change to policy / service / new project that is being proposed? How does it compare with the current situation?</p> <p>The draft policy sets out the different ways that the council can assist disabled residents, the vulnerable, carers at risk and those in financial hardship but who do not qualify for a means tested benefit, to ensure that they are able to have access to a suitable home.</p> <p>The draft Disabled Facilities Grant & Financial Assistance Policy 2023 responds to the changes in the delivery of the Better Care Fund, allowing the council to offer different ways to support residents via the different grants and loans we would be able to offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grant • Disabled Facilities Loan • Contribution Based Grant • Discretionary Adaptations Assistance Grant • Discretionary Stairlift Grant • Moving Home Grant • Discretionary Emergency Repairs Grant • Homeowners Improvement Loan
2. Summary of evidence used to support this assessment
<p>Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user. Eg: Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile</p> <p>The nature of the DFG process is that, following assessment from an Occupational Therapist, that people with a disability of some vulnerability with benefit from an adaptation to make their property more accessible.</p> <p>The changes proposed in the draft policy will allow for greater and more flexible use of DFG funds and will also ensure that the broader strategic vision of the Better Care Fund is achieved.</p> <p>Consultation took place in October 2022 with partners and previous applicants who received funding via the Disabled Facilities Grant and feedback was mainly positive. The recommendations made were considered and a change to the maximum allowance to the Emergency Repair grant was made, increasing this as recommended.</p>

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3. What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to:

Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

(insert Yes when there is an impact or No when there isn't)

Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age			
Disability		X	
Gender reassignment			
Marriage/civil partnership			
Pregnancy/maternity			
Race			
Religion/belief			
Sex			
Sexual orientation			
Other (eg low income groups)		X	

4. Summary of the likely impacts

Who will be affected?

How will they be affected?

The policy will allow for disabled households that would not normally meet the criteria for a Disabled Facilities Grant access to another service, it will therefore advance those with disabilities. The policy will also advance low income groups as they may not previously have qualified, but could be offered one of the new services.

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5. What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?

Are there alternative providers?

Can demand for services be managed differently?

No adverse impacts identified.

6. Action plan

Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
No further actions proposed.		

7. Recommendation

The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be: to proceed with the change, implementing the Action Plan if appropriate, consider alternatives, gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

Proceed with adoption of the draft policy.

8. Authorisation

The authorising officer is consenting that the recommendation can be implemented, sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned, the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored

Assistant Director

Dee O'Rourke

Date of authorisation

August 2023