

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Food Vouchers for Children in the School Holidays

STAGE I: What is being assessed and by whom?

What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?

When considering this EIA it is important to have due regard to the public sector equalities duties imposed upon the Council by section 149 Equalities Act 2010.

Research undertaken during December 2021 to January 2022 found that 20% of Plymouth households are food insecure (either with very low or low security), levels of insecurity were even higher in some types of households. Specifically, the impact of the COVI-19 pandemic on food security had been most severe in households with:

- Income below £20,000 pa:
- 1+ person with mental health condition:
- Children present: and/or
- Single adult households.

Furthermore, reflecting the diverse levels of deprivation and prosperity in the city, significant differences in food security were found in different areas of Plymouth. A quarter of households in the Western & Waterfront wards were currently food insecure (27%). Those in social housing or private rented accommodation are also much more likely to be food insecure than those people with mortgages. Households with children/young people were significantly more likely to be experiencing food insecurity (28%) than those without (16%). Nearly half of lone adult households with children/young people said that they were experiencing insecurity (45%), making them among the most likely of all groups to need food support.

It is likely that the 2022/23 cost of living crisis has had an impact to further increase the number of households living with food insecurity

The government has announced the extension of the Household Support Fund for 2023/24, to provide support with food and energy costs to vulnerable people including households with children during the current cost of living crisis. The Household Support Fund enables local authorities to provide extra support to the Free School Meals cohort, but also those families who have been identified by schools and early years settings as vulnerable to poverty.

STAGE 1: What is being assessed and by whom?	
Responsible Officer	Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health ruth.harrell@plymouth.gov.uk
Department and Service	Office of the Director of Public Health
Date of Assessment	14 th February 2023
Author	Rachel Silcock, Community Empowerment Operational Lead

STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact				
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
Age	17.4% of the Plymouth population are aged 15 and under (Census data 2021). In 2021 children and young people 17 and under accounted for 19.5 per cent of the population. The percentage of 20-24 year olds (8.0%) is higher than that found in England as a whole (6.0%). In Plymouth, 34% of households are deprived in at least one dimension of education, housing, health and employment, and nearly 16% are deprived in at least	No. Our strategic intentions confirm the ambition to truly give every child “A Bright Future” by commissioning and providing place based Integrated Children, Young People and Families services covering wellbeing, physical and mental health, social care and education. Children, young people and families will be supported to stay safe, healthy, achieve and aspire. The Household Support Fund will support	Provide funding from the Household Support Fund to our most vulnerable children, young people and families in our society, across the full range of ages.	April 2023 – March 2025 Ruth Harrell and Sharon Muldoon

STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact				
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	2 dimensions (Census 2021). There are 9,900 (18.6%) children living in poverty, which is one in five. Data shows that 7,308 children under 16 are living in income deprived households with 79% living in workless households, indicating that they are more likely to be experiencing child poverty.	our ambitions, during these challenging times, which includes support to other vulnerable groups		
Disability	The 2021 census data on disability has not yet been released. From the 2011 census, there are 3,142 children with disability. Plymouth schools report that of every 1,000 children 17.5 have a learning difficulty. A total of 31,164 people (from 28.5 per cent of households) declared themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability (national figure 25.7 per cent of households). 10% of our population have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by a long-term health	No adverse disability related impact has been identified. Households with a disability or long-term illness will be prioritised for support from the Household Support Fund.		April 2023 – March 2025 Ruth Harrell

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Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	<p>problem or disability. 1,297 adults registered with a GP in Plymouth have some form of learning disability (2013/14). There are 27166 adults with a disability in work. There are 23,407 carers aged between 18 and 64 in Plymouth known to our services. There are 17,937 state pension age people with disability (2011).</p>			
Faith, Religion or Belief	<p>There is no specific CYP data for this category.</p> <p>In the 2021 Census, in Plymouth the most common response to the religion question was “No Religion” with 48.9 per cent (129,338)</p> <p>42.5 per cent (112,526) of the population describe themselves as “Christian” remains the largest faith group in the city</p> <p>1.3 per cent (3,474) of residents describe themselves as “Muslim”, the second largest faith group,</p>	<p>This programme will not discriminate against faith, religion or belief. The Household Support Fund will be distributed by faith organisations and others to vulnerable children and families, irrespective of faith, religion or belief.</p>		<p>Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team</p> <p>Office of the Director of Public Health</p>

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	<p>this is followed by Buddhists which account for 0.4 per cent (1,018) of residents</p> <p>Hindu 0.3 per cent (814) and Jewish 0.08 per cent (207)</p> <p>0.58 per cent (1,527) of the population answered that they have "Other religion"</p> <p>There are 0.04 per cent (96) Sikh</p> <p>5.9 per cent (15,695) of people did not answer the question about religion.</p>			
Gender - including marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity	<p>The 2021 census shows that 50.9% of the Plymouth population are female and 49.1% are male.</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity data has not yet been released from the 2021 census.</p> <p>The 2021 census question on marriage and civil partnership only relates to those 16 or over, so the cohort is circa 218k residents in Plymouth. Of these:</p>	<p>This programme will not discriminate on the basis of gender, except that single parent households will be prioritised for funding, the majority of which are female</p>		<p>Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles</p>

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Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	<p>40.1 per cent (87,840) have never married and never registered a civil partnership. A very similar number 39.9 per cent (87,275) are married to a person of the opposite sex.</p> <p>10 per cent (23,443) are divorced,</p> <p>6 per cent (13,329) widowed</p> <p>With 2.5 per cent (5,527) separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent (1,073) are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex.</p>			
Gender Identity and Gender Reassignment	<p>The data on gender reassignment from the 2021 census has not yet been released, so there are currently no official estimates for gender reassignment at either national or local level</p> <p>There is data on the responses to the Gender Identity (GI) Census question in 2021. This question was voluntary and</p>	<p>No gender identity or reassignment related impact has been identified. The Household Support Fund will work will all vulnerable CYP and families, regardless of gender identity or reassignment.</p>		<p>Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles</p>

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Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	<p>was only asked of people aged 16 years and over.</p> <p>94.2 per cent (205,959) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth (England and Wales 93.5 per cent)</p> <p>5.2 per cent (11,444) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth did not answer (England and Wales 6 per cent)</p> <p>0.5 per cent (1,221) of people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth have a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth (England and Wales 0.5 per cent). Of these:</p> <p>GI different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given, 0.2 per cent (405) (England and Wales 0.24%)</p>			

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Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	<p>Trans man, 0.1 per cent (266) (England and Wales 0.1%)</p> <p>Non-binary, 0.1 per cent (238) (England and Wales 0.06%)</p> <p>Trans woman, 0.1 per cent (204) (England and Wales 0.1%)</p> <p>All other gender identities 0.0 per cent (108) (England and Wales 0.04%)</p>			
Race	<p>94.9 per cent (248,727) of residents in Plymouth identified their ethnicity as “White”; 2.3 per cent (5,957) of residents identified their ethnicity as “Asian” making this the city’s second largest ethnic group. 1.8 per cent (4,656) of Plymouth residents identified that they are from a “Mixed/Multiple ethnic background”</p> <p>1.1 per cent (2,786) of residents identified their ethnicity as a “Black”. The</p>	<p>The Household Support Fund will support all vulnerable CYP and families, irrespective of race.</p>	<p>Appropriate measures need to be put in place to ensure that language barriers do not adversely affect people’s ability to access support.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles</p>

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	<p>percentage of residents who identified their ethnicity as “Black” has almost doubled since 2011 especially those who identify as Black Caribbean and Black African. 1.0 per cent (2,579) identified their ethnicity as “other ethnic background”.</p> <p>Data from the 2021 census relating to a person's first or preferred language (age 3+). In Plymouth: 92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. (England and Wales 91.1%) This is followed by Polish, with 1.02 per cent of residents (2,700) (In England and Wales this was also second with 1.1%) Romanian with 0.55 per cent (1,640) (England and Wales this was also third 0.8%) Portuguese with 0.22 per cent of residents (575) (England and Wales, third was Urdu and Panjabi 0.5%)</p>			

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Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	There are 119 residents who's first and preferred choice is 'sign language'			
Sexual Orientation	<p>There is no data on this for CYP aged 15 years and under. From the 2021 Census, 88.95 per cent (199,465) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth are straight or heterosexual 6.60 per cent (14,429) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth did not answer 4.45 per cent (9,730) of people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LGBO) of these:</p> <p>2.06 per cent (4,509) are bisexual; 1.97 per cent (4,297) people are gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent (924) have another sexual orientation</p>	No adverse impact has been identified in the distribution of the Household Support Fund		<p>April 2023 – March 2025</p> <p>Ruth Harrell</p>

STAGE 3: Are there any implications for the following? If so, please record 'Actions' to be taken		
Local Priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible?
Reduce the inequality gap, particularly in health between communities.	The implementation of the Household Support Fund will positively impact on vulnerable CYP and families. This project aims to minimise the impact of the Cost of Living crisis by delivering food support to those that most need it.	April 2023 – March 2025 Ruth Harrell
Good relations between different communities (community cohesion).	No adverse impact on community cohesion has been identified, as statutory requirements will enable vulnerable CYP and families to access good quality support and services whatever their circumstances.	April 2023 – March 2025 Ruth Harrell
Human Rights	It is important that all CYP and families are treated fairly, their views are taken into account and that their human rights have been respected. No adverse impact on human rights has been identified.	April 2023 – March 2025 Ruth Harrell

STAGE 4: Publication			
Director, Assistant Director/Head of Service approving EIA.	Ruth Harrell, Director for Public Health	Date	14 th February 2023